

# Facilitating Meaningful Prayer in Small Groups

## Model it

Be a person or prayer yourself. Pray for your members. Ask God to give you direction in leading. When you do pray out loud in the group, keep your prayers honest, authentic, and from your heart. Simple guide for group prayer: short, simple, spirit-led. Silence is okay.

## Keep it safe

Don't call on someone to pray unless you've asked for permission beforehand. Don't expect everyone to pray every time. Try to avoid "going around the circle", instead allow members to pray one at a time as they feel led. Respect the intimacy level. As the group develops, a sense of safety will foster more genuine prayer.

## Guide the prayer

Give general guidelines, but let the Holy Spirit lead. Avoid lengthy discussions on prayer. Include prayer each time you meet. Use a variety of praying methods.

## Creative Ideas for Group Prayer

- Pray through a Psalm together.
- In a couples group, have spouses pray for each other.
- Vary prayer time between the beginning, middle and closing of the meeting.
- Study Colossians 1:9-14 to learn what to pray for others.
- Pray through your church's prayer requests.
- If someone is in crisis, stop and pray for them immediately.
- Pray for the church, a country, a family in need, specific events, or any areas your group has interest.
- Ask someone (with the gift of faith or encouragement) to be prayer coordinator and write down requests.
- Pray according to "A-C-T-S": adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.
- Have members write down requests for the week on a piece of paper and exchange them with one another.
- Spend your prayer time just listening for what God might want to speak to you or your group.

## What happens when group members commit to pray for one another?

1. Relationships with God and with each other will deepen.
2. There is less chance of burnout as you put problems in God's hands and trust members to his care.
3. You allow the Holy Spirit to work in your group so your time together is filling and refreshing.
4. He will answer your prayers in amazing ways, and your faith will increase.