

## Training for Leading DG

### Practising Discipleship through the New BFA Format

- Prepare:
  - Read and Understand
  - Look Back
- Group Time
  - Share and Prayer (20 mins)
  - Worship (10 mins)
  - Study (1 hr)
  - Discipleship Focus (30 mins)

## Why pray as a group?

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

**Luk 18:1**

## Prayer Is Faith's Breath

Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church.

**Charles Spurgeon**

## Prayer Is Worship

To give prayer the secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs.

**Edward McKendree Bounds**

Though we cannot by our prayers give God any information, yet we must by our prayers give him honour.

**Matthew Henry**

## Prayer Is Warfare

Our failures in prayer leave the enemy in possession of the field.

**A. W. Tozer**

## Prayer Is Work

Everything we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer.  
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

## Prayer Is a Time Multiplier

“Sometimes we think we are too busy to pray. That also is a great mistake, for praying is a saving of time . . . God can multiply our ability to make use of time. If we give the Lord his due, we shall have enough for all necessary purposes. In this matter seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Your other engagement will run smoothly if you do not forget your engagement with God.”

**Charles Spurgeon, Pray Without Ceasing, Sermon on 10 Mar 1872.**

## Prayer Is Seeking God's Purpose for Us and the Group

### The Purpose of Prayer: When the Group Gathers

When we are together,

**Prayer centers on God's agenda to unite and nurture the group**

➤ through the Holy Spirit's working

➤ through the word read, prayed, studied, shared, and applied

- Prayer seeks the openness of our hearts
  - to God
  - to one another
- Prayer seeks the unity of the group and its enrichment through its diversity
- Prayer seeks direction and God's working in the group.
- Prayer seeks healthy and balanced growth in our discipleship.
- Prayer engages God's presence as part of the Group's worship

## The Purpose of Prayer: When the Group Is Apart

When we are apart,

- Prayer covers our concerns, responsibilities, relationship, and ministry in the different aspects of our lives
- Prayer supports us in our struggle against sin
- Prayer supports our obedience to God's call, to live out the gospel where He places us.
- Prayer continues to uphold and bind us together

## Prayer Extends the Reach of the Group When It's Together and When It's Apart

- Prayer supports and empowers our personal witness and group outreach.
- Prayer extends our concern for God's glory and rule in our world, to its problems, pains, moral, and political climate, while seeing its need for Jesus despite its opposition to Him
- Prayer upholds our next generation and the church at large.
- Such prayers guards us against becoming inward looking.

## How to Encourage Group Prayers

### **Allow time for sharing prayer request.**

- Limit to two minutes per person to avoid robbing the rest from the actual prayer time.
- Encourage members who share only about others' needs to share their personal needs as well.
- Personal prayer requests can come from evaluation of their key growth areas and personal growth plans
- Encourage openness and honesty rather than trying to sound spiritual before others when praying.

**When group members are not accustomed to praying openly**

- Start first by modelling brief and simple prayers to make praying easy.
- Don't force those who are unwilling

**Practise Giving Thanks**

- Go around the group to say one sentence of thanks to God for something in their life.
- Give everyone a chance to offer a one-sentence prayer.  
Eg. "Thank you Lord for today." "Thank you Lord for being here with us tonight"
- This helps the members realize that no matter how hard their day has been, there are always things to thank God for.
- If no one will pray, be patient. Some may be praying silently
- Finally, close the group in prayer.

**For members who are afraid to pray**

- Encourage them to pray aloud at home or when alone.

**Stop to pray when the need arises.**

- Be flexible to sense God's leading.

More Ideas for Your Group Prayer time



## Prayer Ideas for Your Group Time

- Use the monthly church prayer bulletin to pray for church matters, or the weekly Bible Reading's Prayer Pointers, or key events indicated on Sunday's Worship Bulletin.
- Invite our supported missionary to share and pray for over their request.
- Request prayer concerns from our Mission Spot presenter for the month.
- Consolidate prayer requests of your members at their arrival or via text messages to DG prayer i/c
- During group time, read out prayer requests and have one or two to pray.
- Or write requests on prayer cards to be shuffled around during group time
- Break into smaller groups of two or three for all to pray when time is limited.
- Create and rotate prayer partners within the group to cover specific requests

## Prayer Ideas for Your Group Time

- Vary the prayer posture in the group, stand, kneel, stretch or raise hands, form a circle.
- Allow silent prayer time.
- Read scripted prayer as a group. Scriptures like the Psalms can be used.
- Pray for one another in the week.
- Schedule and plan for extended group prayer times.
- Have the group's prayer i/c keep a prayer file
- Create a monthly master calendar with important events for all to keep in prayer.
- Share answers to prayer
- Combine prayer with fasting (proper instructions needed weeks before the fast, only for those without medical or mental health concerns)
- Pray regularly for friends and loved ones the group members are reaching out to.

## What Are the Foremost Concerns We Should Pray for?

### What to Pray for—Do this (optional) exercise with your group to learn from Paul

Divide your group into 3 subgroups to cover one passage each in Col 1:9-12, Phi 1:9-11, and Eph 1:15-19.

Ask them to share their findings on:

- 1. What was Paul's attitude in prayer?**
- 2. A list of what Paul prayed for.**

- Col 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Col 1:10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- Col 1:11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;
- Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- Php 1:9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,
- Php 1:10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
- Php 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

- Eph 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
- Eph 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
- Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,
- Eph 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
- Eph 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Q & A  
for BFA on  
Luke 8:4-21