



Praying Together: A 5-Week Small Group Guide

BY LESLIE BENNETT

I remember sampling it for the first time.

It wasn't an exotic new food; it was relishing something even better: the transforming power of unified, Scripture-focused, Spirit-led prayer sitting beside women who love Jesus and His Word. This prayer meal was nothing like my normal one, which sometimes tasted bland like a lump of unseasoned mashed potatoes. Once I experienced prayer as worship served up from God's Word, I hungered for more.

This small group prayer guide will help you get a taste of a spiritual feast when prayer becomes worship. Even if you've never led a prayer group before, the guide will show you how to get started. You'll be amazed how God transforms you and your friends to have hearts more like His. Get your forks, knives, and Bibles ready!

Prepare for Praying Together

- Decide on a date and time for the first gathering, asking women to commit to at least five or more meeting times. A one- to two-hour timeframe is ideal in a cozy, quiet location with minimal distractions or interruptions. For a virtual group, you can easily adapt the principles of corporate prayer found in this resource.
- Engage the group in deciding upon how often it will meet. We suggest meeting weekly for five weeks, but your schedule should fit the group preferences.
- Each session has a different prayer focus. This guide progresses through kingdom-based prayer by beginning with the world in the first meeting and ending with the family at the final one. Your group may prefer praying in the opposite order, which starts at home and graduates to the world.
- Determine if you want to offer a light snack or beverages, and prepare as needed. You'll need to allot a short amount of time for fellowship as women arrive.
- Encourage women to bring their Bibles and a prayer journal if they want to take notes.
- Ask God to reveal if you have "clean hands and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:4) in order to be used by Him. These questions will help prepare you to lead:

Are you walking in the light?

Are you in a right relationship with God and with others?

Is there any unforgiveness, bitterness, hurt, or unbelief you're harboring?

As you embark on this adventure, keep your eyes open to how the Lord is working among your group. Here are some ways God may choose to move in hearts:

- Purify and make zealous for kingdom work ([Titus 2:11–14](#)).
- Encourage ambassadors for Christ ([2 Cor. 5:18–20](#); [Matt. 28:19–20](#)).
- Impart a fresh awe for His holiness ([Psalm 96:9](#); [Isa. 6:1–5](#)).
- Restore love for His Word ([Psalm 119:47](#); [Isa. 66:2](#)).
- Renew passion to reach the lost ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- Instill bold obedience ([1 John 5:3](#); [Psalm 119:11](#)).
- Develop confidence and boldness in prayer ([Acts 4:29–31](#)).
- Unite through His Spirit ([Eph. 4:2–3](#)).

Praying Together Overview

The following is a basic outline for each meeting that you can adapt to suit the needs of your group. Be ready to adjust the meeting plans if God redirects in an unexpected way. Stay flexible, and don't force the agenda. That said, be respectful of others by keeping watch over the time and honoring the ending time.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Thank your friends for coming. Explain the purpose of gathering and the main prayer focus. A few simple guidelines will maximize the enjoyment of everyone. As much as you are able, share these from your heart and in your own words:

- Let's agree to pray in "sentences," not in lengthy paragraphs.
- Let's pray audibly so our hearts can be attuned to how the Spirit is uniting and directing our prayers.
- Let's talk directly to God—praying honestly and intimately to our Father.
- Let's confess and repent as the Spirit leads. Our environment will invite openness and ongoing personal revival.
- Let's not fill the air with idle words. We'll learn to embrace silence and to wait upon the Lord in times of listening.
- Let's pray using Scripture as much as possible.
- Let's affirm that private matters remain private to our group (husbands and family members are not an exception).

We suggest using a popcorn style of prayer because it doesn't force someone to pray who isn't ready. This method involves taking turns to pray in no particular order. As you present this method of prayer, assure women they can participate as they feel comfortable. Silent prayers of agreement are welcomed!

HELP THE GROUP GET FOCUSED

Introduce the main prayer theme for the day. Consider using visual aids to further engage with the topic. You can utilize silent reflection, singing together, or other means to prepare to seek the Lord together.

WORSHIP THROUGH READING ALOUD A SELECTED SCRIPTURE

Explain that as we read and personally apply the Word, we're aligning our hearts with the Lord's. Responding to God's Truth often includes praise, thanksgiving, surrender, brokenness, confession, and singing.

Once we begin praying, our nature is to start making requests of God, but for now ask the group to refrain from intercession. Guide the group back if it wanders off track.

TRANSITION INTO INTERCESSION FOR THE MAIN TOPIC

After worshipping through the Word, lead the group into intercession relating to the topic. In each session, you'll find a transition prayer to bridge into the next segment along with prayer prompts to guide the group as needed.

CLOSE IN AGREEMENT AND FAITH

Conclude the session by returning the focus to God who alone is able to answer the cries of our heart and is sovereign over all. Suggestions include singing the doxology, reading a verse or creed in unison, or praying a written prayer together.

SESSION 1: *Praying for the World*

Welcome and Introduction

Set the tone for the evening, and share any guidelines or details the group should know beforehand.

Open with a time of reflection. Start by sharing how God has been working in your heart and why you were led to begin this five-week prayer journey. Invite the group to share how they'd like to grow in their prayer lives and what they hope to gain from praying together.

Help the Group Get Focused

Move into a few moments of silence, asking the Lord to remove distractions and to ease racing minds, tired bodies, and burdens of responsibilities left undone. Set a worshipful tone to help women prepare to meet with God. Soft background music can help calm hearts to refocus on His character.

Worship Through Reading Aloud Psalm 99:1–9

Read Psalm 99:1–9. Remind the group to refrain from intercession in this phase. Offer a short praise or expression of gratitude from Psalm 99:1–9 showing how to pray in this segment. Women will follow your example.

Transition into Intercession for the Main Topic

Remaining in a spirit of prayer, here's one example of transitioning from worship to intercession:

Holy Father, You rule from heaven and reign over all the nations. Just as Moses, Aaron, and Samuel called upon Your name, we cry out for our world that so desperately needs You . . .

If necessary, you can infuse direction into the group's praying by interjecting these prayer prompts:

- Pray for the effectiveness and protection of missionaries across the globe ([Acts 14:27](#)).
- Pray for God to raise up more workers to serve in missions ([Matt. 9:38](#)).
- Pray for the persecuted church abroad to remain steadfast ([Acts 4:29–31](#)).
- Pray for the endurance of those who are imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ ([2 Tim. 2:8–10](#)).
- Pray against terrorism and hostility to the gospel ([Prov. 4:17](#); [1 Cor. 1:18–19](#)).
- Recall that the nations will one day be awarded to Christ ([Psalm 2:8](#)).
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem ([Psalm 122:6](#)).

As the Holy Spirit leads, prayers will naturally move into other related topics concerning our world.

Close in Agreement and Faith

From the following options, select a closing that best fits your group:

- Join God's heavenly court in worship by reading [Revelation 4:8–11](#).
- Sing together the first verse of "Holy Holy Holy."
- In unison, recite the Lord's Prayer.
- Lead a responsive reading of [Psalm 99:1–5](#). Pause after reading each verse, and instruct the group to respond "Holy is He!" after each one.

After the session ends, spend a few minutes evaluating the prayer meeting and making note of changes you'd like to incorporate next time. If God is working in an unusual way in someone's life, pray for them and plan to reach out before the next meeting.

SESSION 2: *Praying for Your Nation*

Welcome and Introduction

Praying together unites women to cry out with one voice and one heart. Emphasize that our motive is simply to glorify God and to see His kingdom purposes prevail. There's an amazing expectation in prayer when we cast off our differences and become unified through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said His transforming power and presence will be with us ([Matt. 18:19–20](#))!

Remind the group how the prayer gatherings will work. If you noticed a tendency by one or more to dominate the prayer time in previous sessions, be proactive by saying, “Let’s be sensitive to each other. Take notice if you’ve prayed multiple times but others haven’t. Continue praying inwardly, but take a cue to hold back to allow others to pray.”

Help the Group Get Focused

Open with worship by listening to your favorite arrangement of “Speak, O Lord” written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend or “Is He Worthy” by Chris Tomlin. Ask women to close their eyes and make these words their personal prayer.

Worship Through Reading Aloud Psalm 33:1–22

Read Psalm 33:1–22. Remind the group to refrain from intercession in this phase. Lead off with a short praise or expression of gratitude from Psalm 33:1–22 showing how to pray in this segment. Women will follow your example.

Transition into Intercession for the Main Topic

Remaining in a spirit of prayer, here’s one example of transitioning from worship to intercession:

Sovereign Lord, there is nothing that can thwart Your plans. You have ordained a plan for our nation and for Your people. Your counsel stands forever. Each day we live on this earth, we have hope. Visit us by Your Spirit, and guide the prayers of our lips. Give us tender hearts that break over what is breaking Your heart for our nation. Move us to pray in perfect harmony with Your Truth as it’s revealed in Your Holy Word . . .

If intercession lags, you can infuse direction into the group’s praying by interjecting these prayer prompts:

- Pray your nation will repent from misplaced trust ([Isa. 31:1](#); [Psalm 115:9–11](#)).
- Pray your nation will be governed by leaders who fear the Lord ([Ex. 18:21](#)).
- Pray Christians will experience revival that leads to a nationwide spiritual awakening ([2 Chron. 7:14](#)).

- One by one, call out a list of atrocious sins prevalent in your country. Pray against sins such as: abortion, gender fluidity, homosexuality, sexual immorality, divorce, racism, violence, addiction, murder, vulgarity, pornography, depression, greed, etc.
- Pray that God’s kingdom comes and His will be done ([Matt. 6:10](#)) over political candidates, elected officials, local and national elections.

As the Holy Spirit leads, prayers will naturally move into other related topics concerning the nation.

Close in Agreement and Faith

From the following options, select a closing that best fits your group:

- Take turns reading through [Psalm 33:1–22](#) again, one verse at a time. Pray in a circle, beginning with yourself then moving to your right. The leader starts with verse 1. Ask each person to speak one sentence that affirms this truth after she reads it. A member might say, “Thank You, Lord”; “I praise You for this truth”; “You are good, Lord”; “I believe Your Word, Father”; “There’s no other god like You”; etc.
- Sing the doxology in unison.

After the session ends, spend a few minutes evaluating the prayer meeting and making note of changes you’d like to incorporate next time. If God is working in an unusual way in someone’s life, pray for them and plan to reach out before the next meeting.

SESSION 3: *Praying for Your Church*

Welcome and Introduction

Through Praying Together, we’re uniting to pray in the power of Jesus’ name. It would be senseless to pray based upon our name or good reputation! Affirm that praying in the name of Jesus means to come before the throne in Jesus’ authority, character, power, and in alignment with His purposes. The Father hears and answers when we pray in the Name above all other names ([John 14:13–14](#), [16:23–24](#)).

Help the Group Get Focused

Invite the group to bow their heads while you read “Christ is All” from *The Valley of Vision* by Arthur Bennett.

Worship Through Reading Aloud Colossians 1:13–20

Read [Colossians 1:13–20](#). Remind the group to refrain from intercession in this phase. Lead off with a short praise or expression of gratitude from Colossians 1:13–20 showing how to pray in this segment. Women will follow your example.

O Lover to the Uttermost,

May I read the meltings of thy heart to me
in the manger of thy birth,
in the garden of thy agony,
in the cross of thy suffering,
in the tomb of thy resurrection,
in the heaven of thy intercession.

Bold in this thought I defy my adversary,
tread down his temptations,
resist his schemings,
renounce the world,
am valiant for truth.

Deepen in me a sense of my holy
relationship to thee,
as spiritual Bridegroom
as Jehovah's Fellow
as sinner's Friend.

I think of thy glory and my vileness,
thy majesty and my meanness,
thy beauty and my deformity,
thy purity and my filth,
thy righteousness and my iniquity.

Thou hast loved me everlastingly,
unchangeably,

may I love thee as I am loved;

Thou hast given thyself for me,
may I give myself to thee;

Thou hast died for me,
may I live to thee,
in every moment of my time,
in every movement of my mind,
in every pulse of my heart.

May I never dally with the world
and its allurements,
ut walk by thy side,
listen to thy voice,
be clothed with thy graces,
and adorned with thy righteousness.¹

Transition into Intercession for the Main Topic

Remaining in a spirit of prayer, here's one example of transitioning from worship to intercession:

Lord Jesus, like the disciples, we ask You to teach us to pray. We raise our hands and volunteer to stand in the gap for the beloved Bride of Christ. Help us see the Church as You see her. Let us pray in agreement with Your plans to restore the radiant luster of a God-glorifying Church that lovingly submits to its Head . . .

If intercession lags, you can infuse direction into the group's praying by interjecting these prayer prompts:

- Pray for God to pour out His Spirit to purify and revive His Church ([Isa. 64:1–4](#); [Ezek. 36:22–32](#)).
- Pray that churches would become houses of prayer ([Matt. 21:13](#)).
- Pray that pastors would boldly preach the whole counsel of God and call people to repentance ([2 Tim. 2:15](#); [2 Chron. 7:14](#)).

- Lift up the daily sacrifices and challenges facing pastors' wives and their families.
- Pray that church leaders would be like the men of Issachar who understood the times and knew what the church should do ([1 Chron. 12:32](#)).
- Pray for intentional discipleship of men and women who will teach others ([2 Tim. 2:2-3](#); [Titus 2:3-5](#)).
- Pray that churches will have renewed evangelism and compassion for the lost ([2 Pet. 3:9](#); [Matt. 28:19-20](#)).

As the Holy Spirit leads, prayers will naturally move into other related topics concerning the church.

Close in Agreement and Faith

From the following options, select a closing that best fits your group:

- Sing "O Church Arise" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend or "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham.
- In a popcorn style of random prayer, complete the following sentence with an attribute or name of Jesus: "Jesus is _____."
- Read [Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27](#) to the group. As you finish, ask participants to join you in saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, come" one or more times.

Afterward, spend a few minutes evaluating the prayer meeting and making note of changes you'd like to incorporate next time. If God is working in an unusual way in someone's life, pray for them and plan to reach out before the next meeting.

SESSION 4: *Praying for Your Community*

Welcome and Introduction

Highlight that as we seek the person of God through prayer, the goal is to experience intimacy with Him, rather than just reciting a list of requests (sort of like a grocery list). Our Lord promises that as we deeply abide in Him, His will becomes our will, His love becomes our love, His life becomes more of our own, and we can expect powerful answers to our petitions ([John 15:7](#); [2 Cor. 3:18](#)).

Help the Group Get Focused

Read aloud Psalm 145:9:

The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

During the next minute of quiet, consider verse 9 and silently recall all the ways your heavenly Father has been kind and compassionate to you over the last week.

Worship Through Reading Aloud Psalm 145:1–21

Read [Psalm 145:1–21](#). Remind the group to refrain from intercession in this phase.

Lead off with a short praise or expression of gratitude from Psalm 145:1–21 showing how to pray in this segment. Women will follow your example.

Transition into Intercession for the Main Topic

Remaining in a spirit of prayer, here's one example of transitioning from worship to intercession:

Holy Father, You have chosen each of us to live in this city for this time in history. Lord, we want to claim this town for Jesus Christ. We're burdened by the sin and evil that surrounds us, but we are not hopeless. You are our unfailing hope. We are not helpless. You are our defender! Show us, O Lord, what grieves you . . .

If intercession lags, you can infuse direction into the group's praying by interjecting these prayer prompts:

- God cares about each of His lost sheep. Instruct the group to speak the first name of lost people as God brings them to mind. (It's fine if people are speaking at once and their voices are overlapping.)
- Pray for unity. Pray against divisions among people: economic, social, racial, religious denominations ([Gal. 3:28](#); [Rom. 12:16](#)).
- Pray for brotherly love and hospitality to characterize your community ([Heb. 13:1–2](#)).
- Pray for mutual acceptance, respect, and honor among all people ([Eph. 4:31–32](#); [Rom. 12:10](#)).
- Pray that peace and forgiveness will preside and that Christians will overcome evil with good ([Rom. 12:17–21](#)).
- Pray for the prosperity of your community ([Jer. 29:7](#)).
- Pray that the poor will not be neglected or despised ([Prov. 14:31](#)).

As the Holy Spirit leads, prayers will naturally move into other related topics concerning your community.

Close in Agreement and Faith

From the following options, select a closing that best fits your group:

- Sing together “God of This City” by Chris Tomlin or “Before the Throne of God Above” by Charitie Lees Bancroft.

- Get moving. Take a prayer walk down your street interceding for families and businesses.
- Lead a season of thanksgiving for God’s answer to our prayers—in advance. Thank Him for the truths of Psalm 145:18–19 to be “near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.”

Thank everyone for participating and for making prayer a priority in their lives. Ask each woman to bring a family photograph to the next prayer gathering and to consider sharing a testimony of how participating in **Praying Together** has impacted her life.

Seek the Lord’s will about whether this group should continue meeting for prayer. Plan to explore some options with the group at the final meeting.

SESSION 5: *Praying for Your Family*

Introduction and Testimonies

Genuinely thank each woman for coming. Let the group know what a joy and honor it’s been to serve them while growing together in the Lord. Express enthusiasm for how you’ve witnessed God at work in all their lives. Share briefly how you’ve personally grown during this prayer journey.

Next, invite the group to share their experience through **Praying Together**. Focus them on giving God glory for His goodness, faithfulness, forgiveness, and transforming power.

Worship Through Reading Aloud Isaiah 61:1–11

Read [Isaiah 61:1–11](#). Remind the group to refrain from intercession in this phase. Lead off with a short praise or expression of gratitude from Isaiah 61:1–11 showing how to pray in this segment. Women will follow your example.

Transition into Intercession for the Main Topic

Remaining in a spirit of prayer, here’s one example of transitioning from worship to intercession:

O Lord, we come united as one in Christ to seek Your glory with all of our hearts. The invitation to come to You through prayer came at an exorbitant price—the price of Your Son’s shed blood on the cross. We have confidence this day as we boldly approach Your throne for help and mercy on families . . .

If intercession lags, you can infuse direction into the group's praying by interjecting these prayer prompts:

- Pray for justice and healing in broken relationships ([Isa. 42:3](#)).
- Despite what dire circumstances might suggest, pray for hope and God's miraculous restoration of families ([Jer. 29:11](#)).
- Pray that God's design for marriage would be honored and for marriage beds to remain pure ([Heb. 13:4](#)).
- Pray for God's abundant grace and care over widows, orphans, and single parents ([Psalm 68:5-6](#)).
- Pray that parents would take primary responsibility to teach their children to love the Lord and walk in His ways ([Deut. 6:4-9](#)).
- Pray specifically for a saving faith of all the children, grandchildren, and other relatives of group members ([Rom. 10:9-10](#)).
- Pray for prodigals to be reunited with their families ([Luke 15:18-24](#)).
- Pray that we will value the sanctity of life and repent of abortion ([Gen. 1:27](#)).

As the Holy Spirit leads, prayers will naturally move into other related topics concerning families.

Close in Agreement and Faith

From the following options, select a closing that best fits your group:

- Have the group stand in a circle. Say in unison, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."
- Sing together the doxology or a favorite hymn.
- One at a time, have each group member hold up her family photograph and symbolically release them to the Lord. Let each one express this action in her own words and gestures.
- Carry one another's burdens ([Gal. 6:2](#)) by taking turns thanking God for another person in the group and crying out on her behalf. Continue until each person has been prayed for. The leader can pray for anyone who hasn't been prayed for at the end.

Thank everyone for their faithful participation and for making prayer a priority in their lives.

Discuss whether the group would like to keep praying together.

We'd love to hear about your **Praying Together** experience! You're invited to share your prayer journey with the Revive Our Hearts Team by contacting us at info@ReviveOurHearts.com.

¹ Arthur Bennet, ed., Valley of Vision (United Kingdom: Banner of Truth Trust, 1975) 32-33.

