

## **SKILL 5: HOW TO FACILITATE GROUP PRAYERS**

**1. Model it.** Be a person of prayer yourself. Pray for your group, your members, yourself.

### **2. Stress the benefits and purpose of group prayer**

- We grow in our relationship with God
- We grow in our relationships with one another
- We're refreshed as we allow the Spirit to work in our group
- We grow in our faith as we see God work through our prayers

**3. Announce that you will take prayer requests.** Give people freedom not to share prayer requests if they are not comfortable doing so. Start by sharing your prayer requests first.

I'd like to go around and share prayer requests at this time. Our prayer coordinator will record them and send them out to the group, so we can be praying for each other throughout the week. If you don't feel comfortable sharing your requests at this time, that's OK. I'll start.

Sample: "I'd like prayer for my sister, Joany. For her to find Christ and become a Christian. For my brother James, who's struggling with his practice...

For myself, that I would have more patience with my wife and find balance between ..."

This models openness and encourages others to share their requests.

**4. Record everyone's prayer requests.** Or have them write out their prayer requests on index cards at the beginning or end of the meeting. This will help you know what to pray and allow the prayer coordinator to send the requests out to people via email.

**5. You pray out loud.** Keep your prayers honest, authentic and from your heart. Some simple guides for group prayer:

- Short
- Simple
- Spirit led
- Silence is Ok if you open in up to the group

**5. Keep it safe. Don't call on someone to pray unless you've asked** them permission or you know them well.

Would anyone else feel comfortable praying out loud?

**7. Pray every time you meet.**

**8. Use a variety of praying methods. Vary it up.**

- Most of the time you alone will pray out loud in the group circle for everyone. Remember, 80% of people are afraid to pray out loud.

- Hopefully the group moves to place where everyone is praying out loud in the group circle.

- Allow a few minutes of silent prayer by the group and you will close the prayer time by praying out loud.

- Assign each prayer request to someone else in the group and ask that person to pray either out loud or in silence for that person during the group time. Specify the order that you will go in.

Jane has requested prayer for her mom, Kim. Who would like to pray for Jane and her mom, Kim? Beth. Great. Etc. Ok, let's go in counterclockwise order. Each one take a minute to pray for their partner....

- Pray thru Colossians 1:9-14. Read the passage together. Now, pray for certain Christian individuals saying their names before each phrase: "We pray that (name)...."

- will understand God's will
- gain spiritual wisdom
- live a life pleasing and honoring to God
- do kind things for others
- know God better and better
- are filled with God's strength
- endure in patience
- stay full of Christ's joy
- always be thankful
- recall God's forgiveness of their sins

- Pray through a Psalm out loud together
- In a couples prayer, have spouses pray for one another
- Vary prayer time between the start, middle and end of the meeting
- Pick a portion of Scripture to pray for one another during the week (Col. 1:9; Eph 3:14-19, etc.)
- If someone is in crisis, stop and pray for them right then
- Pray for your church's prayer requests if they are known or written
- Have each member write out their prayer requests on 3x5 card, place in hat and draw. Have them pray for, as well as email or phone that person to encourage them the following week.
- Pray through the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6

"Hallowed be Thy Name"

Adoration (Thanking Him for who He is) &  
Thanksgiving (Thanking Him for what He has done)

"Thy kingdom come Thy will be done"

For God's will to be done

"Give us this day our daily bread"

Requests, Needs, Petitions

"Lead us not into temptation"

Renewal

"Deliver us from the evil one"

Spiritual protection

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us"

Confession, repentance, forgiveness