



FACILITATING CORPORATE PRAYER ON FIRE FULFILLMENT

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*"O magnify the Lord with me
And let us exalt His name together!"
Psalm 34:3*

Everyone serving in the College of Prayer needs to learn how to facilitate Christ-encountering prayer—prayer on fire!

Objectives of this Teaching

- » To learn how to facilitate every portion of Christ-encountering corporate prayer during College of Prayer modules.
- » To learn to facilitate the Lord's Prayer Pattern in corporate prayer.
- » To learn how to impart these principles to other pastors and leaders.

"Prayer is what we do. It is our initiative to meet God, whether we are asking for favors, singing in celebration, or crying out in distress. Regardless of what shape or size it comes in, prayer is our effort to engage God. Fire, on the other hand, is what God does. It is God's initiative to meet us. Fire comes when the self-revealing God chooses to give us a glimpse of His character, His activity, His purposes, or His presence. We experience fire when He takes the paper-thin membrane that separates heaven and earth in His hands and tears it from top to bottom, enabling us to look inside and give us the privilege of seeing Him firsthand. Point-blank, fire is the manifest presence of God. Because prayer is what we do, and fire is what God does, prayer on fire is what happens when what we do and what God does slams together." (Prayer on Fire, p. 15-16)

A. Christ-encountering Principles in the Lord's Prayer Pattern

1. First things first.

All prayer starts with relationship—"Our Father in Heaven." Always begin prayer by leading the group to encounter the Father love of God.

2. Clear the atmosphere.

The name of Christ is a high tower and we enter His presence by declaring His name—*"Hallowed be Your Name."*

3. The kingdom builds a big tent.

Once we encounter His love and come under His name we call down His manifest presence and His kingdom—*"Your kingdom come."*

4. Utilize the power of declarations.

The entire Lord's Prayer is declarative. *"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:2*

5. Activate receptors.

The entire Lord's prayer is receiving—the first six portions. In the seventh, we give it all back to Christ—*"Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory."* Every time someone receives in prayer they are encountering Christ.

6. Stimulate interaction.

The entire Lord's Prayer is corporate—*"Our Father," "Our daily bread," "Our debts."* Change up the format to give everyone in the group an easy entry point. Divide up into groups of two or three. Provide times for unison prayer, corporate prayer, and listening to one person pray at a time.

7. Be creative.

While the Lord's Prayer gives a life-giving structure, it is short and sweet and gives plenty of opportunity to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in order to lead the group in fresh and relevant Christ-encountering prayer. Remain flexible at all times. Listen for the promptings of the Holy Spirit and follow His lead.

B. Some Specifics

1. Toward the beginning of major sessions always pray for protection, direction, and revelation.

Protection from the evil one.

Direction from the Holy Spirit.

Revelation of Christ.

2. Use the Lord's Prayer Pattern.

At virtually every module, we have found it highly beneficial to invest a full 1-2 hour session to prayer through the Lord's Prayer Pattern. Even when you are not intentionally using the full Lord's Prayer Pattern, it is always beneficial to utilize at least the first 3 portions—relationship, worship, lordship—at the beginning of any major session.

3. Christ-encountering worship and prayer sets the table for teaching.

You never want to teach into an unprepared atmosphere. Receptors are activated in prayer and remain attentive into the teaching.

4. Respond appropriately.

Immediately following teaching it is critical to know the appropriate response and application to the message.

5. Coach, train, and activate others.

Both those on your team and those on the Servant Leadership Team of the campus you are serving need your coaching. It is more important for you to activate others to facilitate Christ-encountering prayer than it is to do it all by yourself. Don't miss the opportunity to empower and train others. Prior to any module do a 2 minute briefing with both your fellow team members and those on the Servant Leadership Team of the local campus. Immediately following the sessions, do a debriefing. Ask for feedback. Respond to questions. Help them process.

6. Ask for the nations.

Every effective Upper Room prayer gathering moves toward and culminates with an extended stimulating and strategic time of corporate unison prayer asking for the nations. This is critical. Be bold. Be declarative. Be biblical. Be persistent. Be a blessing.

7. It all comes down to impartation.

While the goal is empowering everyone for the ministry for which they go back to, it is critical to begin the opening session not with their assignment, but with their God. High worship on the final session of impartation is just as critical as high worship during the opening session. Seek Christ. Seek His face. Open the door to Him and He will clearly instruct everything He wants covered and the proper sequence for the impartation time. Follow the fire of His leadership. Allow the Holy Spirit to take you to places you've never been before. He will identify the targets and the groupings of people over whom you will pray and the proper sequence to follow. You want to culminate this time with a celebratory song and a spoken word of blessing over the group. Be sure to give Christ all the glory. There is no limit to what God can do through us as long as we give Him all the glory.

C. Using the Lord's Prayer Pattern as a Template for Corporate Prayer

RELATIONSHIP *Our Father in Heaven*

WORSHIP *Hallowed by Your Name*

LORDSHIP *Your kingdom come, Your will be done*

SONSHIP *Give us, forgive us*

FELLOWSHIP *As we forgive others*

LEADERSHIP *Lead us, deliver us*

OWNERSHIP *Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever*

Also see the 3 other teaching attached:

15 Principles to Facilitate High Worship (as edited March 15, 2012)

Leading God Encountering Prayer Gatherings (October 15, 2012)

Leading a Healthy College of Prayer Module (Lesson 7 Advanced Leadership Training Guidebook)

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