

“March 2019 Prayer Month Wk 3”
Growth Group notes ~ Maureen Gould 17/03/19

[NB: All questions are suggestions; the aim is fruitful discussion of Sunday's sermon, rather than mere repetition - ie, learning between us how to put it into practice]

Exodus 3-4 (particularly 3.1-6); 1 Kings 18.20-40; Acts 2.1-13

(no need to read these in their entirety, considering time constraints - here for reference)

1. **The heart:** Maureen walked us through the theme of God's holy fire and presence in the Old Testament, and then led us to the fire of Holy Spirit coming on His people at Pentecost. "*Moses walked toward the bush, he pursued God, and Elijah trusted the fire would come.*"
 - Talk about what stops us from seeking this, and include personal experience.
 - Discuss what kind of heart change is needed for us to expect the same as those we see in these passages.

2. **The practise:** "*As a parent asks their child to look them in the eye when talking to them, we too need to be willing to look Jesus in the eye as we truly listen. Do we desire to be with Him like that?*"
 - "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*" (James 4.8)
 - How easy do you find it to put this into practise?
 - What has helped you in the past?

3. Let's be praying through our Week #3 focus! Here are the anchor points that Steve has shared in the third video you can find via our Church's social media.
 - Psalm 63
 - "O God, you are my God; **earnestly** I seek you; my soul **thirsts** for you; my flesh **faints** for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have **looked** upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will **praise** you with joyful lips, when I **remember** you upon my bed, and **meditate** on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me."
 - Perhaps watch Steve's video together?
 - PRACTICAL POINTS FOR THE WEEK IN "SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE"
 - It's okay to sit there quietly and wait - don't rush
 - Remove distractions
 - Go for a walk, "shut the door"
 - Pray out loud, read Scripture aloud
 - Music can help
 - Having a pen/journal handy can be helpful
 - Jot down what you're praying, or what you sense God might be saying
 - Weigh what you hear with mature brothers and sisters.
 - "Ask, Seek Knock": He promises us He will answer, but we need to decide to do this in the first place.