**Covenant Group Conversation**

***Prior to March 25 & 26 Meeting***

Lent is an opportunity to go deeper in spiritual disciplines through meditating, praying, studying, fasting, almsgiving, and serving. Today you will consider the practice of intercessory prayer. Intercessory praying is lifting up someone else’s need with the hope and the conviction that there will be a change.

**Introduction**

Today you will hear a familiar passage, however, please listen as if you are sitting on the hillside listening to the beatitudes for the first time.

**Have someone to read the scripture:** Matthew 5: 1-12

How does each effect you? Is it peace, or confusion? Is there joy or sorrow. Are you looking at this for yourself, or are you turning to see the other?

**Wrestling with the Word:**

What keeps you from praying with hope and confidence?
When has your faith been stretched when lifting others in prayer?
Will you make space in your life for a regular time of intercessory prayer? When? Where?

We are going to take a few minutes and pray through the beatitudes together. We will lift up each one then pause for a moment to intercede for both individuals as well as groups.

Today we pray for the poor in spirit to receive the kingdom of heaven.
Today we pray for those who mourn to be comforted.
Today we pray for the meek to inherit the earth.
Today we pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness to be filled. Today we pray for the merciful to receive mercy.

Today we pray for the pure in heart to see God.
Today we pray for the peacemakers to be called children of God.
Today we pray for those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake to receive the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. Amen

Invite each person in silence to write at least one prayer for the needs or concerns of people in each of the beatitudes. Play some quiet instrumental music in the background while participants write their prayers.

Invite participants to read their prayers. Pause to give time to reflect after each prayer is lifted.

**Next Steps:**

Share with the group something in your life that is currently weighing on you. Commit to pray for each person’s request daily in the next week.
End your time together with prayers of thanksgiving for the work God has done.