

## **Small Group Leader Guide**

### **Prayer Time Facilitation**

#### **Preface:**

Having a meaningful and intimate prayer time within a small group is essential, but often challenging. One huge danger today is that the prayer time primarily consists of making a list of our own or friends' & family's needs for health, wealth and prosperity. While it is completely Biblical to bring those requests to God, there is a much bigger and deeper role prayer can play. For example, prayer is one of God's tools to align our heart's desires with His. It is also a means for us to actively engage in Gospel advancement both here and in all nations. So the goal as a leader is to teach our groups HOW to pray and that there is not a magic formula or method to pray. It is about honest, open, candid confession of our sins, searching the heart of God, and making His name "hallowed" for all people in all nations to see.

#### **The Challenge:**

So the challenge as a leader is to lead our group from the surface level prayers to deep personal, intimate, heart-felt cries to our God and Father. Below are some suggested methods to lead the group in prayer time. Also, it is recommended to not use the same method every time.

#### **Suggested Methods:**

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Split the group into smaller groups of 2 – 4. Have them share their requests among each other and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

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Ask the group to share aloud the names of people they know that are lost and need Christ. Ask them specifics and write the names down. Pray for each person as a group. Ask someone to start the prayer and have one person pray for one of the lost until all have been prayed for. You as the leader close the prayer.

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Have each member write their prayer requests down on a small piece of paper. Collect them into a basket. Once all have entered something, pass the basket through the group and tell each person to commit to pray for that need all week (tell them not to grab their own).

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Have each member write a specific sin they are dealing with down on a small piece of paper (names are optional). Collect them into a basket. Once all have entered something, pass the basket through the group and tell each person to commit to pray for that need all week (tell them not to grab their own).

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Write down the name of lost friends/family on 3x5 cards, one name per card. Write a brief description of how to pray for the needs of each person. Hand out the cards and pray in groups of 2 or 3 over the names. Collect them at the end of the meeting so that they can be redistributed to pray again at the next meeting or have each person take some names home and commit to pray for them until the next meeting. (At the next meeting, SPECIFICALLY ask if there was any change or progress for these individuals.)

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Choose an unreached people group each week/month/year and pray for that group every week. Guides and lists can be found on Operation World's website.

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Adopt a foreign missionary or a country as a small group to pray for. The ones recommended are one of our Mission Partners here at Westwood that can be found on the Missions page. Also, if you or someone personally knows a missionary in the field would be another great choice because this allows follow-up, interaction, and a personal attachment.

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Pray Scripture into people's lives. The leader prays the first one to show how.

For example, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. "Dear Lord, please strengthen my heart-level determination to do what is right. Give me your grace to make decisions that lead to holiness. Jesus, I look forward to your return. ... etc."

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Choose a Scripture for the small group to use to pray for different needs. For example:

- For those yet to believe (Isaiah 55:6-8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 5:14-18; Psalm 107 - pray for the different types of people described)
- For believers (Ephesians 1:17-19; Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)
- For revival use Isaiah's cry for revival (Isaiah 64:1-5)

- For spiritual power use the apostles' cry for power (Acts 4:29-31)
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Take a newspaper from that day or week, go through it and find issues and people to pray for. Then, pray for these people and current events.

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Take one staff member or leader of at Westwood each week and pray for them and their ministry.

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Divide the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) into portions to focus on different ways to pray.

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Take 5 minutes by themselves asking God what is on His heart that He wants the group to pray for. Have the group get in pairs or groups of 3 or 4 and pray together.

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In conclusion, it is further recommended to keep a prayer journal for the small group. Record requests and answers. Pray, review, and report back each week.