

## Why Pray Leader's Tip Sheet

In John 17, referred to as the High Priestly Prayer, we have the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. As he is praying to his Father, his requests flow out of His confidence in God's character. This important prayer can become a model for the motivations and shape of our own prayers. The goal of this book is for you and your Life Groups to more deeply understand the character of God and, through that, have a more worshipful heart and more Christlike prayers. Throughout the five weeks of this study, you will be introduced to inductive Bible study, different modes and techniques of prayer, and the opportunity to engage with God in many ways. This is designed to benefit both those new to prayer and those who have been praying for a lifetime. We pray that this resource is beneficial for the individuals in your Life Groups as well as to your group as spiritual family.

While prayer is a deeply personal activity, the Bible also makes it clear that it is not only personal. Both congregational and communal aspects of prayer help us grow as well-rounded disciples of Christ. Every week, this resource will not only include five days of personal prayer practice but also a congregational reflection page to use when you attend your weekly church service, which will help you prepare your heart for worship, prayerfully consider the sermon while taking notes, and reflect on it. Each week's final section contains a communal prayer and discussion guide to help your Life Group or community group process the John 17 Bible study and prayer practices you completed during the week.

### Tips for using this book with your Life Group

One of the reasons *Why Pray* was created was to help the reader form a regular practice of prayer by using the book as a daily study. We'd love for your Life Group to commit to meeting weekly during this all-church series that runs from January 5 to February 2. That being said, the resource can be stretched to accommodate the bi-weekly schedule most Life Groups have already established. Below you will find 3 options for completing this study with your group.

Option 1: Have your Life Group complete the personal study days each week and meet weekly to complete the *Communal Prayer* section together.

Option 2: Have your Life Group complete the personal study days each week and meet bi-weekly to complete one of the *Communal Prayer* sections from the previous weeks. As the leader, choose one of the weeks to discuss, not both.

Option 3: Have your Life Group complete the personal study days over the course of two weeks and meet bi-weekly to complete the *Communal Prayer* sections.

### Tips for Life Group Discussion

Section Three of each week is titled "Communal Prayer." This section is meant to be completed during your Life Group meeting. For groups that regularly use our weekly discussion guides, this section will look familiar. It includes an ice breaker, discussion goal, passage review and discussion questions. Compared to our regular guides, there are fewer discussion questions in the book. This is to allow more time for your group to take part in communal prayer. After the discussion questions you will find a *Prayer Practice* and a *Prayer Challenge*. Follow the instructions to complete these with your group. Many of the Prayer Practices are more than likely new to you and your group members and may stretch your group, but be encouraged to lean into them, knowing that stretching means growing!