



Starting a Prayer Group at Home or at Church

Something powerful always happens when God's people come together united with a common goal to pray and lay hold of Christ.

In Acts 1, we read that the believers came together to pray and fellowship with one another in Jerusalem until the promise of the Holy Spirit came. In Acts 2, we read that "when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Powerful things happen when God's people come TOGETHER to pray. Matthew 18:19-20 says "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 am I with them."

Is God calling you to start a prayer group in your home or church? If so, this document is just for you. We are going to look at three basic areas to help get you started.

1. Goal of a Prayer Group
2. Biblical principles for a prayer group
3. Sample outline to use

** see website www.elijahroadministries.org for Prayer Journal Ideas (personal/group)

First, we need to start with the purpose of a prayer group and answer the question "what's the point".

Group Purpose:

1. The main purpose of a prayer group is to allow for a set time for people to come together to seek the Lord, to pray for one another, and learn of the Lord together on His will for our lives, our church, our community. According to God's promises, this opens the door for revival, reformation, healing, and evangelism. **Prayer = revival. That is its foundational purpose.**
2. The second purpose of this meeting is to provide a training ground for prayer to teach others how to seek the Lord, what hinders prayers, stipulations to prayer, and how to pray for others.
3. Prayer Journals are encouraged and facilitated for each person to use as a tool in their own prayer life.

Prayer Group Principles:

1. Seek the Lord as a group (prayer is main focus)

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and **pray for one another, that you may be healed.** The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." – James 5:13-16

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." – 2 Chronicles 7:14 (**revival/healing predicated on prayer**)



“They shall come with weeping, and **with supplications I will lead them**. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim *is* My firstborn.” – Jeremiah 31:9

2. *Make praise/thanksqiving a part of the program*

Singing always opens up our heart to Jesus. Worship prepares our heart to enter the presence of God. If you are unable to sing songs together in a home-setting, consider starting out with a “worship” time where you praise God for who He is. This is different than simply answered prayer requests. Worship (adoration) is praising God for WHO He is.

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.” – James 5:13

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” – Psalm 100:4

3. *Prepare to Enter the Lord’s Presence (opening prayer)*

Typically kneel and pray – allow time for stillness and silent repentance before God, asking for humility and openness to hear His voice speaking.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.” – Psalm 23:2
(we need God to still us and quiet us – especially after a busy day!)

“This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.” – Exodus 29:42-43 **(sacrificing a lamb = confession of sin was required in courtyard of sanctuary before approaching the Lord.)**

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” – Exodus 3:5 **(kneeling before God is a sign of reverence and humility)**

“I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.” – Psalm 119:26-27 **(praying for humility and understanding is important to hear God speak)**

4. *Learn From the Word of God*

Usually allow for 30 – 40 minutes of teaching time on a specific topic or theme for spiritual growth/application.

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.” – Psalm 119:33-34

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” – Joshua 1:8



5. Open praise/prayer request time for group

This is the time when we listen to praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. It's not a gossip session. We use "certain situation" for sensitive requests. It's a time for everyone to record requests in their own prayer journal to pray over them personally outside of prayer group. It's also an opportunity to train people on prayer intercessory and allows them to see its results.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24-25

"But Moses' hands *became* heavy; so they took a stone and put *it* under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So, Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." – Exodus 17:12-13 **(this is an example of holding each other up and praying for each other so that each will be encouraged to win. Moses couldn't do it by himself.)**

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints - and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. – Ephesians 6:18-20 **(even Paul asked for prayer from the prayer group that met in his day)**

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." – Hebrews 7:25 **(Jesus is our example and is an intercessory for us. We are to intercede for others.)**

6. Group Prayer Time

It's important that we pray together allowing each person an opportunity to pray. It's also vital that we teach others how to pray by claiming God's Word during this time. The outline below gives one example that has worked quite effectively with other groups. This example is one way to allow each person an opportunity to pray without making them feel uncomfortable and conspicuous and yet teach them the elements of prayer.

"By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust." – 2 Peter 1:4

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." – Isaiah 55:11

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." – John 16:24



Sample Group Outline

(Can be altered to fit the needs of your specific group)

Handouts (if applicable) & Prayer Sheets available upon arrival

- 7:00pm: Sing 2 Songs (or have a “worship” time where you praise God for WHO He is)
- 7:10pm: Welcome/Opening Prayer (facilitator):
- Everyone is to kneel as able
 - Facilitator thanks God for evening with Him
 - Asks Holy Spirit to still hearts and spirits from busyness/burdens
 - Allows brief quiet moment for silent personal confession
 - Thanks God for hearing prayers, claims 1 John 1:9 over group
 - Asks for God’s presence, direction, and humility to accept His message to us
- 7:15pm: Opening God’s Word (facilitator or pastor)
*** If there is a separate kids program, they should leave for their respective classes at this time.*
- Attendees to have handouts/book of topic covered (if applicable)
- 7:45pm: Share Time (open to all who want to share)
- Answered Prayers/Praises
 - Prayer Requests
 - people write the requests spoken in their 3-ring binders with Prayer Sheets
 - Facilitator writes requests in prayer group binder that is used every week regardless of who is facilitating)
- 8:05pm: Prayer Time
- Breakup in groups of 2
 - Each person to use outline or written prayer given to them by the facilitator (this provides the teaching component to prayer and allows for everyone to feel comfortable praying regardless of their background with prayer.)
 - Put personal prayer journals on alter (or central place if group is in a home) before praying in groups
 - Each group to begin praying at the same time
 - Each group to remain where they are in silent prayer until everyone finished and facilitator finishes praying.
- 8:20pm: Closing Prayer
- Facilitator prays over all prayer requests given for that evening from the prayer group binder, personal prayer journals, and prayer group members present. Specifically mention the prayer requests given that evening. (may be omitted if the group is large and there are too many requests to mention)
- 8:30pm: Leave for Home/Pick up kids from their classes