

WAYS TO PRAY IN SMALL GROUP

Small Groups should avoid closing in prayer the same way week after week. Keep your prayer time fresh by varying your practice of prayer. Here's a list of ideas to get you started:

Have one person close in prayer by praying for each individual need shared.

Have Small Group members write out a prayer and bring it to read at the next Small Group.

Pray throughout the Small Group time as needs surface.

Have each person write prayer requests on a 3" x 5" card. Then exchange the card with someone else in the Small Group or have them give all the cards to you.

Lay hands on the individual while interceding in prayer for them—one-on-one or several-on-one.

Pray for each other with eyes open, looking directly at the person one is praying for.

Review prayer requests from previous weeks by referring to your Small Group Journal. Have Small Group members share updates.

Set a "theme" to guide the prayer request time: "Let's limit our prayer requests tonight to _____ as an application to the main theme of the night."

Encourage members to pray for the person on their left as you go around the circle clockwise. Be sure the members in your Small Group feel comfortable praying in front of others.

Divide members into pairs to pray for each other.

Use popcorn prayer. The Small Group Leader opens with a short single-thought prayer and others who desire to pray simply "pop" in at an available pause. Members are encouraged to pray several times before the Leader closes in prayer.

Encourage members to pray in a variety of postures—standing, kneeling, holding hands, palms up, walking, etc.

Follow a pattern for prayer—P.R.A.Y. (Praise, Repent, Ask for others, You) or A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication).

Allow each member to pray audibly at the same time.

Allow everyone who wants to pray to take a turn. Not everyone needs to pray.

Split the Small Group in half and pray together in an even smaller group.

Pray silently. Have one person close the silent prayer time after a period of time with "Amen."

Small Group Leader (or another member) prays aloud for each person in the Small Group.

Spontaneously pray for each request. Members can volunteer to pray spontaneously for a specific request during prayer time.