

# Establishing prayer groups

In churches and the marketplace

**"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. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 18:19-20)**

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)**

**"He was appalled that there was no one to intervene" (Isaiah 59:16)**

**"You do not have, because you do not ask God" (James 4:2)**

**"... that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1)**

**"And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?" (Luke 18:7)**

**"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)**

**"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land" (Ezekiel 22:30)**

## Practical Guidelines

1. Look for at least one other person to pray with, in your workplace or among your friends. Then ask others to join you in prayer, contacting them one by one.
2. Start by praying together once a week. If you feel confident to add another prayer session after a couple of weeks, increase it to twice a week. Many prayer groups stagnate or stop because people attempt to meet for prayer on a daily basis. It seldom succeeds.
3. If you have established a prayer group in the marketplace, ensure that the prayer meeting is held either before work or during a tea break or lunchtime. Only use time within business hours in exceptional cases and only if you have the clear go-ahead and support of management.
4. If it is a prayer group in the marketplace, keep the time limit of the meetings to 30 minutes. Elsewhere an hour or hour and a half would do.
5. Please do not organise speakers for the prayer meetings; focus on prayer itself. Speakers often preach, which may discourage prayer and you may find after a while that nobody is attending any more.

6. Read a few relevant Scripture verses and make one or two short comments about that (do not spend more than 5 minutes on this). Allow time if someone wants to share what he/she learned about prayer.
7. It is important to give time for 1-2 testimonies of answers on prayer, stressing that it should be a *testimony* and *not a sermon*.
8. Give opportunity for people to share prayer requests at the start of the meeting, but be careful to avoid only praying for personal needs and physical healing during the time of prayer. Our responsibility to intercede is wider than that.
9. If you would like to drink coffee/tea, do it afterwards. Complete your time of prayer and keep the social activities separate.
10. Encourage each one in the group to pray for the salvation of at least 3 persons (friends, family, colleagues, etc.)
11. Be *focused* during the time of prayer:
  - a. Pray for issues at your work (decisions to be made, a crisis, contact with clients, etc.);
  - b. Everyone praying for the salvation of 2-3 persons;
  - c. Pray for personal needs;
  - d. Pray for the government;
  - e. Pray for at least one news headline topic, something having a significant impact on people in the country;
  - f. Other issues you feel God laid on your hearts.

Do not try to cover *all* these every time you pray. Three or four points are sufficient per meeting.

12. There are various practical ways of praying. Make room for *spontaneous prayer* – where people pray randomly for issues on their hearts, one person after the other. If the group consists of 8 or more, divide the group into groups of 3-4 and pray for different issues. You may also *ask an individual* directly to pray for a particular issue. Everyone may *pray simultaneously* (not all groups are comfortable with this, but in some cases it will work effectively). It is advisable to use a *combination* of these ways of prayer in a particular prayer session. Praise and worship is also a form of prayer. Do not, however, sing more than 2-3 songs per prayer meeting, as it may limit the time for prayer.

13. Encourage people to pray *Scripture*. There are a variety of books available for guidelines. Booklets are available that lists the promises found in Scripture, which may be used very effectively.

***Please contact Jericho Walls if you need more information.***



[www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) / [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com) / 012-3653213