

Community Group Prayer

Guidelines and Ideas

Model Prayer as a Leader

1. Be a person of prayer yourself—pray for your members outside of the group, and let them know you are doing so.
2. Take the lead in prayer, but don't hog the time.
3. When you pray out loud in the group, keep your prayers honest, authentic, and from your heart.

Guide Prayer as a Leader

1. Include prayer each time you meet.
2. Give guidelines of how prayer will happen during each meeting. Use a variety of methods.
3. Be clear on who will begin and close the prayer time.
4. Keep discussions on prayer brief unless you are doing a study or the group is taking significant time to learn about prayer.
5. Call on someone to pray if you have asked permission beforehand or you know them well.
6. Allow members to pray as they feel, with few exceptions. Don't expect everyone to pray every time.
7. Respect the intimacy level of the group. As the group grows in deepening relationships, a sense of safety will foster a deeper experience in prayer.

What Happens When Group Members Commit to Pray for One Another?

- Your relationship with Christ and with each other will deepen. You will experience spiritual growth.
- There is less chance of burnout as you put problems in God's hands and trust members to His care.
- You allow the Holy Spirit to work in your group so your time together is filling and refreshing.
- God will answer your prayers in amazing ways, and your faith will increase.

Creative Ideas for Group Prayer

1. Ask for requests and pray for them.
 - Ask another person to pray for that person immediately.
 - Wait to pray after everyone shares.
 - Gather requests on cards as everyone arrives. Give the cards out after prayer and have them pray for that request during the week.
2. Divide the group up for prayer.
 - Mixed group
 - Male/Female
 - Other creative ways
3. Vary prayer time among the beginning, middle, and closing of the meeting.
4. Pray through a specific portion of the topic of study.
 - Example: If the topic is courage in sharing the Gospel, let that fill the entire prayer time.
5. Pray through a Psalm out loud together.
 - Psalm 66, 93, 98, 100, 105, 111 are good examples.
6. If someone is in crisis during the discussion portion of the meeting, stop right then and pray for him or her.
7. Themed Prayers of 1-2 sentences.
 - Thanksgiving
 - Praise
 - Requests, etc.

8. "No requests allowed" prayers
 - Choose an attribute of God and begin describing it back to Him.
9. Allow your group to decide how they want to pray.
10. ACTS (Acrostic Method)—Use the ACTS acrostic to guide your prayer time. These categories are broad enough to allow for adaptation to different contexts.
 - Adoration—Praise and adore God for who He is. Use Scripture to praise Him (e.g., Psalms 103, 145, 150; Revelation 4:8; 5:12-14) or pray His attributes back to Him.
 - Confession—Confess and repent of specific sins. Ask Him to search your heart for areas that displease Him. Accept and thank Him for His forgiveness and cleansing.
 - Thanksgiving—Give thanks for specific things such as blessings, people, guidance, physical gifts, necessities of life, etc.
 - Supplication—Ask Him to supply your needs, for the needs represented in your group or for those outside of your group. Intercede for specific people, events, country (leaders), missionaries, church (people, leaders, etc.), etc.
11. Lord's Prayer—Use the different types of prayers represented in the Lord's Prayer for an extended (entire group meeting) prayer time (see Matthew 6:9-13).
 - Adoration—Praising God for who He is
 - Confession—Admitting and asking forgiveness
 - Renewal—Asking for a renewed mind, heart and will to follow Christ
 - Petition—Making requests
 - Intercession—Praying for others
 - Affirmation—Agreeing and submitting to God's will
 - Thanksgiving—Praise for what He has done.
 - Closing—Final thoughts and offering them to Him

See Face to Face Vol. 1 by Kenneth Boa.