

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread,
And forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our
debtors.
And lead us not into
temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and
the power and the glory,
forever.

Amen

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV



The Church Revealed
A study in the book of Acts

Central Fellowship Baptist Church Winter 2021

Why Learn, Listen and Pray in Groups?

“To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, wholly dependent on God for everything.” (Timothy Keller)

Prayer shows our dependency on God. We realize that we are limited in what we can do but God is unlimited in what He can do. Listening to God through reading and reflecting on the Scripture is a major way that God speaks to us. Sharing our learnings with one another helps to build up the unity in the church even in our diversity. Praying out what God is teaching us brings our need for Him to the forefront and confirms our need for Him. Sharing our needs and joys with one another also helps us grow in our love for each other.

Praying in groups is powerful – “So Peter was kept in prison, but **the church** was earnestly praying to God for him.” Acts 12:5

We agreed that we “Pray First” as a church! This will strengthen this discipline that says we don’t act before God speaks.

How Do We Begin?

Listening, learning and praying together is a way to see Spiritual Renewal for our church and for you personally. It is a spiritual exercise of listening to God, learning from the Holy Spirit and engaging with Him in conversation. This is the heart of our spiritual life.

Small Group Guidelines

- **Confidentiality** – What is shared in the group stays in the group (unless someone might harm themselves or someone else).
- **Commitment** – We agree to make meeting with our small group a priority and will be at times that are agreed upon by the group.
- **Connection** – We agree to share our own thoughts and feelings. We will avoid talking about others.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12 NIV

Respond to what God has said to you.

- Pray into the things that God has shown you.
- Pray the passage of Scripture for your group members
- Pray the passage of Scripture for your church leaders and ministries.

How to Pray

Prayer is simply communication with God.

Listen and respond.

Speak to Him as you would to someone who loves you and who you love; listen to the Word and the Spirit. I read God’s words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit impresses His thoughts and desires upon my heart. God and I discuss what He wants to talk about and I ask questions and listen. I pay attention to what God draws my attention to while reading His Word and then ask Him questions about what He is saying, why He impressed that truth on my mind and how it applies in my life.

Pray using Scripture. Pray, claiming the promises of God.

Example: “...wait for the gift my Father promised,…” Acts 1:7

“God, help us to wait for your timing and your direction and your gift.”

Pray, knowing that God is powerful. Pray bold prayers that only God can answer - healing for broken relationships, healing for broken bodies, and that God's kingdom would come on earth.

... confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 NIV

January 10th Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20

The Purpose and Power of the Church

ON YOUR OWN

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Write down what you heard the Spirit say to you through the passage.

- What truth is presented in this teaching that I should consider more carefully?
- How should this teaching affect my relationship with God?
- How should this teaching affect my relationship with others? Both those I know well and those I don't?

- How should this teaching impact my efforts to obey the great commission to go and make disciples?
- What is God asking me to do in response to this teaching?
- What challenges need prayer? What are you thankful for?
- What is God asking you to pray for your church?

Together in Your Group

Listen

- **To Each Other (10 minutes)**

Q: How has my week been? What challenges have I faced? What joys have I experienced? How is my relationship with God been? Where have I seen God working?

- **To God (5 minutes) Read the Scripture out loud**

Speak (20 minutes) share what God has shown you in this passage from your "On Your Own" work.

Engage (10+ minutes)

- Pray for the things that God has shown you.
- Pray for each other regarding what was shared.
- Pray for your church.

January 17 Acts 2:1-40

A New Way: The Holy Spirit Comes

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January 24 Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:11-16

Practical, Powerful Spirit Living

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January 31 Acts 4:1-31; John 14:23-31

Opposition Opposed

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February 7 Acts 4:32-5:11

The Power of Unity: Resources Empowered

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February 14 Acts 5:12-42

Healing and Hardship

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February 21 Acts 6:1-15; 7:54-60

Serving and Suffering

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February 28 Acts 8:1-25

Positive Persecution

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March 7 Acts 8:1-25

The Gospel Explosion

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March 14 Acts 9:1-19

A Hard Heart Transformed

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March 21 Acts 10:1-48

A Change in Perspective

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March 28 Acts 11:1-18

Unity Threatened and Restored

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