

Prayer Guideline for Community Groups

Preparations:

- **Remove Distractions:** Turn OFF house phones, Cell phones, Dogs, kids, birds, TVs, etc.
- **Set expectations:** This will be a time of 30 – 40 minutes of prayer.

Launching point 1 – 2 minutes

- **Definition/Purpose:** To refresh and encourage prayer
- **Practice:** Take a brief time to read a passage of scripture that reiterates that prayer is God's idea, it is his invitation and that he delights in meeting us when we pray.
- **Scripture:** 2 Chr. 7:14; Ps. 55:16-17; 62:8; 86:3, 6; 135:5-6; Matt. 6, 7: 7-1; Lk. 18:7; Eph. 6:18-19; Phil. 4:6-7; Col. 4:2; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Peter 4:7, 1 Jn. 5:14-15

Prayers of worship and praise 5 – 7 minutes

- **Definition/Purpose:** Developing a "forever" worshipping disposition toward God
- **Practice:** Singing is a great way to begin. Avoid making this too involved so that you lose focus of what the point is: WORSHIP. Let this time flow right into speaking (praying) words of praise, worship and thanksgiving. Don't rush to fill in when you have times of silence, allow your people to get comfortable with this practice.
- **Scripture:** Neh. 9:6; Ps. 106:1, 116:1; Jer. 33:11; Phil. 2: 9-11, Heb. 13:15; Rev. 4:11, Rev. 5:9, 12

Prayers of Confession 5 – 7 minutes

- **Definition/Purpose:** Unconfessed sin hinders intimacy with God. This is an opportunity to receive freshly, the benefit of Christ's death on the cross, namely forgiveness and an intimate relationship with the Father.
- **Practice:** Allow the Holy Spirit to search your life to reveal anything that displeases Him. Know and remind your people that he does this, not for the sake of condemnation but rather so you can confess those things to Him and be restored. This can be done out loud by keeping things anonymous or in silence.
- **Scripture:** Ps. 66:18, Rom. 8:1-2, Js. 4:6-10, 1 Jn. 1:8-9

Prayer for the lost 5 – 7 minutes

- **Definition/Purpose:** God saves Sinners...and very often it is in response to the prayers of His people.
- **Practice:** Pray for lost family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. For the sake of time, it is recommended that you stay away from sharing these and each person take the time to pray for the lost people in their circle of influence. As always, encourage the group to pray for the **End** (lost person being saved) as well as the **Process** (lost person's journey to Christ), which ordinarily involves many steps.
- **Scripture:** Rom. 10:1-2; 1 Tim. 2: 1-4;

Prayer for one another 5 – 7 minutes

- **Definition:** Loving and caring for one another in prayer.
- **Practice:** We recommend you do this part in smaller groups (3-4 people), then you can simply share requests among the group (succinctly) and then pray for each other.
- **Scripture:** Jn. 13:34, 15:12, 17; Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Jn. 3:11, 23, 4: 7, 11-12, 2 Jn. 1:5

Prayer for WVBC / Sunago 5 – 7 minutes

- **Definition/Purpose:** While pursuing His mission and His glory together, we recognize our utter inadequacy and this leads us to cry out to him on behalf of WVBC.
- **Practice:** Be creative and as specific as you can as you pray for WVBC / Sunago. You can pray for its leaders, its ministries. Check the most recent Bulletin or the website for any specific needs that ministries or the church as a whole has. Make those available to the group in some way. Make the names of the ministries and leaders available, that your people have the opportunity to pray for them. Touch base with the Elders, Pastors, and Ministry leaders see if there are specific things on their hearts concerning the church. The point is this, don't allow this time to become Blah! Plan it so that people really engage with praying specifically and with a real sense of mission.
- **Scripture:** Eph 1: 15-22 ,3:14-21, Phil.1; 9-11, Col. 1:9-14