

GIVE US THIS DAY: RELATIONSHIPS

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Reflect:

As Pastor Josh opened, he encouraged us to think about the new decade ahead of us and imagine what it would look like, if we the Church stepped into our individual callings resulting in the kingdom of God manifesting itself here on earth. What comes to mind as you think about the decade ahead? What would you like it to look like? Is this hard for you or easy? Why?

Jesus taught his people to pray the Lord's Prayer as a means of grace. He knew what it was like to be one of us and in his compassion, left us with this prayer, modeling how dependent, expectant prayer is a vital part of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.

WE EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS WHEN WE:

1. ADMIT OUR NEEDINESS

- Read Matthew 6:11, Luke 3:11 and 2:44-45.
- We are all on the spectrum of neediness. When we turn to God as our provider and seek him in humility, we can rest assured that he will meet our needs. Is this hard for you? How have you as a group, opened up about your current needs?
- Pastor Josh shared that "people living with provision living in relationship with desperation allows everyone to experience the kingdom." Talk about this as a group. What does this look like for you?
- While our neediness may not always look like desperation, discuss how people living in community can minister to each other in perpetual motion.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PAIN

- We can be sure that in the coming year we will experience pain, we will cause pain and we will bring pain to the heart of God. While these things are sure, God as our provider gives us hope through his word in our places of pain. How can you make every effort to live in peace with those around you?
- Read Matthew 6:12, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 4:31-32 and 4:3
- As you read these passages, what areas of brokenness came to mind? Where would you like to see God move on your behalf in these areas?

3. ADDRESS OUR SIN

- Read Matthew 6:13, Proverbs 4:12 and 1 Peter 5:8.
- Are you in relationships where you are free to share and confess your sins to one another? If not, is there anyone who you might seek to develop this kind of relationship with in the coming year?

RESPOND

As we admit our needs, acknowledge our pain and address our sin to our Heavenly Father, we can be sure that his heart is ever for us. Pray and ask God to help you rest in his faithfulness.