

## **Praying Together**

Spend time praying together with your group, giving time to share joys and concerns, but making sure you have enough time to actually pray. Jot down your own prayer requests before your gathering begins.

## **Notes on How to Pray for Others**

### **How to Pray for our Church**

Pray for unity

Pray that people will take the time to carefully and prayerfully respond to the congregational survey

Pray for wisdom as we move forward in the senior pastor search process

Pray for the staff and leadership board members during this critical time

Other:

### **Pray for our Community, the World, and our Missionaries**



**Hurrying to Jerusalem**

**Luke 9: 51-62**

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**Opening Up:**

During your normal day, how much of it feels like you're hurrying? How much of your overall lifestyle is characterized by hurrying?

**Digging into Our Text:**

Read Luke 9.51-62. What popped out to you from this reading? In a sense, there are two sections here. What are they, and how do you think they are connected?

What's the overall setting in Luke 9.51-62? Why do you think Jesus is so set on going to Jerusalem? Doesn't he know what he's about to face? Given the fact that Jews and Samaritans despised each other, why does Jesus purposely choose to go through Samaria when most Jews went around it? (For more on the Samaritans, read 2 Kings 17.24ff). How does 2 Kings 1 help you understand what James and John were thinking?

Summarize the three encounters in verses 57-62. Why was Jesus so harsh in his response to these people? Of the three challenges Jesus gives to the people in these verses, which one would be most challenging to you? In a sense, Jesus' point to each of these people is captured in verse 62. What is the meaning of his statement in that verse? How, as Jesus' followers, might that verse be applicable for us today?

What is AW Tozer trying to correct when he says that the Christian faith is "Not a bed in which to lie while waiting for the day of our Lord's triumph" (*Born After Midnight*, 16)? How well do you grasp the fact that following Jesus is an ongoing, all-consuming journey? What does it mean to you to be a disciple of Jesus? Dallas Willard wrote that as a disciple "I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were I" (*The Divine Conspiracy*, 283). Write down your thoughts about that statement.

Do you agree that there are times in our lives when Jesus challenges us to re-assert our commitment to follow him? These challenges can take on different shapes, but each one implies some cost. What might be some examples?

**Getting Personal:**

In the past, when you've taken up the challenge to follow Jesus, what has been the result? How is Jesus right now challenging you to re-assert your commitment to follow him? If you prayed from your heart the statement in verse 57, how do you imagine Jesus might challenge you?

**Things to Ponder:**

How do you get strength for the ongoing challenges of following Jesus? What can you share with your Life Group in order to get their encouragement for your discipleship journey?