

Praying All Together

For the most part, we want your groups splitting to pray separately as men and women. However, we also think it is important for you to take time to pray all together as a group. Just like with the application/accountability week, we want leaders to set aside time to come together to pray. They can do this as part of their prayer time or can do it as they gather for a dinner or fellowship week.

Our goal in doing this is to equip participants with knowledge and tools that they can use when they are praying on their own. Following the pattern below when you stay together to pray can teach participants how to pray and what to pray for, especially beyond personal needs. Have 3-4 people pray for each category before moving on to the next one.

- Adoration/Worship of God's Character
 - Adoration is a time in prayer where we praise God for who He is. Each group should focus on ways that God has revealed Himself through the curriculum that they are studying. For instance, "God you are merciful and gracious."
 - Psalm 145:1-3 – "I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."
- Thanksgiving for the Acts of God
 - In this, we thank God for what He has done, especially from your study. Someone from Acts could say, "God we are thankful that you have sent your Spirit to empower us to do the work of ministry." Someone from 1 Corinthians could say, "Lord – thank you for sustaining us to the end."
 - People will sometimes get confused about the difference between adoration and thanksgiving. Adoration proclaims who God is. Thanksgiving proclaims what God has done and is doing.
 - Psalm 145:4-7 – "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."
- The Church Globally
 - This is a time for us to pray for people that are engaged in ministry outside of the walls of Grace Bible Church. This includes missionaries and ministry partners throughout Houston, as well as other churches in Houston.
 - To make this time more specific, we are going to assign each group with a ministry partnership or organization to be praying for

throughout the year. As we get requests from those partnerships, we will send them to the group to pray for them. Please note: this is not an obligation for the group to serve with that organization – it's simply a way to encourage prayer.

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 – What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.
- Grace Bible Church
 - A lot of people don't realize this, but, interestingly, there are more commandments in Scripture to pray for those doing the work of ministry than there are commandments to pray for the lost. During this time, have people pray for the pastors and elders of the church. That they would seek the Lord in their own lives, engage in ministry with pure motives, and increase in discernment and wisdom. A list of staff and elders can be found on the church website.
 - Matthew 9:37-38 – “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
- The Group
 - This is an opportunity for the group to take time to pray for each other. Because there is no time beforehand to share requests, people should pray for known and/or voiced requests. Of course, this is not a time to broadcast the more intimate requests people might have, but it is an opportunity to pray through different things that people might be going through, big events they have coming up, or anything else that is known by the group.
 - Ephesians 6:18 - Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.