

"How Can We Pray for You?"

Here are some more ways a small group can close in prayer. These methods of prayer are more appropriate for groups who have been together for several weeks, or groups who are already comfortable with praying out loud.

Choose one of these methods of prayer and end your meeting in that manner.

1. Sentence prayers are an easy way to begin praying out loud in a group. The group stands or sits in a circle and can hold hands if they want to. The leader begins the prayer time by saying, "Lord, today I'm thankful for ..." Then other group members start the same way, but add what they are thankful for, either one word or one sentence. The leader closes the prayer time when it seems everyone has had a chance to pray. Other sentence prayers include,

"Lord, I want to praise you for...

"Lord, I need help...

"Lord, show me what to do about ...

"Lord, there is someone who needs your help ...

2. The group leader writes down the prayer requests as they are shared. After prayer requests have been shared, the leader asks the group members to pray for particular requests. For example, the leader might say, "Who would like to pray for ____'s search for God's will?" This is done until every prayer concern has been chosen.

The leader begins the prayer time and then those group members who have volunteered to pray for specific prayer requests take turns praying for those requests. "Who prays when" can be determined by moving around the circle from the leader's right or left. The leader closes the prayer time when everyone who agreed to pray has done so.

A variation of this method is to have the leader open the prayer time and pray for each of the prayer requests that were mentioned. However, after praying for each prayer request, the leader pauses, giving the other group members an opportunity to add their prayers to that particular concern.

3. You can pray out loud for the person on their right or left. For best results, the group should hold hands. The leader will begin the prayer time and, when finished, should squeeze the hand of the person on his/her left, letting that person know they are finished. Each person in the group prays for a group member and then squeezes the hand of the next person so they will know it is their turn. If someone does not want to pray out loud, they can pray silently and then squeeze the hand of the next person when they are finished. The leader closes the prayer time when everyone has had a chance to pray.

4. Other options for prayer include:

- . asking group members to keep a prayer journal, so they can look up requests and pray for each other
- . praying in response to items in the church bulletin or local newspapers
- . meeting in pairs during the week to pray for each other