

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. In group prayer, we've found that prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

4 DUMB THINGS SMART PEOPLE DO
They Irritate Those Who Irritate Them
Matthew 5:38-48

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Edgewater Covenant Church
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4 DUMB THINGS SMART PEOPLE DO: #4 – THEY IRRITATE THOSE WHO IRRITATE THEM Matthew 5:38-48

Psalm 23:5 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Proverbs 20:22 "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you."

Romans 12:18–21 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of January 23, 2011

As part of our Awakenings fast, you will spend a longer time praying in Growth Groups this week. The Growth Group homework is slightly shorter.

MY STORY

1. Food is a big part of our lives. If you had to give up a favorite food, which one would be the most difficult for you to give up?
2. What struck you the most about this week's sermon?
3. What unanswered questions do you have from this week's sermon?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **1 Samuel 18:6-9** and **1 Samuel 24:1-22**. What factors might have convinced David that he had a right to kill Saul? (vv. 1-7)
2. What arguments did David use to convince Saul of his innocence? (vv. 8-15)

3. How did Saul respond to David's words? (vv. 16-22)

4. What connections do you see between David's actions and what Jesus taught in **Matthew 5:38-48**?

TAKING IT HOME

1. How do you think God wants you to apply the lessons from this week's sermon and/or Growth Group homework in your own life?

PRAYER FOCUS

In your Growth Groups, spend time praying for the following topics for our church:

- Our church's devotion to God and spiritual growth
- Our church's leaders (pastor, worship leader, Growth Group leaders, Leadership Team, ministry leaders)
- Families in our church who are suffering relationally or financially
- For our community and the unsaved
- For personal needs in our Growth Group

(See back for "Tips on Group Prayer")