

# How to lead a prayer meeting

Matthew 6:5-9

- how not to pray – showing off, long prayers, babbling, piling up empty phrases
- “Our” – corporate
- “Father” – talk to him as you would to a father in normal language
- make specific requests

1 John 5:14 – pray according to his will = according to Scripture rightly understood – so make sure you know which promises of the Bible are really for us and which we can claim in prayer

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

- we are a body – closer than family
- to suffer and rejoice together there must be communication, openness, genuine sharing of personal issues, struggles, feelings (counter-cultural) – we need to create safe places in our fellowships and prayer meetings for such sharing

1 Corinthians 14:13-19

- What is the answer to v16?
- The clear expectation of people praying in a language that others can understand, of others listening in and owning the prayer with an ‘Amen’ together. (Does not mean that there cannot be ‘parallel praying’ (everyone praying at once) but mix it up – good to have times of small group prayer and large group; everyone praying together and at other times people praying one by one and saying Amen.)
  - o uninterpreted tongues should not be in the public prayer meeting (v28)
  - o no vernacular when some cannot understand
  - o not spiritual jargon
- because there is a horizontal purpose – v17 – to build up

## Preparation

Preparation and thought do not exclude being led by the Spirit – 1 Cor. 14:15, 33

1. Structure:
  - a. Bible → Prayer
  - b. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
  - c. Leaders (1 Tim. 2), Church/mission (e.g. Col. 4:3-4), One another (e.g. Col. 1:9-12)
2. Gathering prayer points/requests and thinking about how to communicate/present them as creatively and clearly as possible

## Leading

One focus – get us actually PRAYING – maximise the time spent actually in prayer