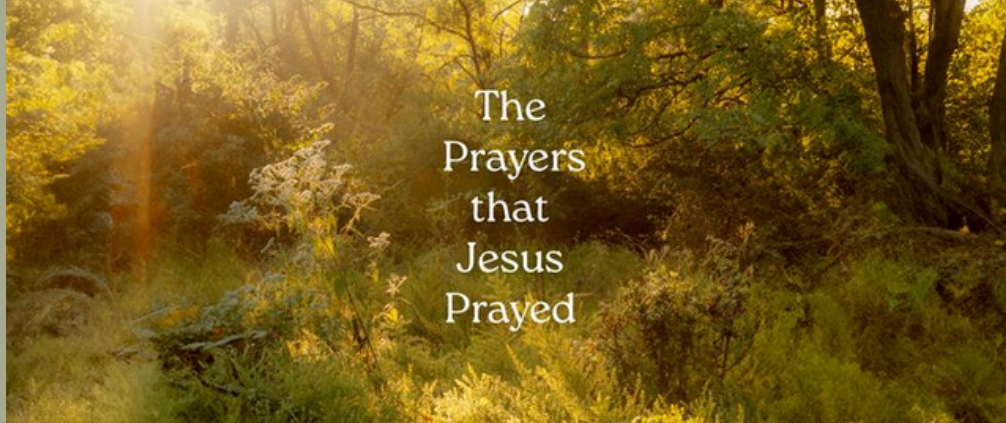


Lenten Small Group Study Guide

WEEK 1



The
Prayers
that
Jesus
Prayed

CONNECT (15 MIN)

Welcome

- Welcome to Lent! If this is your first time meeting as a group, or if there are new members in your group, take a few minutes to get to know each other. Share a bit about yourself—how do you like to spend your time? What brought you to St. Luke's? What are you hoping to experience during this Small Group?
- Before you spend time reviewing the sermon take a moment to read Luke 6:12-16, the passage on which this week's sermon was based. Ask someone in the group to read it aloud.

Luke 6:12-16

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

REVIEW (5 MIN)

Each week we want to start our time by reviewing the sermon. There is a chance that not everyone was there to hear it. Spend time reviewing some of the main points and themes so that everyone is on the same page. You can also ask for impressions or anything that stood out from the sermon.

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GROUP VALUES: It's important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35 MIN)

- This year we are studying a variety of different prayers that Jesus prayed. We often look to Jesus as the model for prayer. What sticks out to you from this passage about how Jesus prayed?
- Jesus' prayer that night was one of discernment, essentially the wisdom to be able to make a good decision. When have you asked God for discernment? What was the situation and do you feel like you received wisdom?
- We put a lot of pressure on decision making, and rightly so; we want to get our decisions right. But notice that Judas will appear to be a less than stellar choice. Do you think God can still work through our subpar decisions? Why or why not?
- Do you believe there is only one correct decision for every choice or are decisions more like a bullseye, where you can be closer or farther from the center, while still hitting the board?
- When praying for discernment, what do your prayers tend to look like?
- What is your deepest desire when you ask for wisdom and discernment? Why do you care about it?

CHANGE THE WORLD (5 MIN)

What would it look like for your group to live into the holiness of God through serving this Lent and beyond? I Love My City takes place on Saturday, March 22. Join hundreds of others in volunteering around Indianapolis or a city near you. Whether you call St. Luke's home or you're just looking for a way to serve your community, we would love to have you join us for I Love My City! Service opportunities will be available to accommodate a variety of ages and abilities. Our hope is that each person will find a way to serve through one of these options! Check out stlukesumc.com/serve for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

CLOSING PRAYER:

Learning to pray is an important part of our Christian journey. You or a participant can prepare something ahead of time or just pray what is on your heart. Think of it as having a conversation with someone. If you are still a little unsure, look at a Psalm to read for inspiration to write your own prayer.