

Rhythm: Prayer

November - December 2019

This Conversation Guide is intended to be a tool to aid your meetings with Community Group Leaders. This one Guide covers two meetings - scheduled at your discretion, ideally in November through December. You are **not** limited to using the resources listed under the Resources section, but they are offered as reliable suggestions. There are three options to give a variety of topics and mediums. If you choose to use one of these resources, send it to the leader(s) ahead of time so they can come prepared to discuss.

[Click here to see the Community Director Framework introduced beginning in Fall 2019.](#)

First Meeting - Nov. or Early Dec.

CONNECT

*If you are meeting together with more than one leader for the first time, be sure and spend time making adequate introductions between them. Consider having everyone (starting with you!) share their spiritual story in subsequent meetings.

Discuss any life updates, or “journeying realities” since you last met. (Avoid discussing their Community Group, for now--focus on the personal.)

What’s been occupying your thoughts and prayers since we talked last?

What have been some highs or lows in... Marriage? Parenting? Work?

DISCUSS

Discuss the Resource you selected and sent them ahead of time to listen/watch/or read. See discussion questions listed under each.

NEXT STEPS

Leverage the application question from the Resource you chose. Help them to identify at least one personal and one group application they can begin in the next month. Be sure it’s specific and something measurable (“Pray more” is not really specific and nor easily measurable; “Pray with my spouse at least once a day” is specific and measurable.) Don’t focus solely on frequency though--help them think about varying approach/ structure, focus, and quality.

End by asking how you can pray for, encourage and support them over the next month.

RESOURCES

Choose one of these three or a resource of your choosing that aligns with the rhythm...

Prayer in the Psalms, by Tim Keller

[Video Link](#)

[Podcast/Audio Link](#)

Resource Type: Sermon

Level: Anyone

Length: 40 min.

Source/Notes: Gospel Coalition Women's Pre-Conference Talk delivered on June 16, 2016

Discussion

What stood out to you from the message?

What connections did you make between prayer, friendship, and the way you relate to God in prayer?

Is praying through the scriptures something you have experience in? Your group members?

Application

What's one thing you'd like to do differently in your personal practice of prayer over the next month?

How can you use the Psalms to help guide/ facilitate prayer in your group?

What's one change you will integrate into your group meetings in the next month based on this discussion?

Why Pray if God Has Already Decided Everything?, by Paul Rezkalla

[Article Link](#)

Resource Type: Blog/Article

Level: Intermediate

Length: short (5-10 min. read)

Source/Notes: Gospel Coalition blog posted on May 1st, 2017

Discussion

What stood out to you from the article?

When/how have you wrestled with this question/tension in the past?

Based on your consideration, what difference does prayer make?

How can we trust in the sovereignty of God and also believe that our prayers matter?

Application

What's one thing you'd like to do differently in your personal practice of prayer over the next month?

How do you help your group members wrestle with this perceived tension?

The Most High a Prayer Hearing God, by Jonathan Edwards

[Article Link](#)

Resource Type:

Article/Manuscript

Level:

Intermediate/Advanced

Length:

Long (45+ min. read)

Source/Notes: Sermon Manuscript from Jonathon Edwards, delivered January 8th, 1735; perhaps one of the best and most practical sermons ever delivered on prayer.

Discussion

Why should we pray, according to Edwards?

How have you seen prayer lead you to worship God more?

What are some of the practicalities of prayer that stood out to you?

Application

What will you do differently in your personal prayer time this next month to help reinforce that you are bringing glory to God through the practice of prayer, rather than it just being a means to an end?

Second Meeting - Dec. or Early Jan.

CONNECT

Discuss any life updates, or “journeying realities” since you last met. (Avoid discussing their Community Group for now.)

What’s been occupying your thoughts and prayers since we talked last?

What have been some highs or lows in... Marriage? Parenting? Work?

DISCUSS

Reference your previous meeting’s discussion, see if there’s been additional learnings, and then revisit the next steps they identified personally.

As you’ve now had more time to think about our previous conversation on prayer, what new or additional thoughts have you had?

Last meeting we discussed prayer and you identified some next steps. How has it been following through on those steps? What’s surprised you? What’s been unexpected about it?

NEXT STEPS

Build on the previously identified next steps, to either continue those, expand them, or explore new ways of application.

As you look toward a new year, what do you want to change about your experience with God in prayer this next year?

How are you going to approach prayer differently with your Community Group going forward? (Be as specific and practical as possible--see resources below for additional suggestions.)

How can I best support/encourage you moving forward?

RESOURCES

These resources are purely supplemental and intended to help you give direction to their next steps. Use at your discretion.

- [4 Suggestions to Deepen Your Small Group Prayer](#)
 - [Teach Your Small Group to Be Comfortable with Group Prayer](#)
 - [Adding Structure and Variety to Group Prayer](#)
 - [Creative Expressions of Prayer in Your Community Group](#)
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