

Daily Prayer for Use by a Small Group

Leader: Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

”Let us confess our sins to God and one another: *(Silence is kept for a while)*

All: God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We’ve thought and done things we shouldn’t have. We’ve not done the things we should. We didn’t love you and we didn’t love our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry. We want to serve you better. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us. Help us to follow you more nearly day by day, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Leader: PLEASE STAND The Lord loves us. He is always looking for us to turn back towards him. He will not always accuse, and he will not stay angry with us long. He does not repay us according to our sins but sets them aside now. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: (Saying to one another and to the Leader). In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Leader: Forgiven of our sins, loving God and our neighbor as He loves us, let us greet one another as brothers (sisters)!

All: (Greet one another with a Christian shake of the hands or hugs as permitted.) Say to one another “THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU.” The reply is: “AND ALSO WITH YOU.”

A READING OF THE PSALM OF THE DAY (Everyone will take turns reading a verse)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Each one is invited to reflect and comment on the application of these scriptures in that person’s for TODAY.. Questions you might ask of each reading are:

- *What words jumped out at you?*
- *How did those words make you feel?*
- *What about your life might God be letting you hear these words for?*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the whole Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED *Prayers are offered on behalf of everyone. Remember that God hears and responds to all prayer. Some suggestions:*

- *Those in distress (family, friends, mental, physical, financial)*
- *For the staff of the facility*
- *For the peace of the whole world*
- *For churches everywhere, especially for church of your housing unit (cell).*
- *For the community, state and nation, and it's leaders.*
- *For the known requests of all who experience poverty of the body, mind or spirit, and for individual concerns*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4)

ENCOURAGING WORDS: *(The following or other appropriate words of encouragement are read by the Leader.)*

- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Numbers 6:22-26
- Romans 8:38-29
- Romans 11:33
- Ephesians 3:17-21
- Jude 4-25
- Revelations 22:20-21
- 1Thessalonians 3:12-13

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Thanks be to God! (Psalm 118:24)

NOTES TO THE LEADER OF SMALL GROUP DAILY PRAYER

Jail might not seem to everyone to be the place to meet God or for the incarcerated to become the church that God intends it to become. Read how Paul encourages one church in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. Verse 18 is key! "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I ask you: "WHAT BETTER PLACE IS THERE TO MEET THE LORD? WHAT BETTER PLACE IS THERE FOR A CHURCH?" Here are few suggestions for the regular conduct of small group prayer:

1. Among every dozen or so people, there are probably 2-5 of them that would join with you so just ask.
2. If you don't feel comfortable asking, pick a time each day to sit in the common area and do this by yourself. read your bible. Someone will join you in a day or two.
3. Look in the bibles or other Christian resources that are present to see if some reading plan is in there. If not, start with Romans and read a paragraph or two and one Psalm and a short section from Mark. Write me if you want a reading plan.
4. Once you get a small group meeting on a regular basis, end each day's prayer by selecting a leader for the next day. Leaders can pick the scriptures that will be used the next day and start reading ahead.

