

# **Life Group Notes**

## **Living a Life of Prayer: ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.’**

### **To begin**

This week, we move on to the second part of the Lord’s Prayer. In praying the first part, we express our total dependency (‘Our Father’) on God and his utter love. Because we become his sons and daughters through faith in Jesus, we can call him ‘Abba’, the same word that Jesus used. Since he is our Father ‘in heaven’, there is the total possibility that he can answer our prayers!

1. What does it mean to pray ‘your kingdom come, your will be done’? Is there any difference in meaning between these two phrases?
2. ‘Before we can pray, “Lord, Thy Kingdom come,” we must be willing to pray, “my Kingdom go”.’ (Alan Redpath). How is this true for you?
3. In his sermon, Tim used the following definition: ‘The Kingdom of God is God’s sovereign activity in the world, resulting in people being in right relationship with himself.’ Would you add anything else?

Read Luke 8:1-8

4. The parable that you have just read is commonly called the parable of the Sower. Some call it the parable of the seed or of the soil. Which of these do you prefer and why?
5. See verse 11-15 for Jesus’ explanation of the parable. What stories can you share of seed falling on the path, the rocky ground and among the thorns? How does this feel?
6. Bearing in mind the disappointment of seed failing to grow in so many instances, should we be spending more time preparing the soil? How might we do this?
7. It seems that Jesus expects us to go on sowing the seed of the Word, even though some disappointment is inevitable, because some of it will fall on good soil. When it does, there will be growth that may be far more than anything we would ask or imagine! Where should we be sowing the seed of the Word?

### **To finish**

Not all Kingdom growth is obvious or massive, but that does not mean God’s Kingdom is not advancing. In Matthew 13:33, Jesus says, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’ (NB ‘kingdom of heaven’ is Matthew’s way of saying ‘kingdom of God’).

Pray that God's kingdom would advance and that we would see an overflow of that in our church as lives are changed through encounter with Jesus!

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