



Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

Spring 2017 "The Lord's Prayer"

Week beginning 26th February

B - Perseverance –

Keeping going through the desert.

The Aim of This Study

In looking at the Lord's Prayer, we see it as an expression of our relationship with God our Father. But this is not a relationship of equals – we are Disciples of Jesus and part of our life long training programme is about the need to focus and be disciplined in our commitment to follow Jesus. Lent gives us an opportunity to think about what this means and apply the Lord's Prayer into real, everyday life, in obedience, everywhere and anywhere, for all time. It is quite a challenge!

• **Welcome**

What forms of exercise do you take and how often? Be honest!

• **Worship**

Read 1 John 4:7-11. Praise God for his "*prevenient*" love - his love for us, which came to us before we were even born! Praise God for the extent of that love and for the willingness of Jesus to make sacrifice that this love required of him. Pray that God may show you more of that love in your time together but also that you would love in return, and to the same degree.

• **Word**

Go through the phrases of the Lord's Prayer and ask the question – what "demands" do each of them make on our lives as disciples of Jesus?

Lent is a time of preparation – not just for Easter, but for a life of discipleship in general. We (and by this, I mean "I"!!) can make all sorts of excuses about things in life when, in reality, a disciplined approach would make all the difference.

Read Luke 9:23

- What would Jesus' listeners have understood by this statement?
- What did it mean to Jesus, when he said it?
- Is this a "one-off" action?
- What does it mean to us today? What *should* it mean to us today?

Read Luke 4:1-2

- Why did the Holy Spirit lead him into the desert – why not lead him to somewhere to preach or to do some miracles, especially as Jesus is "full of the holy Spirit"?
- What does that say about when we might experience the Spirit in a special way?
- Why did Jesus spend so long in the desert?
- When did the temptations occur?

- What was the purpose of fasting during this period?
- Why don't we like to follow Jesus' example in these things?

Read Luke 14:26-35

- Does Jesus *really* mean "hate" in verse 26? If not, what does he mean?
- What does this then say about "carrying our cross" in verse 27?
- What burden do we carry? How does this relate to Matthew 11:30?
- What do the stories of building a tower and going to war say about discipleship?
- How can we count the cost *before* becoming a disciple?
- What does the Parable of the Sower say about this (Luke 8)?
- What does the Parable of the Wise and Foolish builders say about this (Matthew 7)?
- What does 1 John 4:9 say about Jesus' approach to this?

• Walk

- ❖ What do you understand by the word "Discipleship"?
- ❖ What do you understand by the word "Commitment"?
- ❖ What do you understand by the word "Consecration"?
- ❖ How important are these words in the Christian life?
- ❖ What do you think God is saying to us at the moment about these things in our own lives?
- ❖ And in the life of the Church?

One final thought: Jesus' "Great Commandment" to the disciples is to *"go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:20). They had been disciples for three years and now they become "apostles" (ones who are sent with a message). The challenge is whether it is possible to make disciples of others without the commitment of become disciples ourselves first. What do you think?

What challenges does this present us with in our lives – pray about them?

Be bold and brave – share with one another and discuss what you sense God is saying. Pray for any other specific issues people are facing in the Life Group. ***"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."*** (Isaiah 26:3 NIV)

