

House Group Notes, September 2008 AD

Prayer in groups (2)

Getting started

What are the benefits of praying in small groups as opposed to congregational praying?

What are the dangers?

How may we reap the benefits while avoiding the dangers?

For example

Jane has arrived feeling quite deflated. She's been given more responsibility at work, having to stay late when she never did before, and the expected pay rise hasn't happened.

How would you pray for Jane in your group?

Lessons from the school of prayer in Colossians

(You could divide into two groups and take two of these each and then report back.)

(1) Colossians 1:3-6

What do we learn about praying for one another from verse 3?

What do we learn about praying for one another from verses 4-6?

How should this affect our own praying in small groups?

(2) Colossians 1:9-11

Some people feel uneasy about asking God for things in prayer. What does verse 9 have to say about that?

What does Paul ask God for, in verse 9?

What goals for other people does he have in mind as he prays, v.10-11?

How should this affect our own praying in small groups?

(3) Colossians 1:28-29 & 4:12-13

From 1:28-29, what is Paul's long-term goal for other people?

How does he go about trying to achieve this?

How does he describe the task?

From 4:12-13, how is Epaphras's praying similar to Paul's preaching?

What could this mean for our small group praying?

(4) Colossians 4:2-4

What three things do we learn about prayer from verse 2?

Who are the 'us' in verse 3?

Who would be the equivalent today?

What does Paul long for their prayers to achieve?

How might these concerns be reflected in our own praying in groups today?

Summing up

Specifically: from what you have discovered in Colossians, might you now pray differently for Jane?

Generally: are there any practical changes you could helpfully make to your group prayer life?