***Discipleship Groups- Study on Community or Church Family Prayer***

***Week commencing 10th February 2013.***

**Opening discussion.**

The disciples saw Jesus own example of prayer day by day and one of their number was inspired to ask “Lord teach us to pray” What inspires you to pray?

**Questions**

* **Read aloud together Luke 11:1-13, and Acts 2 :42-47**

1. Is there something that stands out for you in either of these passages or what links do you see between the two?
2. Jesus own example was of individual prayer (Matthew 11:1) but his reply was all in the second person plural for example “When you (as we would say yous) pray (v2), then he said….. “give us” (v3), “forgive us” (v4), as we forgive (v4), and “lead us not…” (v4) With this in mind do you think we give a prominent enough place to corporate prayer (i.e. praying together) in the church?
3. What do you think happens when we pray together? If it helps have another read at Acts 2:42-47.

Jesus taught his disciples to address God as Father. Some people make a point that in the original language this was a children’s form of address to their dad. However it’s also been said that we are called to “***a childlike trust, and not to shallow childish intimacy; real intimacy with God is not built on feelings but on a true understanding of the believer’s relationship with God by faith***.”

1. Bearing in mind what is said above, how can we ask God for things, and why should we expect prayer to be answered?

***In the pattern of prayer Jesus gives (The Lord’s Prayer) there are 4 requests***

1. ***About God’s glory and his work (verse 2)***
2. ***About our daily needs (verse3)***
3. ***About forgiveness and the need to forgive (verse 4)***
4. ***Our request to be able to resist temptation (Note: God does not tempt us to sin! Read James 1:13 - 14)***
5. Thinking about the pattern above, what most often motivates our own requests, and what or who is prominent in our prayers compared to this pattern?
6. How should the Lord’s Prayer set the orders and priorities of our own prayers as a church family?
7. Read again the two short stories Jesus gave to illustrate the attitude in which we should pray (verses 5 – 13) what do you see these saying?
8. Thinking about the pattern Jesus gave for prayer, and how we see the church in Acts praying together and living out their faith as they do so, what responsibility is placed on us the church to be the instruments of God’s blessing what part have we the church to play in being the answer to one another’s prayers?

Response: Ask each other what you can pray for them now and in the coming days. Pray as a group to finish.