

Small Group Prayer Training – One-pager

Acts 13:1-3

GOALS – experiencing just one of these makes it all worthwhile ☺

Enjoy God's Love

- To have our hearts tenderized by God's love & become convinced that our identity is who He says we are – His beloved children

Invite His Presence

- Even the simple sacrifice of one hour of time attracts the attention of the One who is enthroned in our praise

Partner with Jesus in Prayer

- To feel what God feels, think what He is thinking, see what He is doing, and join with Him

Follow the Flow of the Spirit

- To stay attentive to the Holy Spirit, who blows like a wind – He cannot be manipulated, but He can be followed

ATTITUDES – these will strengthen your heart over months & years

Expectancy

- You should cultivate an expectation that we will leave after the hour more energized than when we started – because we heard God, and/or felt His presence, and/or received Joy, and/or were strengthened with grace to pray

Servant Leadership

- There's no need for the leader to perform or show off excellent prayer skills – instead you should recognize that you are leading well when everyone is participating, engaged, and aware that it is important they are part of the session

Recognition of Impact

- Know that even if it's only you, just one person showing up is a huge win before the throne of God – your intention to serve Him impacts His heart, and your requests before Him impact world history (some day you'll see it fully!)

Even in Your Weakness, You are Lovely!

- God will not be surprised when you make mistakes, offend people, miss the Holy Spirit, or lead poorly. Even in your immaturity as a leader He calls you lovely and clean because you have set your heart to love and serve Him – so don't be afraid to fail!

Austin House of Prayer



PRACTICES – the basics of what to do (keep it simple)

Show Up Early (& Prepared)

- Be at least 10 minutes early to prepare the space, meet anyone who comes early, and settle your heart. It helps to arrive with at least one theme / scriptural prayer in mind.

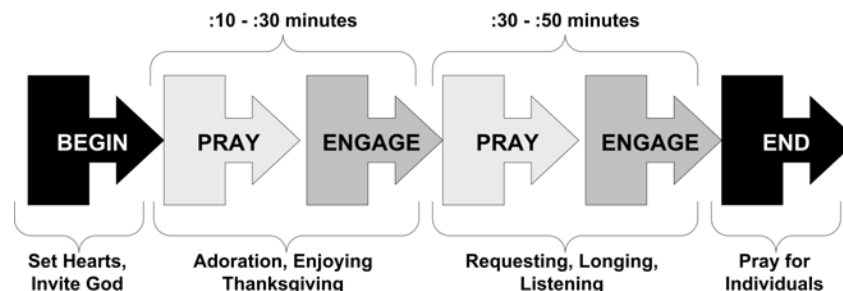
Communicate Clearly

- Those who come really want you to tell them what to do! At the beginning of the prayer time welcome them & tell them the basic direction you'll be taking. Throughout tell them how to participate – like "Please pray whatever is on your heart, out loud" or "For the next 10 minutes we will be silent before God, seeking to hear His voice in our hearts." At the end, be sure to thank them and encourage them.

Start with the Model (below) & Watch for the Spirit

- Use the model outlined below to structure your time. Look & listen for the Holy Spirit to give energy to a particular prayer, anoint a certain song, or settle in a hush over the group – and when this happens linger in it and extend it as long as it lasts! Then go back to the model and start another cycle. Don't feel like you have to stay exactly on schedule to the minute – the model exists to help you, you are not its slave!

SMALL GROUP MODEL – for one hour of prayer



PRAY: use biblical prayers from the AHOP prayer book – they are great prayers that God intentionally put in His word, and they are safe to pray for any Christian tradition. Can be open-ended or you can set a theme, e.g. "for students at McCallum high school."

ENGAGE: praise & worship, silence/listening/journaling, read scripture out loud, posterboard "art wall", pray in pairs, pray Korean-style (loud), use a map, light candles, etc.