

Prayer Meeting Quick Start Guide

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Why is prayer meeting important?

- It provides a time and place for God to reveal Himself to His people.
- It is an opportunity to shepherd your people and help them grow in their walk with God. You can teach them how to interact with God and each other, how to pray and listen to God, and how to apply Scripture to their lives.
- Prayer meeting allows church members to minister to each other.

What elements contribute to a dynamic prayer meeting?

- Prayer meetings are dynamic and life-giving when God is present. The following elements come in answer to prayer and allow God to work:
- An atmosphere of faith and expectation.
- Focus on God, His character, and His priorities in prayer.
- Members have meaningful relationships with each other.
- Prayer meeting leader is connected with God and has a growing personal prayer life.
- The hearts of attendees are right with God.
- Individuals are united with a common purpose and passion.

What elements are less important for a successful prayer meeting?

- Location - Dynamic prayer meetings can happen at the church, in homes and digitally (by telephone or video conferencing).
- Number of People - Jesus promises to be present when 2-3 of His followers meet together (Matthew 18:20). While having more in attendance is a blessing and should be encouraged, it is not necessary to a successful prayer meeting.

What are the responsibilities of the prayer meeting leader?

- Pray!! Pray for your church & your people. Pray for God to be present and to have freedom to work in people's lives. Pray for people to attend.
- Listen to God and discern what He is doing in the body of believers.
- Shepherd people and help them grow in their relationship with God and each other.
- Design a format for prayer meeting based on God's leading.
- Facilitate prayer and ministering activities during the prayer meeting.

Basic format for prayer meeting

- Set the focus on God through music, devotional, scriptures, praise testimonies, etc.
- Respond to God from the heart through prayer, song, testimonies, etc.
- Pray for needs of God's kingdom in united or individual prayer.
- Minister to, and pray for, each other using a variety of interactive methods.
- Close in celebration of what God is doing through music, testimonies, scripture, prayer, etc.

Useful prayer meeting activities

Prayer meeting activities can be grouped into three basic categories: focusing activities, ministering activities, and prayer activities. **Focusing activities** help to set the focus on God, His character, and His agenda. **Ministering activities** give opportunities for members to serve and care for each other. **Prayer activities** can be used both to focus on God and to minister to one another.

Focusing Activities

- **Sharing of Scripture** - Leader or individuals can read selected verses. People can share meaningful Scriptures that relate to a certain topic. Or pray through a scripture together.
- **Music** - Background music, or singing hymns and worship songs together. Songs make excellent transitions between prayer segments.
- **Sharing testimonies and praises** - One or two can be arranged ahead of time, or you can have an open time for people to share how they have seen God work in their lives.
- Share answered prayers - Ask for people to share specific answers to prayer.
- **Thanksgiving** - People can share what they are thankful for verbally. Thanks can also be written out and displayed creatively as an honor to God.
- **Prayer Journal** - Keep an ongoing record of the group's prayer requests and praises. Review these periodically together to see how God has worked.

Ministering Activities

- **Outreach prayer** - Reach out to others in church or community by praying for them. You may also want to write cards, and/or find other ways to minister to people's practical needs.
- **Prayer chair** - Have people take turns sitting on a chair in the center and being prayed for specifically by everyone else. Have others gather close and lay hands of blessing on them if appropriate.
- **Prayer circle** - Each person prays for the person on their left (or right).
- **Sharing of prayer requests** - Be careful, prayer requests can easily take over the whole prayer meeting. Limit the time spent on it by asking people to share their request in one minute or less. Or have people share their needs by praying them during the united prayer time or in small groups.
- **Prayer Request Cards** - Write prayer requests on cards and trade them and then pray for needs.

Prayer Activities

- **Individual prayer** - People respond to God in personal, private prayer. This is especially useful in times of confession and responding to God.
- **Small groups** - Attendees separate into groups of 2-4 for sharing and prayer. This is a wonderful way to give everyone an opportunity to pray and be prayed for. People are often more willing to share their personal needs in smaller groups.
- **United, group prayer** - This is one of the biggest blessings in prayer meeting. Just help people remember to keep their prayers short and to pray about only one topic at a time. This is a wonderful way to pray for Kingdom needs and for the needs of the local church.
- **Prayer choir** - Everyone prays individually at once, either aloud or silently.

How to grow prayer meeting?

- **Pray!** - Your most important work is to pray for God's guidance and blessing. Prayer meeting will only prosper as much as your personal prayer life prospers. Ask God what kind of a prayer meeting He wants and to provide the help needed.
- **Commit** - Decide to stick with this until God gives success.
- **Get leadership on board** - Invite the church leadership to join you in a regular time of prayer for the church so they can experience the blessing of united prayer and help promote it.
- **Create expectation** - Many people have never experienced what it is like to seek God with others in a dynamic, Spirit-filled prayer meeting. They need a desire in them for this experience. This is created through: 1) Much prayer for God to work on their hearts. 2) Biblical teaching on prayer and its importance. 3) Testimonies showing God at work in

answer to prayer. 4) Prayer experiences in church worship services. 5) Your enthusiasm for prayer and God.

- **Be willing to start small** - Don't despise the day of small beginnings (Zechariah 4:10). Many of the greatest revivals have started with the prayers of just a few passionate people. Start with what you have, invest your heart and prayers, and watch what God will do.
- **Grassroots growth** - Encourage people to invite their friends. Personal invitations are the best way to get people to come.
- **Lead with excellence** - Make sure that each prayer meeting is bathed in prayer and well-done. Lack of consistency, sloppiness and apathetic leadership will kill a prayer meeting.
- **Share what God is doing** - Answered prayers and testimonies of God's work through prayer meeting should be shared during the church service to encourage faith and grow people's expectation of what God can do.