

BIG IDEA

Intercession is coming to the Father to ask for the needs of others.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:10, Acts 12:1-19

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

This is an opportunity to have people share some of the positive moments that have come out of our current situation. For example, there is more time to sleep, a time for stillness, and quality time with children and spouses. Maybe people have had more time to work on a project at home, or to get away from a job that's unhealthy, or time to get closer to God.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read the second line of the Lord's prayer and discuss everyone's thoughts on the meaning of the phrase, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Did everyone know the prayer before? Have they given much thought it's meaning? For some, this prayer may have become routine, and therefore the words of the prayer became rote and robotic. Share your experience.

4 Steps of Intercession from Pete Greig that can help us tremendously as we grow in this area of intercessory prayer:

1. Get Informed: Engage with the Facts
2. Get Inspired: Engage with God's Word
3. Get Indignant: Engage with Your Heart
4. Get in Sync: Engage with Others

LIFE APPLICATION

There are so many opportunities for us to bring the needs of others and our communities to God. Some of us feel helpless with everything going on around us, but we are connected to the God of the universe who wants to bring life to our world. Use this opportunity to remember the power of prayer and our call to intercede on behalf of others. Look at Peter's story in Acts 12:1-19 and see how as a group you can come together and pray for your friends, family, communities, and world. Intercessory prayer is asking God to bring his Kingdom into the places, communities, situations, and people where his will isn't being done yet. It's asking him to make right what is currently not right. It's asking him to bring heaven to earth.

CHALLENGE

Let's pray and act as we go forward in our lives this week. N.T. Wright said, "We are praying for the redemption of the world". Intercessory prayer is us joining with God in the work of bringing more and more of his Kingdom here to earth. Let's bring the needs of our community and world to God. Let's share next week how we see God answering prayers.