A guide for group prayer time

Groups of two or three pray together for one hour each week. Participants are encouraged to pray according to this pattern: praise and thanksgiving, relying on grace, asking, and yielding. This guide takes each part in turn.

P

PART 1 OF 4

Praise and Thanksgiving

In Ps. 100:4, we read:

> **Enter his gates with thanksgiving**
> **and his courts with praise;**
> **give thanks to him and praise his name.**
>
> PSALM 100:4

Based on this passage, we encourage you to begin your time of prayer with praise and thanksgiving. To begin with, through our praise we begin to see God as He truly is, and this helps us see *everything* as we should. And *gratitude* is simply the best *attitude* we can carry with us. Also, our praise and thanksgiving bring great blessing to God. For these reasons, we encourage you to spend as much as fifteen minutes in praise and thanksgiving alone. You may wish to begin this time with a worship song (whether recorded or something you sing). And during this time, you may wish to read passages of Scripture that express praise and thanksgiving to God.

R

PART 2 OF 4

Relying on God's Grace

As we draw near to God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of His glory. Take the time to confess any known sins to God, and ask Him to forgive you, even for the things you can't think of. In Ps. 139:23-24 we read:

> **Search me, God, and know my heart;**
> **test me and know my anxious thoughts.**
> **See if there is any offensive way in me,**
> **and lead me in the way everlasting.**
>
> PSALM 139:23-24

Be especially sensitive to God's leadership to seek the forgiveness of others (Matt. 5:23-24) and to forgive others from your heart (Matt. 6:14-15). If you struggle with these things, seek godly counsel to help you. As your heart becomes free from guilt and bitterness, you will experience greater peace in your heart and greater power in your prayers.

A

PART 3 OF 4

Asking

Jesus said:

> **Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.**
>
> MATTHEW 7:7-8

Rather than beginning with a list of prayer requests, we encourage you to be still before God and allow Him to prompt you in what to pray for. We also encourage you to pray for just one thing at a time (or a few related things). This will make it much easier for the others to pray in agreement with you. You shouldn't need to share prayer requests with each other. As you pray, the others will know how to pray with you and for you. Feel free to begin with your own needs. The difference God makes in the world happens one life at a time, beginning with you. Pray for the needs of your family and church family, along with the needs of our community, city, state, nation,

and world. Make use of the prayer list that is provided, but let it be routine. Wait on God and let Him prompt you in how to pray for the needs on the list, and be open to how He may lead you "to put feet to your prayers."

Y

PART 4 OF 4

Yielding

Prayer is communion with God, and communion, like communication, moves in both directions, from us to God and from God to us. Therefore, as you pray, do your best to hear and discern what He speaks to you. In Jer. 33:3, God gives us this great promise:

> **Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.**
>
> JEREMIAH 33:3

When we call on God, He promises to "tell" us great and unsearchable things. How will we hear what He speaks, however, if we are not doing our best to hear from Him? Of course, we should evaluate all we believe we are hearing in the light of the clear teaching of Scripture and godly counsel. It's vitally important, though, for us to hear and obey what God speaks because this is what God promises to bless (Luke 11:28). As you pray, be sensitive to God's leading in how we may serve our community for the sake of the gospel. If you sense clear leadership from God, share it with the point person from your church. That person will share it with the leadership team for our Pastors' Fellowship, so we can prayerfully implement the ways God leads us to serve our community for the sake of the gospel.

Sign up your group: **nwpastors.com/prayercovering**

Send a prayer request or praise report: **nwpastors.com/prayer-request**

This guide online: **nwpastors.com/prayer-guide**