

Life Group Questions

On Praying for God's Will - For Sunday, January 13th

PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Matthew 6:8-13 The LORD's Prayer

Jesus instructs us to pray "Lord *your Kingdom come your will* be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus' example of persistent prayer for, and submission to, God's will

John 3:30 "He must become greater, I must become less" (says John the Baptist of Jesus)

Questions:

Please do not just think about these questions, but take time to write your responses to them during the week, and consider sharing one or two with your group when you meet.

More often than not, praying for God's will is opposed to praying for our own will. Can you identify areas in your life where you're more likely to try to tell God how to act rather than invite his will?

Praying for God's will calls us to submit to a will which is not our own. This may call us into difficulty and suffering (like forgiving others, or seeking forgiveness from others) but it may also call us to submit to a better good as well (his definition of an evening well spent, his definition of a good friend, etc). Can you think of a time in your life when you were called to submit to a "better good"?

Reflection: When Jesus prayed for God's will in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36), he did not simply show up, think briefly on it, and then leave. Instead, he returned three times to address God's will for his life. The costly implications of what God was asking Jesus to do required persistence in prayer for Jesus to accept. Jesus did not show up hoping to change God's mind, but rather to prepare himself to accept God's will. Allow Christ's example to challenge you and confront you as you consider the call of God on your life this week.