



General Prayer Tips

Because time is so short, you really need to streamline your prayer time. These are ways to have meaningful prayer in a short amount of time.

1. Use the prayer request sheets provided.
2. Honor the request by praying without giving advice or counseling.
3. Avoid commiserating with similar situations.
4. Regularly reinforce confidentiality as a group value.
5. Remember to focus prayer to God as the audience, not the group.
6. Prioritize praying for group members first (in particular, in relation to how the lesson has affected their spiritual walk), then family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances.
7. Pray for the desired outcome, but pray ultimately for God's will.
8. Use variations on group prayer by using the menu below.

Guidelines for Varying your Group Prayer Time

1. Pray as a group. Ask for short, simple, and to the point prayers.
2. Break group into 2 groups.
3. Model biblical praying (A.C.T.S. **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **A**pplication).
4. Pray in partners.
5. Pray around the circle.
6. Pray for the person on your left or right.
7. Leader prays out loud; group prays silently.
8. One word prayers: Leader begins with "Lord, I thank you for your..." or "Lord, teach me to..." etc. (Members respond with one word, "forgiveness," "love," etc.)

9. One sentence prayers are similar to one word prayers: Leader recommends a topic; members pray one sentence. "Lord, I want to praise you for" ...or..."Lord, I need help with" ...or..."Lord, show me how to" ...or "Lord, someone who needs your help is..."
10. Pray requests: Don't spend time sharing requests; have each individual pray their request.
11. Brief requests: Must be for yourself and must be one sentence.
12. Write your prayer: Instead of praying out loud, have members write down a praise, request, etc. Put papers in the middle and leader can bless them all. Perhaps swap papers for further prayer during the week.
13. Write request on note cards or scrap paper. These can be passed to left or right for prayer time and then taken home for prayer through the week.
14. Prayer requests on stickers, copy, distribute (with permission) for group prayer and individual prayer.
15. Alphabet Soup: Thank God for His attributes that begins with a specific letter or from a list.
16. Hold hands to pray around a circle; those who pass squeeze the hand of the next person.
17. Look to your left or right: Pray for that person in small group and through the week. You can start prayer by praying silently for the person on your left or right.
18. Pair up: Partners pray for each other out loud in growth group and throughout the week.
19. Scripture Prayer: Choose a passage of Scripture and pray it for each other.
20. Prayer Sandwich: Begin with prayers of thanksgiving, then application for the lesson, then individual requests, and closing.
21. Share a request; then pray. Share another request; then pray, etc.
22. Vary posture of prayer. Stand in a circle, kneel, go on a prayer walk.
23. Calendar prayer: Each month, pass around a master calendar and have members include appointment and events for which they would like prayer, make copies.
24. Opener/Closer: Choose individuals to open and close in prayer, others can pray in between.
25. HOMEWORK! Call to pray: Assign each member another member to call during the week to "check in" on the prayer request. Everyone should make a call and receive a call.
26. Pray as you discuss. As members discuss the lesson and things they learn, stop and pray that those applications and lessons would sink deep and be life changing.
27. Unspoken prayers and answers to pray: We welcome unspoken prayer requests and encourage you to share answers to prayer.
28. One topic at a time.
29. Praying the Prayer Threads from the bulletin.