

HOW TO LEAD A PRAYER-BOOK STUDY THAT BRINGS TRANSFORMATION

You've had enough of feeling the exhaustion of self-reliance and prayerlessness, hustling to make things happen out of your own effort. You're tired of the drag of stress-relief survival prayer. Your spirit is hungry for refreshing encounters with Jesus. You're ready to participate more powerfully in Christ's kingdom purpose for your life.

So, now what? How do you move from fleeting moments of prayer to a movement of prayer? How do you lead yourself and others from a posture and culture of not showing up for prayer at all, to a life of dynamic prayer that is integral to the fabric of your life and ministry?

PRAYING WITH OTHERS can be one of the best ways to break through the initial inertia. Corporate prayer can help stoke the fire of your personal prayer life by providing heightened awareness of God's presence, accountability, and discipleship.

PRACTICE paves the path for prayer power. The goal is not cerebral study of prayer. Our prayerlessness is not an information problem. Intellectual discussion about prayer and God's love for us as His children is not the same

as experiencing Him from a deeply rooted place in our hearts that leads to actual transformation of our minds, hearts, and actions. Prayer bridges that eternal distance between our heads and our hearts by making room for Jesus to do the work. As Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)



PRAYER REVOLUTION

Commit to finding at least one other person to pray through this book together

to begin harnessing the power of prayer first hand. Offer up a simple prayer, “Jesus, thank You for the gift of prayer, which You’ve given through the price of Your own sacrifice. Thank You that You are the prize. I know You desire for me to know You more deeply through prayer and to bring others to prayer so they can encounter You too. Will You show me who in my life currently I might ask to join me? Is there someone new that I have yet to meet? Bring our paths to cross and open the door for us to pray together so that Your kingdom may come more fully in our lives and in the worlds You’ve placed us in. In Your name, Amen.”

Facilitate your prayer time in a way that guards the priority of practicing prayer.

This is true in all contexts, whether you pray with a friend one on one, or with your family, small group, or leadership team. Invite people to join you for a prayer group (rather than calling it a book study). Set a tone of coming to meet with Jesus in a direct experiential way. Create a space of trust and confidentiality so people can feel free to open themselves to the group and ultimately to God in a vulnerable way.

Set the path for dynamic, fresh kingdom prayer by keeping the ball moving.

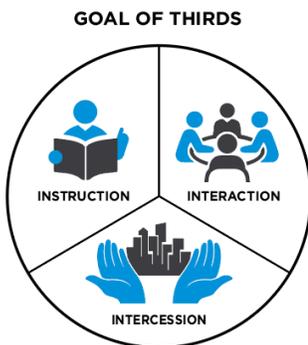
- Keep the prayer clusters short and groups of people small (if your group is large).
- Break people into smaller groups of 2-4 so that everyone gets ample opportunity to pray and interact, as this is where they wrestle with and apply the truths to their own lives.

Encourage participants to pray practicing the ABCs of corporate prayer:

Audible • Brief • Christ-centered

- Pray **Audibly** so others can pray in agreement with you.
- Pray **Brief prayers** (you can pray more than once) to keep the ball moving. This is assuring for the newbies, and sets the boundary for long sermonizing prayers.
- Pray **Christ-centered**, Conversational prayers in Concert with one another.

“Prayer is spiritual warfare. Be alert and expect resistance.”



PRACTICE THE GOAL OF THIRDS:

1/3 instruction, **1/3** interaction, **1/3** intercession.

Plan to intersperse the prayer throughout the gathering, not just leaving it until the end, as it will get squeezed out.

PRAYER REVOLUTION

THE FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE TIMELINE FOR A ONE-HOUR GATHERING:

Homework Have everyone read the chapter ahead of time. Have each person choose one paragraph of insight that they found helpful and draft one paragraph of prayer in response.



To open your gathering, have one person summarize the chapter.



Have the person prayerfully read their written paragraph of prayer. Invite people to offer a short prayer in response.



Divide people into groups of 3-4. Have each person share their one insight with their group and engage in a discussion together.



Remaining in their small groups, have each person prayerfully read their written- prayer paragraph, followed by an open time of praying in response to what came up during the discussion.



Back in the large group, discuss 1 or 2 key questions from the end of each chapter. Summarize key insights to end this portion of interaction.



Break people into small groups of 3-4 (can be the same groups or different groups). Have people pray for your church, mission, and city.

Prepare in prayer. Stand guard in prayer. Advance in prayer.

Prayer is spiritual warfare. Be alert and expect resistance.

- Praying for the Holy Spirit to transform hearts and habits and making room for people to engage first hand is more essential than having the best teaching or leadership skills.
- Pray for each participant and session to be rich in prayer and fellowship with Jesus.
- Pray for your heart to be soft and surrendered to the agenda and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Build a “prayer-backup team” and regularly solicit coverage from them.
- Praise and rejoice in the answers and presence of Jesus that comes.

For further resources and support on growing a life and mission in prayer, visit prayercurrent.com.