

GROUP PRAYER TIPS

Prayer Tips

- 1. Limit the time for prayer requests.** Often more time is spent making requests than praying. One solution is to skip the requests, and simply begin praying for specific needs by raising each request in prayer for the first time in the group.
- 2. Use conversational tones in audible prayer.** Use everyday language. A group meeting is not the place for religious speeches in prayer. The leader's modeling of conversational prayer is pivotal. Note the following principles of "conversational prayer":
 - **Pray briefly** – Use only a sentence or two each time you pray; don't monopolize the group's prayer time. God does not hear us on the basis "of...many words," but rather on the basis of faith. Jesus modeled brief prayer throughout His ministry. Each person should pray in one or two sentences, then allow others to pray. Pray in a way an eight-year-old child could understand.
 - **Pray naturally** – Use normal language and appropriate emotions; don't attempt to be super spiritual in language, emotion or posture.
 - **Pray honestly** – Pray before God and not men; pray about needs but don't gossip in prayer; don't be sidetracked by what others might be thinking or doing; focus on the Lord, not yourself or others.
 - **Pray specifically** – Avoid being overly general, but also avoid being too specific if propriety dictates otherwise.
- 3. Pray for each member of the group.** Each one might ask for a prayer request from the person on his right, and then pray for that request as the prayer goes around the circle.
- 4. Be creative.** At various times try the different types of prayer: adoration (praise), thanksgiving, confession, commitment, and intercession. Also, choose various topics to focus on, such as family relationships, needs of the local church, community problems, national government and authorities.
- 5. Schedule a prayer walk** with someone in your group during a breakfast or lunch.
- 6. Pray Scripture.** John 17, Ephesians 3:14-19, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-12, John 6:44, I Thessalonians 1:9, Galatians 5:22-23, and the Psalms are great starting passages.
- 7. Ask the group to pray for one person** in the group each day during the coming week. Names could be drawn to determine who prayer for whom.
- 8. Use a starter phrase.** The Leader can begin the prayer time by asking the group to begin their prayer with a particular phrase, such as "Lord, today we are thankful for..."
- 9. Bring written prayer requests.** Ask the group to write a prayer during the week or the meeting, and share their prayer with the group. Consider closing by joining hands and praying together.
- 10. Break into groups for prayer.** Occasionally ask the group to break up according to gender, men with men and women with women, to pray.