

GOALS FOR THE GROUP LEADER

Help the group members to use the Bible in their prayers

I. WORSHIP (14 min.)

1. Prayer

Pray that God will guide us through his Spirit; that we will be aware of his presence and that we will listen to what he says.

2. Meditation

Worship is to thank God for all his benefits.

Theme: To thank God for all his benefits

Read the Bible verses mentioned below and the explanation. Or explain the verses in your own words.

Psalm 103:1-5

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
² Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- Consider a few benefits with which God blessed your life.
- Take turns and share one of these benefits with your group members

3. Worship

Let everyone in the small group take a turn to thank (in one or two sentences) God for one of his benefits in life.

II. INTRODUCTION THEME (1 min.)

The theme for this meeting is: Bible prayer

Read or explain in your own words.

The apostles used God's words in their prayers and taught Christians to pray in accordance with God's words.

III. SHARING OF QUIET TIMES (30 min.)

Let everyone in the small group take a turn to share (or read) what he has learned from one of the assigned quiet times.

Theme: Making use of the Bible to pray

- Day 1 Psalm 31:1-24
Prayer in times of affliction
- Day 2 Psalm 139:1-7,23-24
Prayer to examine self
- Day 3 Psalm 51:1-13
Prayer to confess sin
- Day 4 Psalm 15:1-5
Prayer to change
- Day 5 Psalm 103:1-14.
Prayer to praise God
- Day 6^{BS} Romans 12:9-21
Making use of Bible teachings to pray.
Practise with Romans 12:9-21
- Day 7 Psalm 94:1-23
Prayer calling down God's judgement
- Day 8 Psalm 20:1-5
Prayer invoking God's blessing
- Day 9 1 John 5:13-17
Praying in accordance with God's Word
- Day 10 Psalm 25:1-15
Prayer to submit to God's way

IV. ADDITIONAL SHARING (15 min.)

Part IV is optional.
If after sharing quiet times there is still time left over, the following may serve as subjects for conversation.

1. Discussing the study

Discuss the study with reference to the questions mentioned below:

Theme: Praying God's Word

- Why should we use God's words in our prayers?
- How can we practically use God's words in our prayers?
- Which Bible passages could we use in our prayers?
- May Christians call down a curse or judgement upon other people in their prayers?

2. Commitment

Let the group members consider the following question and record its answer:

- "How would you use the Bible in your prayers?"

3. Personal sharing

Discuss personal growth and commitment. Who would like to share a difficulty or blessing in his/her personal life? What are your thoughts or feelings?

V. MEMORISATION (5 min.)

1. Review of previous Bible verses

Let pairs of group members review each other's previously memorised Bible verses (the last memorised Bible verse or the last 5 memorised Bible verses).

2. Memorisation of the new Bible verse

Explain the meaning of the new Bible verse.

PRAYING GOD'S WORD 1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have
in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will,
he hears us.
1 John 5:14 (NIV)

VI. BIBLE STUDY (45 min.)

Theme: Making use of God's words in prayer

1. Bible Study

Make use of the 5 step method and study:

Psalm 15:1-5. A prayer about changing

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The one whose walk is blameless,

who does what is righteous,

who speaks the truth from their heart;

³ whose tongue utters no slander,

who does no wrong to a neighbour,

and casts no slur on others;

⁴ who despises a vile person

but honours those who fear the LORD;

who keeps an oath even when it hurts,

and does not change their mind;

⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;

who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things

will never be shaken.

Psalm 101:1-5. A prayer about dedication

¹ I will sing of your love and justice;

to you, LORD, I will sing praise.

² I will be careful to lead a blameless life—

when will you come to me?

I will conduct the affairs of my house
with a blameless heart.

³ I will not look with approval
on anything that is vile.

I hate what faithless people do;

I will have no part in it.

⁴ The perverse of heart shall be far from me;

I will have nothing to do with what is evil.

⁵ Whoever slanders their neighbour in secret,

I will put to silence;

whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,

I will not tolerate.

Romans 12:9-21. A prayer about relationships

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2. Emphasis

Divide the time for Bible study
into about three equal parts.

➤ Let someone read the Bible passage

➤ Discuss the questions that arise

➤ Let the group members pray two by two and take turns to pray through one Bible verse

3. Explanation for the group leader

Psalm 15:1-5. A prayer about changing

God's tent and holy mountain (verse 1) refer to the tabernacle (temple) standing on Mount Zion.

"Who despises a vile man" (verse 4a) is the man who deliberately persists in doing sin and consequently has been rejected by God (cf. 1 John 3:6-9). 'To despise' means 'to not honour' (verse 4b).

Psalm 101:1-4. A prayer about dedication

Also you may pray, “I will set before my eyes no vile thing” (verse 3) and “I will have nothing to do with evil” (verse 4b).

Romans 12:9-21. A prayer about relationships

‘Brotherly love’ (verse 10) is that intimate love reserved for brothers and sisters in the community of Christians. A confidential relationship in especially moral and spiritual issues is only possible with other Christians. Personal issues like ‘falling in love’ or secret sins are best discussed only with a mentor who is a Christian. Christians experience the same bond with each other in Christ and seek one another’s welfare. Christians must morally and spiritually keep a healthy distance from unbelievers and non-Christians.

“Heaping burning coals on the head” (verse 20) was an old Assyrian custom in which burning asphalt was poured on the head of a prostitute. Here it has figurative meaning for causing that person to be ashamed by answering his action of revenge by doing good to him. You conquer evil by doing good and this causes the other person to feel a burning remorse and to get a red face of shame.

VII. PRAYER (8 min.)

Pray with one another in response to what God said to you during this gathering. Let every group member take a turn to pray one or two sentences about what God taught him during this meeting.

Pray with one another for one another (Romans 15:30) and for other people (Colossians 4:12).

VIII. THE NEXT MEETING (2 min.)

Hand out the preparation for the next gathering.