

# Sharing & Praying

## Start a Small Prayer / Accountability Group

*“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” - 1 John 3:2*

*“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 1:6*

**God wants us to help one another become our future glory-selves** — the new creations that He will eventually make us. We can do so by spurring one another toward love and goodness (Hebrews 10:24), affirming each other's gifts, and holding each other accountable to grow out of our sins (Hebrews 3:13). Through the power of God's grace, we can speak the truth in love, confess, and forgive.

**Use the tips below** with a friend to help center your conversations on God. You can also use it to start a **gender-based prayer group** of two to four people that meets regularly (e.g. weekly, monthly). If you're in a Community Group, see if they're interested in creating smaller prayer groups that gather outside of regular group time.

### 1. Remember that God is at the center.

Start by asking questions such as:

- How are you and God doing?
- What do you think God is showing you about Himself lately?
- What is God teaching you? What might He want you to unlearn?

### 2. As each person shares, listen actively and avoid solving the other person's problems.

Point each other to God by asking questions such as:

- How do you think God is working in this situation?
- How is God encouraging you through this? Sharpening you?

### 3. Listen to the Holy Spirit.

Trust that He is guiding us and giving us wisdom to speak God's truths, in love, into one another's lives.

### 4. After sharing, briefly record prayer requests and pray for one another.

Trust that God is growing and maturing us as we seek Him wholeheartedly. Refer back to these requests at the next gathering.

# Together in Prayer

## A Simple Way to Pray in Small Groups

As you pray in community, use the style of **conversational prayer**. It emphasizes the art of **listening** — to the Holy Spirit and to one another.

Its use of short, focused prayers **prevents** anyone from **dominating** with long, lofty monologues or covering all the prayer requests in one breath. It is also **more inviting** to those who are **shy or new** to prayer and encourages them to pray out loud.

### It's easy! Just remember to...

- Keep each prayer **short** (1-3 sentences) and **focused** on just one thought.
- **Listen actively** to the person praying.
- **Build upon** the prayers of one another, so that you are knitting the short prayers into a broader and deeper one.
- If a **scripture** comes to mind, do pray it. This is often how the Holy Spirit edifies our prayers.

### Also...

- Don't take time to share prayer requests unless very briefly. Let them come out as you pray.
- Use everyday language and pray spontaneously, not in a circle.
- Don't close each short prayer in "Jesus' Name, amen." This fosters continuity and the leader will close the entire prayer time at the end.

**For example**, a conversational prayer might sound something like this:

- *1st person*: "Lord, You are a sovereign God."
- *2nd person*: "Yes, Lord, You are in complete control and have authority over all things."
- *3rd person*: "And God, You are in control of our lives. You know our past, present, and future. Please help us to rest and trust in You."
- *4th person*: "Lord, would you help Jane to rest and trust in You as she struggles with.... Help her to trust You with all her heart and lean not on her own understanding."

### Prayer Tip

As seen in this example, begin your prayer time with **adoration**, praising God for who He is (His **attributes**).

As you pray, also bring in His **promises, commands, and desires**. Doing so will help align your hearts to His and transform your requests.