

Entering in to Prayer

Sunday 21st March 2016

As Life Groups this week, we are taking part in the church's two weeks of prayer, which have included the Encounter evening last week and the 14-day devotional booklet that has been made available to everyone. So this will be a different kind of Life Group session!

1. Remind the group that the three focuses of the prayer fortnight are:

- Entering in to all God has for us
- Entering in to God's rest and restoration
- Entering in to God's world

Start with a time of prayer – maybe 5 minutes – focusing on 'entering in'. The style of prayer you use is up to you. It could be:

- silent prayer, where you all lay aside your own thoughts, concerns and ideas, and seek to listen and be open to the Spirit's voice
- open prayer, a time when anyone can pray a short prayer
- led prayer, where you or another group member shares a previously written prayer
- prayer with music, where you listen to an applicable track (eg 'Oceans') and make the words your prayer focus

(There are some written prayers and ideas for tracks to pray with on the Lifegroup section of the Zion website.)

2. Ask if people have been using the devotional, and if so, what has particularly spoken to them about their own 'entering in' in their personal journey of faith.

Then split the group into twos or threes, and ask people to share together their desires, struggles, plans, ideas for how each one personally wants to 'enter in' more fully to whatever they feel God is calling them to. Pray for each other in turn.

3. Ask each group to write a short (2 sentence) prayer based on what was shared.

Encourage people to make this a prayer which really expresses the heart of their thoughts and feelings about entering in. When all have done this, create a 'Life Group prayer' by asking each group to read out their prayer in turn.

[Lifegroup leaders: with permission, please send your 'Life Group prayer' to jo.gregory@zionnetwork.org for uploading to the Lifegroup area of the website, so that others can be encouraged and resourced.]

4. Pick one or more (depending on time) of the following areas of the church's ministry, and pray for all the staff and volunteers involved, that they may enter in to all that God has planned for each area:

Children & families	Worship/creative team	Prayer streams
Youth	Tech team	Life Groups
Young adults	Hosting team	Men's ministry
Rendezvous	Care Network	Elders
Administration	Finance	

5. End with praise and with prayer for the Holy Spirit to come like a breath of fresh air into your lives, your life group, your communities, the church, and the whole local area.