

## Leading Prayer Meetings

This resource will help you lead a prayer meeting in person or online. Note that this is a helpful guideline, but please lead as the Holy Spirit directs you. Leading a prayer meeting is hosting and facilitating a safe, hospitable conversation between people and God about God's world.

### PREPARE to Lead a Prayer Meeting

- ✓ **Prepare.** Come prepared to lead – meet God for yourself, and then pray for the meeting and those who may come. Invite a few people to pray for you and whoever would come
- ✓ **Time and Location.** Set the date, time, location (in person, Zoom, Discord, etc.)
- ✓ **Invite others.** Ask the Holy Spirit who are the people who have exhibited a passion to see the impact of God's Kingdom spread. Create a [Five Threshold Network Map](#) of the relational networks God has granted you. See the [Compelling Invitations](#) resource or [course](#) for tips on how to invite people well.
- ✓ **Ask God for a focus for each prayer time**, such as: the campus mission, an upcoming evangelistic event, leadership, spiritual strongholds, temptations, world needs, evangelistic fruit, etc. Ask God for a short scripture passage as the springboard for your group's time of intercession.
- ✓ **Diversify your prayer styles.** Consider praying in pairs or small groups if you have a large group, or have a back-up plan if you plan on 50 people coming and only two come. Keep in mind that some people may not be comfortable praying aloud and others will ramble on and on with their prayers. Pray all together, in pairs, in small groups, sitting, kneeling, walking, etc.
- ✓ **Arrive early.** Get there 5 minutes early on electronic mediums (15 minutes if it's a physical location) to prepare the space and greet people as they arrive.

*"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

– Jesus in  
Matthew 18:19-20

### DURING the Prayer Meeting

#### WELCOME AND CAST VISION (3-5 minutes):

- Greet people warmly and get names of any new people.
- Cast vision for the prayer time – why this prayer time is important, introduce the theme.
- Give an overview of how you're planning to spend the allotted time.

#### WORSHIP (4-5 minutes):

- **Praise and Worship God:** Begin with a familiar worship song that connects to the focus of a few verses from a Psalm or spoken short sentences of praise.
- **Observe and Remember God:** Give thanks to God for answered prayers, observe what God has done.

[Here's a YouTube playlist of worship songs you can use.](#)

### SCRIPTURE AND SILENCE (3-5 minutes):

- Slowly read the Scripture passage you have selected, make comments or state your reasons for using this particular passage and how it address the theme.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to speak through the Scripture (see this [Listening Prayer](#) resource for more background on this method of prayer). Invest a few minutes in silence. Mediate on the Scripture and listen for God's voice and leading.

### PRAY IN AGREEMENT (15-40 minutes):

Praying in agreement is like constructing an audible paragraph together – a cohesive group of sentences on one particular theme. Encourage everyone to pray, especially those who are new to prayer and/or praying out loud. When a topic is raised, 2-3 people pray about this topic, having each person's prayer BUILDING UPON the previous prayer while listening to God's heart, informed by the scripture. You can find a listening prayer guide [here](#).

- Have the group share: How does God seem to be leading the group into prayer? Briefly share insights from the scripture, clear words, images, songs, or other impressions.
  - To discern if what you heard is from God, it should be consistent with God's character, revealed in Scripture, confirmed by community, and filled with love instead of fear.
- Write key prayer needs and what you hear from prayer in a visible shared space (post-it notes on a board, shared google doc, for example). Explore any connection between what was heard in silence and these needs.
- Move into a group prayer time inviting your group to pray the scripture. Pray in faith as the Spirit leads: the prayer focus and the needs that have been mentioned.
- Invite the group to pray into some of the words or images that were given during silence. If you sense God moving you to pray in a certain way, test this leading with a co-leader or other leader in the room.

## AFTER the Prayer Meeting

### DEBRIEF THE PRAYER MEETING (2-5 minutes):

- Invite input from two or more participants as they will see and experience the prayer time differently than you. Evaluation is critical if you want to lead effective, fruitful prayer meetings. Here are some possible debrief questions:
  - How did God meet you? Speak to you?
  - What was difficult about this time or could be improved?
  - What would make this a better prayer meeting next time?
- Pray to thank God for what God did.
- Exchange contact information if people are willing to share: for group messaging or texting, to update one another on anything new they hear from God before the next meeting, and to remind each other about the next meeting.
- Invite a volunteer from the group to help lead the next prayer meeting (and offer them this resource as a guide to the time). If no one volunteers, no worries.