

How to Lead a Prayer Meeting

Purpose of Group Prayer Time

Group prayer was a characteristic of the early Christians.

- 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.

Old Testament characters also participated in group prayer.

- 2 Chronicles 6:13-42 records Solomon praying as all Israel gathered around.

Remember that the purpose of your prayer time is to communicate with God. It's not merely a ritual to get done or for preaching at each other.

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.

Different Elements of a Group Prayer Meeting

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.

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

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

B. Pray only prayers of praise or thanksgiving. Have group members thank God for who He is and what He has done. Instruct them not to ask for anything—only to praise & thank (it's harder than it sounds!).



C. 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:

1. The first person reads a phrase or verse aloud then prays a simple prayer relating to the phrase or scripture verse.
2. Other members of the group join in audibly or silently agree.
3. The next person reads a different verse then pauses to pray aloud.
4. Others follow with their prayers.

D. Use the ACTS Acrostic. (This can be developed at length with one or more studies on each word.) Here's how the ACTS guide works:

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 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.

E. Introduce the PRAY acrostic.

- Praise
- Repent
- Ask for someone else
- Your own needs



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.)

F. Let the Group Members share prayer requests.

Other Ideas for Prayer Requests

- 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 (1 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.)
- 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 for Christ around the world and thousands of missionaries go to the world.



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.

