

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP FACILITATORS

1. Decide with your partner which one of you is going to read and who is going to write down the prayer requests. The person who records the prayer requests should probably lead the prayer. Develop a signal with your partner to alert each other if one of you begins talking too much. Pray together before meeting with the neighborhood group.
2. After everyone is seated, begin with introductions. Ask if anyone has questions or comments about the weekend so far. Your tone and attitude will set the mood for the group. Remember to breathe and relax.
3. Read aloud, slowly, beginning with *The Quiet Time Together*. Then read the scriptures, pausing briefly after each scripture. You may want to allow others to read a scripture, if they feel called to read aloud.
4. Read the first question and let the Peace of silence wash over you. Facilitate by letting the others speak, but do not require anyone to speak. Remember to give your group time to think and to reflect on the question.
5. If you feel you must talk because no one else will, resist the temptation. Pray.
6. Reject the temptation to dominate the discussion, however strong it is.
7. If you find someone else is dominating the discussion, politely reaffirm their point and restate the question asking for others' thoughts.
8. Be mindful of the presence of the Holy Spirit and pay attention.
9. The point of the weekend is for the church members to get to know each other better and grow together, *not* to know you better.
10. Be aware of the time. If the discussion is lively or thoughtful, don't feel pressured to have the group answer all the questions. Bring the discussion to an end with enough time to collect prayer requests and pray at the end. Close with the prayer requests then the Lord's Prayer.
11. Thank your group and invite them to attend the remaining events. And thank you.

THE QUIET TIME TOGETHER

We ask God to pour out His love and power upon the members of this group. Let us hold each other up in prayer into the Presence of Christ, believing He is speaking to each of us.

We ask Jesus to unite this group in fellowship by letting His Spirit flow into and through each of us, making us one in love by His love.

As the following scriptures are read slowly and thoughtfully, listen with your ears and your heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, as You stand in our midst at this very moment, we recall the great amount of time You gave to prayer. As we remember how You spent all night in prayer, how You prayed before every decision, how You depended constantly on prayer, we realize how seldom we pray and how often we make decisions without asking for Your guidance. Be with us as we focus on what Your Word tells us about prayer. In Your Holy Name, Amen.

Psalm 4:1

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

Luke 6:12

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. As you reflect on the above verses, which one speaks to you?
2. When has prayer been most meaningful to you?
3. What or who would you like for us to include in our closing prayer?