

# HOW TO LEAD A PRAYER MEETING



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church

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*“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.” Isaiah 66v2*

Prayer is such a huge privilege; to stand before the Creator and speak our heart, to worship him and to lay our requests before him, is a huge privilege. May we never take this privilege for granted.

This short outline has been created to help those who lead corporate prayer times. By no means a prescriptive outline, this is more a guideline to help us have a fruitful prayer time.

## **Prayer is always a response**

Our prayers are always a response to God’s initiative toward us. We love, because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). Sometimes, we can talk about God answering prayers as if our prayer was the first word in the conversation. But prayer is always a response: to who God is, to what he has done and to what he has said in his Word. This should change our whole approach to prayer.

For the above-mentioned reason, start off prayer meetings with a Scripture – something that points us to who God is, to what he has done, and/or to what he has promised in his Word. This allows us to respond to something concrete and definitive.

## **Come prayed up**

Pray before you come to a prayer meeting - that God’s presence and power would be there. Remind him (and yourself) of your total dependence on him – that without his presence and power, effective, transformational prayer is simply not possible.

## **Lead strong**

*Lead* the prayer meeting; don’t just manage it. If it is going nowhere, take it somewhere, if no one is praying, choose someone to lead us in prayer, if people are looking bored, remind them of what we’re doing, or break into smaller groups for a while. Leading prayer meeting don’t just mean preparing something for us to pray around, it means actually leading the meeting itself, not just the content preparation. It requires a sensitivity and level of discernment of not only the room and people in it, but to the Spirit’s leadings and whispers too. As best as you can, let the room know what you feel God is doing or leading us to focus on, should he guide you in this way.

## **Pray – don’t preach**

*Stick to two or three points at most, and if possible, try not to interrupt the prayer time with too many thoughts or instructions. Try and bring a level of continuity to the prayers, rather than it feeling too ‘bitty’ and fragmented.*

## **Take us upwards and outwards – not inwards**

When we gather for corporate prayer, don’t lead us into prayers about our own personal walk with God. That’s what personal devotions are for. Corporate prayer meetings are primarily to

corporately call on God for the good of the church and the city. So rather keep prayer pointers focused on those two things, rather than on our individual relationships with God. This is obviously not a rule, but a general principle to follow.

### **Help us to delight in Christ**

Help us to see, find and savour our heart's ultimate treasure: Christ himself. When you lead us, lead us toward a wonderful God who is delightful to spend time with, rather than a divine sovereign whom we're groveling before. In the words of John Piper - remind us that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him