



HOW TO LEAD A PRAYER MEETING

Group prayer needs to be the staple of our fellowship just as it was for the very first believers.

- Acts 12:12 - Peter went to the house of Mary where others gathered for prayer.
- Acts 1:13-14 - scripture records that all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women.



CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER

During conversational prayer group members should talk to God as they would talk to a friend. Encourage the group (especially a group unfamiliar with group prayer) to feel free to pray sentence prayers. Everyone is free to pray, or not to pray, as the Spirit directs. Don't worry about silence. Allow God to speak to everyone in the group during times of silence.

ELEMENTS OF A GROUP PRAYER MEETING

A Choose one or more of following elements for your prayer meeting. Be Creative! You can switch the elements around, eliminate some of them or do something completely different. Don't make prayer boring or monotonous. It's an inspirational and enjoyable time where students leave feeling refreshed and renewed.

INTRODUCE A PRAYER TOPIC OR REQUEST

Introduce a prayer topic or request, one at a time then allow the group a few minutes to pray for the that.

When finished, the leader introduces another topic or request. Designate a specific person to close at the end of each time. This helps insure that the prayer time will not bog down when everyone has had the opportunity to pray if they so desire. Below are some examples of topics that can be used:

- Thank God for His love, forgiveness, the beautiful day, the ways He is working in peoples lives, etc.
- Thank God for something that has happened in your life in the past 24 hours.
- Please help _____ (you or someone else).
- Thank God for how He will answer your requests.

LET THE GROUP MEMBERS SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS

Go around the group allowing each member to share their own personal prayer requests.

PRAY USING SCRIPTURE

Have the group use one or more passages of Scripture as their guide for praying. Choose any passage you feel is appropriate. Here's an example:

Read a Psalm of praise (e.g. Psalm 103; Psalm 145; 150) or teach the group to pray using the following:

- The first person reads a phrase or verse aloud then prays a simple prayer relating to the phrase or scripture verse.
- Other members of the group join in audibly or silently agree.
- The next person reads a different verse then pauses to pray aloud.



- Others follow with their prayers.

USE THE 'ACTS' ACROSTIC

Prayer using the ACTS acrostic would look like this:

Adoration: Worshipping and praising God with your heart, mind and voice.

- Praise and pray through a Psalm, sing, adore God, praising Him for His attributes such as: loving kindness, holiness, compassion, majesty, etc. Praise Him for who He is.
- Sing a hymn and use the words of the hymn to guide the your time for prayer.
- Select a few of God's attributes and spend the time meditating and praising Him for His character. Share answers to prayer and notice how these answers reflect different aspects of His character. Spend time thanking God for the answers and His faithfulness.

Confession: Agreeing with God concerning any sins He brings to your mind.

- Review I John 1:5-9
- God will bring to mind what you need to confess.
- Allow time for confession.

Thanksgiving: Giving thanks to God for who He is, what He has done, what He will do in our lives and what He is doing in the ministry; a prayer expressing gratitude.

- Spend time in thanksgiving by reviewing I Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 108:3, Psalm 50:23.

Supplication: Asking God for his divine help to meet needs, solve problems, work in someone's life, etc.

- Read Philippians 4:6,7; Psalm 116:1,2 and lead the group in supplication by praying aloud.

INTRODUCE THE 'PRAY' ACROSTIC

The elements of the praying time would be: a time of *Praise*; a time of *Repentance*; a time to *Ask for* someone else; and a time to pray for *Your own* needs.

PRAY FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Use scriptures to pray for the fulfillment of the

Great Commission, praying in the following three categories:

Evangelism

- Pray that God will prepare individuals to understand and respond to the gospel (John 6:44).
- Pray that God will motivate believers to share the gospel with the unbelievers (Matthew 9:37,38).
- Recognize that Satan has blinded the unbeliever, and acknowledge Christ's victory (Ephesians 6:12; II Corinthians 4:3,4; II Timothy 2:25,26; I John 3:8).
- Persist in these prayers (Daniel 10:12-13; Luke 18:1-8).

Discipleship

- Thank God for them (Philippians 1:3).
- Pray for deliverance from evil (unprincipled) companions (II Thessalonians 3:2).
- Pray that they will walk worthy of the Lord (Colossians 1:10).
- Pray for wisdom and revelation in knowledge of Christ (Ephesians 1:17).
- Pray for them to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16).
- Pray for their unity in the Spirit with other believers (John 17:23).
- Pray that their love may abound and that they may approve the things that are excellent (Philippians 1:9,10).
- Pray for boldness and opportunities to present the gospel to others (Colossians 4:3, Ephesians 6:19,20).
- Pray that they may mature and become fully assured of God's will (Colossians 4:12).

Sending

- Recognize the problem of the labor shortage in the spiritual harvest (Matthew 9:37,38; Romans 10:13,15).
- Make a list of you want to send as missionaries (Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 9:37,38) and pray persistently for them.
- Pray for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in your area and around the world, according to His command and promise in Matthew 28:18-20 and 1John 5:14,15.
- Mobilize and teach others to pray for laborers (2 Timothy 2:2).
- Help expand the group's world vision by praying for specific country, overseas mission worker or group. (Your group may want to adopt a country



to pray for regularly.)

Additional Great Commission Prayers

- Christian students would confess their sins to God and choose to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Especially that Christians would break off immoral sexual
- relationships and be restored and walk in purity (I John 1:9; Joel 2:23).
- Non-Christians seek God and come to know Christ.
- The Holy Spirit convicts professors and administrators to receive Christ.
- God calls out committed believers in every area of campus. (residence halls, fraternities, sororities, student government, minority groups, athletes etc.)
- Evangelistic surveys and outreaches are done in every dorm, fraternity sorority and athletic team on campus.
- Christians of different races become united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- Spiritual awakening revives believers and brings large numbers of unbelievers to Christ.
- Students gain an eternal perspective instead of defaulting to the usual temporal perspective that pervades college life.
- Graduating seniors would go where God calls them and they wouldn't seek security or materialism but instead serve God as full-time missionaries in their
- careers after graduation.
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) becomes the most important mission for every Christian on your campus and that Christians become pioneers of faith.
- Christians end all gossip and criticism.
- Spiritual awakening on campus affects the surrounding community and hundreds of students fill churches every week.
- Your zeal and love for Christ touches many campuses nearby.
- The greatest skeptics of Christianity on campus are won to Christ.
- For a growing worldwide network of prayer movements, a college student uprising

OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

As a prayer request is offered, have another member be responsible to pray for that request during the prayer time. This ensures that each person's request

will be prayed for by at least one other person.

You may wish to have group members record on a sheet of paper each request as it is given. They can refer to the list during the group prayer time as well as throughout the week.

Allow group members to volunteer to pray for requests without assigning them or writing them down. This way members would rely on their memories during the prayer time.

You can pray for each request as soon as it's given, before sharing the next request.