

Prayer Night Instructions

For Small Group Leaders

Small Group Leaders: Select a night in February to have your group participate in this time of prayer together. Follow these suggestions to maximize the opportunity:

1. Spend 30 minutes preparing for it by reading each of the verses, and be familiar with the flow suggested.
2. Plan this particular small group night in detail. Introduce the night at the beginning as a small group prayer night, highlighting a shortened (30 min) discussion time, followed by 60-minute time in prayer together.
3. Do not give forewarning to the group that it's a different type of night. This is a normal small group night (because "meaningful prayer" is a core tenant of all our small groups!), just with an extended time of prayer.
4. Take the necessary time (3-4 minutes) to introduce and transition into the time. Tell the group you're going to be facilitating the transitions, that you want lots of participation in reading Scripture and praying, and are excited for the opportunity to come to God together in a focused way. Encourage out-loud prayer, particularly those not apt to do it or confident in it. This is a great time to practice that! Encourage additional Scripture reading as people have verses/passages come to mind.
5. Here is a suggested timeline for the night: 10 min people arriving, settling in // 30 min of discussion/questions from small group questions // 60 minutes of prayer // any time remaining spent in fellowship

Leaders:

- Select a night to go through these prayers together as a group. The goal is to spend 45 minutes in prayer - 5 min in the theme verses and about 10 minutes for each section.
- A 2 hour small group timeline (suggested) could be: 10 min greeting/talking, 30 min small group questions discussion, 45 min prayer, 35 min accountability
- Introduce the time of prayer as an *opportunity for growing in prayer*. It is not designed only for those who are comfortable, but for those less comfortable to join in and pray out loud with the group.
- Mention the fact that by praying through Scripture, we can have confidence that we are praying God's own heart for us personally and for his Church