

Prayer for Session 4 of *Following Christ*

Beginning Prayer:

Proclaim the scripture passage below. You may do this yourself or invite a member of the group to do so. Allow for a bit of silence (perhaps pray the Lord's Prayer to yourself for a sense of ample silence). Proclaim the reading again. At the conclusion of the second proclamation invite the members of the group to share a word or a phrase that stuck out and spoke to them. Simply ask them to voice that word or phrase out loud without explanation. After all have voiced their word or phrase, pause and pray the following:

Lord, God. Be with us this night. May the words and phrases that spoke to our hearts as we listened to your Word as it was proclaimed remain with us in our sharing this night. We ask this as we ask all things, through Jesus your Son in the Power of the Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the gospel according to Mark (Mk 4:13-20)

Jesus said to them: "Do you not understand this parable? Then how are you going to understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on the rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no root; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

The gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer:

As we conclude our sharing today, let us listen once more to the scripture that was proclaimed as we began. **(Proclaim the passage above once more.)** May we continue to ponder the words of this passage in our hearts as we journey together through the week. Together let us pray the *Evangelization Prayer* found on the inside front cover of our booklets. **(After the prayer is prayed)** Let us go in peace!