

Leading a Prayer Meeting

I. Intro

- A. The goal is to raise people up in corporate prayer. The best way to understand is not only to pray, but to help lead - it fast-tracks understanding and tears down the barriers of the divide of people leading being part of some "special class."
- B. We will be splitting into teams in the weeks ahead and taking turns leading the prayer meetings as a team. I will be coaching, available, and supporting rather than leading.
- C. I believe the Lord spoke to us through our last prayer meeting to be "first fruits" in beginning a prayer meeting for Israel. There are also things the Lord wants to bring forth about the Middle East, but we are going to start one step at a time with what He is breathing on, so we will stay on Israel for our prayer meetings for now. Each team can pick an aspect they are most feeling from the Lord (prodigals coming home, move of the Spirit/Pentecost to break demonic fear/intimidation of the Gospel, blindness to be broken off of the Gentile church, etc)
- D. Please review the "tips when praying" section under the "Prayer Room Practicals Part 2" teaching as many of these are still foundational and part of leading the prayer meetings as well as what we are trying to help others in the prayer meeting to understand to agree in prayer as well.

II. Proper Perspective

- A. Intimacy/devotional is about personally looking at and enjoying Jesus. Intercession is about others. Intimacy/devotional is about the 1st commandment (must be in place in our lives **First**). Intercession is about the second commandment. In intercession, we move out of us and Jesus and begin leveraging our intimacy for the purpose of corporate breakthrough (Corey Russell) (Exodus 33:1-17 - comprehensive look at this very thing). Therefore worship and prayer during intercession times should be focused more on breakthrough for others rather than our personal relationship with the Lord.
- B. Topics, then, are not ultimately about what the Lord is doing in our personal lives or even just praying about what is on our heart, but centered around the corporate issue the Lord reveals to us through intimacy that He is desiring to break through. God says it in Ezekiel like this, "I searched for a man among them who would build up a wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one." (Ezekiel 22:30) This is how we become friends.
- C. Without this understanding, prayer meetings (and even words we give to the body) will always center around us, what is on our heart, or what we are personally walking through. Perspective of going to a counselor vs going to work.
- D. Both our worship and prayer during this time should reflect that.

III. Preparation

- A. Intimacy with the Lord is the foundation of everything. If we are not regularly connecting with His heart on a personal level, our intercession will only be a religious shell.
- B. Sitting with the Holy Spirit - the foundation of intercession is praying God's heart. We have to take time with the Holy Spirit to hear His heart corporately just like we would if we were preparing a message. This isn't our quiet time that is personal, but a time we

sit to hear what is on God's heart for a subject or group of people. You will be surprised how doing this to lead prayer will connect you to the heart of God in a deeper way. Seeking Him in this way will also help develop your corporate hearing rather than just your personal hearing - an important tool for flowing in services together!

- C. Building prayer - in prayer meetings, there may be an overall thing we are going after, but each week we are asking step by step how to get there. The first step might not even directly target the topic (example: praying for the new move takes praying for religion to be broken first).

IV. Practicals

- A. Lifting up the name of Jesus is always a great place to start in worship and praying before transitioning to prayer - builds faith and proper perspective to pray from. Praying in the Spirit together can also help us get into the corporate burden/heart together.
- B. There needs to be clear instruction given at the beginning of the prayer time for people to know exactly where we are going and be able to press into the Spirit for that. The introduction of the topic can take a few minutes, though not a sermon. Simply giving a clear topic for everyone to connect to and follow as the goal is agreement in prayer.
- C. The other goal of the introduction is to help people's hearts connect with the topic. They have not been praying into it like the leader, so more than information, helping them connect with the topic on a heart level will help them engage (ie telling people that Israel is "Jesus' prodigal family". People don't know Israel but they understand prodigal family and it connects their heart).
- D. Invite people at the beginning and throughout to bring their own prayer **on this topic** or engage some way in the prayer meeting (standing, pacing, etc).
- E. When possible, let any leaders/worship team know the topic and even verses ahead of time. This allows people to have prayed into it and get God's heart corporately for themselves to be ready to run together rather than running alone.
- F. When working with a worship team - work together and let them "pray" with you. Try and make your prayer focused and clear so they can agree with you in song. Speak out words or phrases they are saying with their choruses, don't just check out. Invite the room to engage in a chorus the Holy Spirit is breathing on. Always be watching for the Spirit breathing on something that is sung that may need a follow-up prayer. Prayer is at it's best when the prayer leader/worship team is able to prophetic bounce off of each other.
- G. When praying in a team (two or more people), help things stay on topic by praying after someone goes off-topic back on what the topic is unless the Spirit is noticeably changing direction (leader would decide this). If praying alone and someone totally goes off-topic and you feel it was a prayer on that person's heart but not where the Holy Spirit is wanting to veer to, just give it a second, let the music play, and then go back up and pray to get things back on topic for people to follow. Sidenote: the topic matters because agreement matters and staying focused together will most likely help bring a flow.
- H. Be ready with verses/prayer to pray as much as needed, but encourage others to pray and look for ways to facilitate that (me coming off the stage, bringing chairs in a circle, eventually putting the mic down after praying at beginning and giving space, etc). Learn when things are new and you may need to carry it a little more, verses when it's time for

people to be stretched more that only happens with you not doing everything a letting it get a little “awkward”. Remember waiting at the right times is productive.

V. Leading exercise

A. One person from each team will need to introduce the topic, but the rest of the team will need to have helped to develop the topic together and be the first to jump in to “prime the pump” of the topic in prayer. The whole team should have a verse/something to pray along with it and flow as a team.

B. Everyone in the room still needs to pray each week.

C. Teams:

Team 1 - 6/30: Amanda, Alice, Judy, Eric, Rebekah, Megan

Team 2 - 7/7: Michelle, Zandra, Josiah, Lydia, Mindy

Team 3 - 7/14: Matthew, Tiffany, Mike, Jessica, Hannah