

:: ministry toolbox ::

Why, When, and How Do We Pray?



Why Pray??

...its importance in your life and ministry...

Word Wisdom

- * 1 Thessalonians 5:17
...pray continually...
- * Colossians 4:2
Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.
- * Acts 4:31
After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
- * Luke 11:9
So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

READ

There are lots of reasons to pray in your personal walk with the Lord and in your ministry. Here are some verses to look up and reasons why it is important that prayer be the #1 priority:

- Colossians 4:2— Because God tells us to!
 - Philippians 4:6— You can talk to Him about anything, anytime, anyplace.
 - James 4:8— To make sure that God is a part of, and in charge of all that you are doing.
 - 1 John 5:14,15— To align our will with His.
 - John 17:21,23— So that you will all be united in Christ and a witness to others through that.
 - Acts 4:31, 12:5-17, 16:16-34— Prayer will unleash the power of the Holy Spirit on your campus and give you the boldness to share His gospel.
 - John 17:20— To pray that those on your campus will come to know Christ.
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THINK

Now take time to think about the implications of what you read:

- Is your ministry completely grounded and covered in prayer?
 - How can you make prayer more of a priority in your ministry?
 - What changes need to be made and how can you make them?
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DO

Prayer is powerful in many forms. You can pray alone, in small groups (such as a prayer triplet), or you can pray in big groups (such as a club meeting). Begin thinking about the role that prayer should play in your ministry, ways that you can implement it, and how to make it a priority. This section will take you through:

- How to pray together as a group and also as a leadership team.
 - Creative strategies and prayer ideas for your ministry.
 - Ideas of what you can specifically pray for.
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If you really want to see God change the lives of your friends, then prayer MUST be a priority! So let's get on our knees and get to work!

Story Time:

At one time, the Bible Club at Wilson High School in Long Beach, CA, became very small. During the summer, one girl began to pray every day on her lunch break for an awakening to come to her campus. She worked near the campus, so she would pray in her car next to it, or walk laps around the school while praying. That fall, the Bible club experienced huge growth and many students found Christ! This went on for almost six years, long after this girl had graduated.



How Do We Do It??

Word Wisdom

* James 5:16
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Story Time:

"At Mission Viejo High School, we have a prayer team called "Fuel," as prayer will be the fuel for the rest of our on-campus ministries. This team, composed of ten members, has the goal of praying for every student on campus by name over the course of the upcoming school year...By splitting up the 2,500 person student body...each member will have the responsibility to pray for about 250 students—that is one person every day of the school year...In addition, each member of the team will rotate in members of the school faculty and staff so that virtually every person...will get prayed for. For the members of the Fuel team, this commitment will only take about 10 or 15 minutes a day and we are sure that the consequent blessings will be amazing."

- Brian Bushman
Student, M.V.H.S

ON YOUR OWN

- Praise God for all that He is doing on your campus and that He has placed you there and desires to use you in the lives of your peers!
- Pray for your own walk with the Lord, that you would be growing in Him, in His Word daily, abiding in Him, fully dependent on Him, seeking His will for your life, led by His Holy Spirit, etc.
- Pray that He will give you a heart for the lost, especially for your peers and faculty that do not yet know Him.
- Pray that He will give you boldness and that you will be purposeful in sharing the gospel with those on your campus.

God's Word tells us that there is amazing power and His definite presence when we pray in unity with other believers.

SMALL GROUP

It is very important to get together to pray in small groups within your larger meeting and leadership team.
Matthew 18:20—There is power in group prayer!

Necessary elements of small group prayer:

- Pray that the Lord will lead you to prayer partners with a common heart and vision for your campus.
- Form a small group prayer team (3 people is the perfect size...prayer partners should be the same gender).
- Prayer teams must be committed to meeting together regularly...at least once per week and for at least 20 or 30 minutes.
- Commit to having purposeful time together...don't just get together to talk. It is a great idea to pray together first and then talk and hang out. Praying first allows you to make sure that business is taken care of!
- Encouragement: Use the time to encourage and strengthen each other in your faith.
- Accountability: It's key to keep each other accountable in your walks with the Lord and in your ministry to your non-believing peers.
- **Evangelism: Each member of your group should choose 3 non-Christian peers that you will pray for and build a relationship with so that you might share Christ with them.

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How Do We Do It??

Word Wisdom

Sample

Strategy:

- **Worship (5 min.)**— Praise the Lord for who He is and all that He wants to do on your campus.
- **Pray For Each Other (5 min.)**— Pray for each others' walk with the Lord, for their specific needs, their witness on campus, etc.
- **Pray For Friends (5 min.)**— Pray for your 3 non-Christian peers...that the Lord would open their hearts and minds toward Him and give you the opportunity to share the gospel with them.
- **Pray for Your School and Nation (5 min.)**— Pray that the Lord would bring

* Matthew 18:18-20
I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there I am with them.

* Acts 1:14
They all joined together constantly in prayer...

* Acts 2:42,47
They devoted themselves to...prayer...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

BIGGROUP

It is also very important that your club/ministry as a whole be devoted to praying together!

Each group meeting should definitely include prayer but having meetings solely devoted to prayer are also a very good idea. Here are some ideas for a group prayer meeting:

- Make it fun and creative, not boring and monotonous! Talking to the Creator of the Universe is exciting!
- A large group prayer time can be done all together or by breaking up into smaller groups. Some of the creative prayer ideas in the next section are better for one format more than the other. Use your judgment.
- As a prayer request is offered, have at least one other person offer to pray for that request during the prayer time.
- Have one person be assigned the responsibility to write down the prayer requests each week so that the leadership team can be praying for group members during the week.
- You can either pray for each request as it is mentioned or pray for all the requests collectively at the end of the sharing time.
- Prayer time should be a non-threatening experience. Let group members know that they are free to pray as the Holy Spirit leads them, whether it's for a couple minutes or just one sentence. Silence is okay too! Prayer is about listening as much as it is about talking.

Story Time:

Singapore, in Asia, was the site of a prayer revolution on a campus. In September, a sophomore girl asked her youth pastor to help her start a Bible club. He didn't have time so she got 2 friends to pray with her once a week for 3 non-Christian friends each. They also prayed for these friends on their own. At the end of the school year in May, there were 300 new Christians on their campus and each got involved in their own prayer triplets!

There are many other creative ways to pray in a large group...see the next section for more ideas!



Creative Prayer Methods and Strategies

MEETINGS

Here are some creative prayer ideas to use in your campus ministry meeting or ministry team meetings:

1. **Topical Prayer** — Throw out a prayer topic or request and then have the group pray over that topic for few minutes. Repeat this until you cover all of the chosen topics/requests. Have a designated person pray at the end of each prayer session. (Examples of topics can be anything from praising God for different aspects of His character to praying for your school/nation/government.)
2. **Pray Using Scripture** — Choose a bible passage which you can pray through by: having different people read a verse and then pray about the verse or something relating to the verse, read the passage together and then have the group pray about how that verse relates to your ministry or world, etc.
3. **A.C.T.S. Prayer** —
 - ⇒ **Adoration**: Praise the Lord for His attributes and awesome character.
 - ⇒ **Confession**: Repent of the ways in which you or your ministry have gone astray from God's will.
 - ⇒ **Thanksgiving**: Thank God for His blessings, provision, what He is doing in your ministry, etc.
 - ⇒ **Supplication**: Ask the Lord to meet your needs, solve difficulties, guide you, give you wisdom, work in someone's life, etc.
4. **Requests** — And of course, as mentioned in the last section, have everyone share requests and pray for them.

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ANYTIME

And here are some creative ways for your leadership team to encourage your group to pray for your campus whether it's within your meeting or not:

1. **Yearbook Praying** — Use the school yearbook to pray by name for each student and teacher. Perhaps you could assign five or six students/teachers to each person that is praying.
2. **Locker Praying** — Assign a set of lockers to each person praying so they can pray for the students that use those lockers each time they walk down that hallway.
3. **Pray for Non-Christians** — Ask students to make a list of 10 students or families they would like to pray would come to know Jesus. Encourage them to set a specific time to pray for them each day or week.

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Word Wisdom

* Psalm 103:1-5
 Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

* Psalm 150:6
 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

Story Time:

After praying for a way to serve their campus, students from one Southern California school decided to bring free pizza to lunch one day. They went out in twos with a box or two of pizza. They went up to groups during lunch and asked if they wanted pizza or prayer. Some students took the free piece of pizza, but most wanted prayer. So each time the students got a request, they asked if they could pray right there. They went around from group to group all over the quad. They were never made fun of...it seems that MANY students wanted to be prayed for...and they got their wish!



Creative Prayer Methods and Strategies

4. **Board Meetings** — Go to school board meetings. As you are listening, pray for each school board member and the issues they are discussing.
 5. **Prayer Walk** — Go to the school in the morning before classes begin or in the afternoon. Walk around the campus, praying for students and school activities. Claim your school for Jesus Christ!
 6. **Prayer by Mail** — Send a letter to every student in the school telling them that your ministry simply wants to pray for them. Enclose a self-addressed envelope where they can include any specific prayer requests. Then be sure to pray for those requests. Ask God to give you opportunities to influence those students for Christ.
 7. **See You at the Pole** — Host See You at the Pole and pray around your flagpole on the morning of the national event as well as once per week after.
 8. **Room Praying** — Assign each person to a building, hallway, or classroom and have them go room to room and pray that God would work in the lives of the teachers and students that enter there that day.
 9. **Pizza and Prayer** — A good creative way to pray and do outreach is to have your team walk around campus at lunch time with pizzas and ask students if they would like a piece of pizza and would like to be prayed for. Many students will ask for prayer even if they don't want pizza!
 10. **Pray in Class** — Pray for the people that sit all around you in each class and pray for your teacher as well.
 11. **Pray by the Bell** — Every time a school bell rings, pray for a Christian friend, that they would follow Christ in all things and be an effective witness for Him on campus.
 12. **Fast and Pray** — Pick one day or one meal during the week where you will fast and make a point of praying for your campus and unsaved friends.
 13. **Prayer Chain** — Form a prayer chain where each person signs up for a specific time slot and makes a commitment to pray during that time. The most important times to have covered are during school hours. Have each person fill out a commitment card to remind them to pray during their time slot. The prayer chain can continue for as long as you would like, time slots should be a reasonable length (such as 15 or 20 minutes), and make sure you have a master list of who is praying when.
 14. **Prayer Webpage** — Create a webpage where people can post prayer requests and check for praise reports. Allow prayer requests to be anonymous. Make sure that your leadership team is checking the site and praying for the requests.
 15. **Prayer Breakfast** — Put on a Prayer Breakfast in your area so that students and adults from local churches can pray for local students and campuses.
 16. **Others** — Ask others to pray for your campus; i.e. Moms In Touch, Christian teachers, church mission boards, others in the community, etc.
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Word Wisdom

* Psalm 116:1,2
 I love the Lord, for He heard my voice, He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

* Ephesians 6:18-20
 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Story Time:

At Lakewood High School several years ago, students met once every week to pray around the flagpole and also met every week during lunch all year long. Sometimes the group was very small, but they never missed a week. Toward the end of the year, an atheist teacher asked several of the students why they prayed. As they shared with the teacher, he began to share about his personal life. They had a powerful witness with him and prayed for him at each meeting. He did not come to faith before the year was over, but the teacher said that his life was changed by their faithful example.



What You Can Pray For!

IDEAS

Give your prayer times some direction! Here are some possibilities of things to pray for:

1. For Yourself

- ⇒ Pray that you would learn to abide in the Lord, go deeper in your personal relationship with Him, and pursue holiness.
- ⇒ Pray that He would give you a heart that breaks for your peers at school that do not know Him.
- ⇒ Pray that you would be filled and led by the Holy Spirit and that the Lord would give you the boldness to share the gospel on your campus.

2. For Other Christians

- ⇒ Thank God for them and pray also that they might grow deeper in their relationship with the Lord, fall more in love with Him and abide in Him.
- ⇒ Pray that they would live a life worthy of the calling they have received and live a pure and righteous life. Pray too, that they would lead by example and stop all gossip, criticism, etc.
- ⇒ Pray that Christians on your campus would be others-centered and dedicated to serving and loving others, including those they find difficult to love and serve.
- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would give Christians boldness and the strength/wisdom to be obedient to the Spirit's leading in sharing the gospel with their peers. Pray that He would give them an eternal perspective and present them with opportunities to share the gospel.
- ⇒ Pray for unity between all of the believers.
- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would call more Christians on your campus to be a part of your team and that their hearts would break for the lost.

3. For Non-Christian Peers and Faculty

- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would prepare their hearts to hear the gospel and that He would remove the veil from their eyes that satan has placed there to keep them in the dark.
- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would put specific people to pray for on your heart.
- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would bridge the gaps and enable your ministry to reach out to every people group/cliq on your campus.
- ⇒ Pray each morning that the Lord would give you opportunities that day to form relationships with non-believers and share the gospel with them.
- ⇒ Pray that God would touch the hearts of the biggest skeptics on campus and that they would come to know Him and be powerful witnesses for Him!

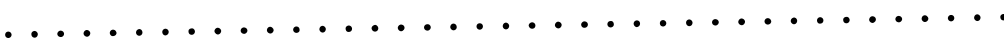
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Word Wisdom

* Ephesians 1:17,18
I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you...

* Philippians 1:3-6
I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

* Colossians 1:10-12
And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.





What You Can Pray For!

5. For Your Campus

- ⇒ Pray that the faculty on your campus would be open and receptive to the things that God is calling your ministry to do on your campus.
- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would surround your campus with His angels and that the Holy Spirit would be let loose on your campus preparing and changing peoples' hearts and drawing them to the Lord.
- ⇒ Pray that your ministry would be well-known and attractive to students on your campus.
- ⇒ Pray for REVIVAL!
- ⇒ Pray that the amazing things happening on your campus would start a chain reaction at the schools nearby!

6. For Your City, Nation, and World

- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would call more workers into the harvest field and that the Great Commission would be fulfilled as people hear the gospel and come to know Him.
- ⇒ Pray for specific countries and missionaries you know — you may even want to adopt one to pray for on a regular basis.
- ⇒ Pray for wisdom in the government, that God's hand would be in it and that Godly leaders would be raised up, respected, and would seek the Lord's will for the city and country.

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Word Wisdom

* **Matthew 9:37,38**
 The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

* **Colossians 4:3,4**
 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

* **Daniel 10:12**
 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

* **Deuteronomy 4:7**
 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him?

Story Time:

In El Monte, CA there was a janitor who walked the campus each morning and evening praying for revival to come to the school. He prayed for 20 years. A few years ago, the student led Bible club exploded with hundreds of students meeting Christ!