

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.

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