

House Group Notes, September 2008 AD

Prayer in groups (1)

Getting started

Think back over the past few group meetings. What sorts of things have you been praying for?

How God-centred would you say your praying has been?

The Bible gives us some great models of praying people: Abraham, David, Daniel, Ezra, Jesus, the early church, Paul. We are going to look at one of these models today.

Read Daniel 9:1-19

(It's long, but it is a great prayer to read and hear out loud.)

Before you look at the detail, what are your immediate impressions after hearing this prayer?

Prayer and the word of God

You cannot miss the passionate and heartfelt tone of Daniel's praying. What is it that spurs him to pray?

From verse 2, in particular, what gets Daniel on to his knees?

Can you think of other examples from Scripture of people praying in response to what God has said to them?

In your personal life do you pray in response to what you read in the Bible?

In your group, do you pray-in what you study from Scripture in addition to praying for one another's concerns? Could you even bring the two together?

Prayer and the character of God

Look at how Daniel addresses God in the following verses:

v.4 _____

v.7 _____

v.9 _____

v.14 _____

v.15 _____

(Compare Acts 4:24-25)

Does God really need reminding of who he is? Why do you think Daniel addresses God in these terms?

How will our praying be affected when we have a right view of God? (and when we have a wrong view?)

How may we model our praying on this aspect of Daniel's praying, especially in our groups?

Prayer and the promises of God

From v.2: what has God promised?

From v.16: what does Daniel ask for?

Is this a failure to believe God's promise? (Answer: no!) So why might Daniel ask God to do what he has promised?

Praying the promises: How does praying-in the promises of God

set limits to our prayers?

encourage our prayers?

Summing up

Are there two or three practical adjustments you could make to your own group prayer life from what you have learned from Daniel today?