

May 6th, 2019 Riverside Prayer Training

Goal: Learn and practice how to pray for others, with a specific focus on the Sunday morning context, but goes MUCH broader than just that!

Agenda:

- **6pm** – Bless food and eat!
- **6:15-7:15** (while eating)
 - Biblical Foundations of Prayer (Keith)
 - Personal Preparation to Pray with Others (Deb)
 - Basic Prayer Model to Pray with Others (Keith)
 - 2-3 Live “demonstrations” (Keith and Deb)
- **7:15-7:30** – Try it, break into pairs/triads/quads and pray
- **7:30-7:35** – Closing thoughts (Keith)
 - Additional resources from Deb (handout)

Ministry Team Basics

Biblical Foundations:

1. We are made for relationship with God. We have the responsibility as His image bearers to care for, bless, and enhance the world around us. Genesis 1:26-28, Matt. 28:18-20
2. God is good. God is for us. His desire is to fix what's broken in our world, including us. John 3:16; Luke 4:18-20; Revelation 21:5
3. Through Jesus, the Kingdom of God (God's rule and reign where everything is what it was created to be – shalom) is now accessible. What is supernatural is possible in our natural realm. Mark 1:15; John 10:7-8; James 5:15-16

Hence, Jesus taught us to pray: **“May your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”**

4. Since the nature of the Kingdom of God in our time is “already here but not yet fully here” not everyone is healed. That's okay. But one day, Jesus will make all things new! When He returns to make heaven and earth one again, all will be healed. Revelation 21:5; 22:1-4
5. The Holy Spirit came (and is still available) to help us be like Jesus and do the kinds of things Jesus did/does. John 14:11-14
6. Those who are in Jesus are His ambassadors and priests, therefore everyone gets to play. So, anyone can pray for anyone. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9
7. God is the ultimate Healer. We are simply conduits of God's Kingdom reign. Healing not up to us. We seek God together with them. We are responsible to minister to them. We are not responsible for them or their choices. We follow the Holy Spirit's lead... get in on what God is doing. Less pressure! John 5:19-20
8. We are whole people. That means if one facet of who we are is hurting it can affect another. Genesis 1:26; Luke 5:17-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
9. There is an enemy, he/they are powerful, we are in a battle, and prayer is a powerful weapon, even though there is MUCH we don't understand and know about prayer or the situations we are praying for (Daniel 10:12-14).

Personal Preparation to Intercede for Others:

1. There has to be an intimacy with God

- This begins with a discipline of being quiet before Him.
- We have to learn to be quiet in God's presence to hear His still small voice.
- Learn to listen for His promptings.
- It's a relationship with God, not about getting things from God.
- So easy to get distracted while praying...mind wonders.
 - 2 Corinthians 10:5 – "Bring every thought into the captivity of Christ.
 - Psalms 46:10 – "Be still and know that I am God."
- Elijah who was an intercessor learned this lesson. He encountered a wind storm, earthquake and finally fire that was sent by God. After them, there was a still small voice and that was where God was, in the silence.(I Kings 19: 11-12)

2. Understand the object of prayer is not go get stuff from God, but to get God.

- The object of prayer to be more Christ-like, to have your mind submit to His mind & ways.

3. Worship is key, as it refocuses our priorities, thoughts, motives.

- Take time to meditate on the names of God and the attributes of God. Call them out to Him. Acknowledge who He is and who we are not. He is the I AM, I am not.
- This will fill us with awe and wonder of our God. To worship to see His worthiness and trust Him in all things.
- This practice gives adoration and glory to God himself and focuses our purpose in prayer.
- A few of the names of God we often use in prayer:
 - Jehovah-tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness*
 - Jehovah-shalom – The Lord our Peace*
 - Jehovah-shammah – The Ever-present Lord*
 - Jehovah m'kaddesh – The Lord our Sanctifier*
 - Jehovah-jirah-The Lord our Provider*
 - Jehovah-nissi-The Lord our Banner*
 - Jehovah-rophe-The Lord our Healer*
 - Jehovah-saboath-The Lord of Hosts*

4. Give Him thanks and exalt Him for what He is doing and what He will do.

- Be expectant! Psalm 100 is a great guide for thankfulness praying.

5. Stay current with your own hearts and confession of sin.

- Ask God for a soft spirit that can be easily pricked.
- Come into His presence humbly and full aware of your humanness.
- Isaiah 676:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."
- Agree with God about your sin, confess to God and turn away from it.

6. Be fully prepared for the warfare of prayer

- Put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-12), be ready to stand against the evil one.
- Put on His righteousness, it is His battle. Use the weapons of the armor He's given us.

7. Give the burdens to Christ and leave it there

- Don't take your burdens with you into praying for others – it is a distraction.
- Practice what you are asking God to do: take care of the issue, forgive the sin, change the circumstance, heal the sick, provide for the expense, etc.

Basic (Healing) Prayer Model:

1. Interview (Men with men. Women with women. Couples pray for either)
 - Acknowledge confidentiality!
 - What would you like us to pray for?
 - When did this begin?
 - Are there other areas in your life that you are having difficulty with?
 - ASK if you can lay hands on them (*Mark 16:18*).
 - If considering using oil (*James 5:14*), ask that separately
2. Prayer of Invocation
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to overflow in individual (*Eph. 5:18*).
 - Ask Holy Spirit to guide your prayers.
 - Thank God for who He is, and then **LISTEN** (to the Holy Spirit)
3. Listen...
 - Pray to God and seek to answer the question, “What is the root cause?”
 - Ask, “Do you mind if we wait on the Lord for a moment?”
 - Allow the Lord to use a word, an image, or a thought to give us additional insight.
 - Discern between Emotional, Spiritual, Demonic or Physical cause.
 - Where appropriate, invite confession and repentance.
4. Pray for specific results. Don't just default to “*if it's Your will*” prayers.
 - Approach God with thankfulness and praise for who He is and His mighty power.
 - Acknowledge the pain and the condition.
 - Ask for His divine power to overcome all that is not of Him
 - Communicate the insights you receive: scripture, picture, question, word of encouragement, etc.
5. Wait, Listen, Look (keep your eyes open)
 - Watch their body language
 - This is not the time to share if you have gone through something similar or give advice.
6. Evaluate the results.
 - What are you feeling/thinking?
7. Post-Praying Instructions (*John 5:14*)
 - Follow up meeting
 - Referral – pastor, group, etc.
 - Encourage – remind them of who they are in Christ.

Final thoughts:

Be sensitive to whether or not the person has committed their life to Jesus.

This could be a great opportunity to lead someone to Christ.

Take risks: You will look foolish. Ask yourself: Would I rather make mistakes and look foolish, and eventually see healing, or would I rather look good?

Don't be afraid to fail: Steve Nicholson (Vineyard pastor) – The way to hit lots of home runs is to swing at anything that is anywhere near the plate. People are rarely irritated when you pray for them and nothing happens.

Take time to go through the scripture references in this packet; there is much to learn about prayer!