

Closing scripture & prayer led by Margaret Tracey

Isaiah 61: 'The spirit of God is upon me, to give comfort to those who mourn, a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.'

Thoughts you might want to consider after the Bible study meeting:

- + Matthew tells us of the storm & the response of the disciples.
How does it affect your relationship with God that storms are to be expected in everyone's life?
- + How / where else could prayer be or become a regular feature of your church life?
- + How can the church be part of the community through its prayer?

*From *Holy Habits: Prayer* by Andrew Roberts, Neil Johnson and Tom Milton, published by The Bible Reading Fellowship holyhabs.org.uk

Fool of God (Christ in the garden) Mark Cazalet (b. 1964) from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

** [Is Jesus praying for us right now? - JesusAlive.cc](http://JesusAlive.cc) Steve Shirley

With thanks to Margaret Tracey & Robert Mitchell for their thoughts & suggestions. Karen Smith Feb.2021

Seeds of Hope



Lent Bible Study Group 2021

Session 2:

Jesus is praying for you

Fleet URC & Beacon Hill URC

Seeds of Hope Lent Group

Week 2: Monday March 1st 2021 *Jesus is praying for you*

Welcome & Prayer led by Karen

Scripture texts: Matthew 14: 22 – 33 John 17: 6 - 19

Discussion points:

- What form of prayer do you see in these two readings in Matthew & John?
- Can you identify other examples of Jesus praying during his ministry?

Cazalet's painting: Christ in the Garden *

- What strikes you about this image?
- How does this image speak to you of prayer?

Discussion points:

- What themes do you see emerging in Jesus' prayers?
- What can we learn from the prayers that Jesus prayed?

What do you think? An interpretation to consider:

'Let me begin by saying that I do not believe we should take the word "intercession" to mean that Jesus is literally praying for us. This being said, let me explain why. First, let's look at the meaning of the word "intercede" in Webster's Dictionary: "to intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences : **MEDIATE**." The Greek word "*entugchano*" is used for intercession in the Bible. Thayer's Greek Lexicon

gives these definitions:

- (1) to light upon a person or a thing, fall in with, hit upon, a person or a thing
- (2) to go to or meet a person, especially for the purpose of conversation, consultation, or supplication
- (3) to pray, entreat.

Looking at the Thayer's definition, it is possible that "intercession" can indeed mean "to pray." However, I believe that "mediate" works better with the Bible verses.' **

Discussion points:

- What is your reaction to this point of view?
- Which speaks to you: intercession or mediation?
- What should prayers be about?

A seed of hope

Nature provides hope every time. I look to the sky, clouds, sunshine, snow, and even rain. It's in the trees, flowers, and wildlife. I feel it in the breeze. It is there in the stillness. Look, listen, and feel for it. Hope is within each of us. It's our nature.
Kristie Konsoer

'26 *In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. 27 And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will.'*
Romans 8: 26, 27