

Group Prayer

I. What Can I Do as a Leader to Help Facilitate Meaningful Prayer in my Group?

★ *Model it*

1. Be a person of prayer yourself—pray for your members, the open chair, ask God to give you His direction in leading the group.
2. When you do pray out loud in the group, keep your prayers honest, authentic, and from your heart.
3. Simple guide for group prayer:
 - Short
 - Simple
 - Spirit-led
 - Silence is okay

★ *Keep it Safe*

1. Don't call on someone to pray unless you've asked permission beforehand (or you know them well).
2. Don't expect everyone to pray every time.
3. Try to avoid praying in a circle. Allow members to pray one at a time as they feel led.
4. Respect the intimacy level. As the group grows in deepening relationships, a sense of safety will foster more genuine prayer.

★ *Guide the prayer*

1. Give general guidelines, but let the Holy Spirit lead.
2. Avoid lengthy discussions on prayer.
3. Include prayer each time you meet.
4. Use a variety of praying methods.

II. What Happens When Groups Commit to Pray for One Another?

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

III. Creative Ideas for Group Prayer

1. Pray through a psalm out loud together.
2. In a couples group, have spouses pray for each other.
3. Vary prayer time between the beginning, middle, and closing of the meeting.
4. Pick a portion of Scripture to pray for one another during the week (Col. 1:9; Eph. 3:14–19, etcetera).
5. If someone is in crisis, stop and pray for them right then.
6. Pray for the church, a country, a family in need, specific seeker-oriented events, or any area for which your group has a passion.
7. Do a study on prayer. Highly recommended: *Praying from God's Heart* by Lee Braise, or *Prayer* by Richard Foster, or *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels.
8. Is there someone in your group with the gift of faith or encouragement? Ask that person to be the prayer coordinator who writes down requests each meeting and keeps track of answers. If a group member has an emergency, they can call the prayer coordinator, who will notify all the other members to pray for them.
9. Praise is a part of intercession. Is a member in the midst of struggle? Praise God instead of praying requests.
10. Have each member write down requests for the week on a piece of paper. Fold the piece of paper and put it in a hat. Pass the hat, each member agreeing to
11. pray for the person they pick and to call to encourage them during the week.
12. To cut down on the time your group spends talking about prayer requests, give everyone a 3 x 5 card to write down prayer requests for the week and have them exchange cards with another member of the group.

IV. Outreach

1. Pray for someone to fill the open chair.