



LESSON SEVEN

Leading a Healthy College of Prayer Module

It is an honor to facilitate a College of Prayer module where pastors and leaders will be led to a fresh encounter with God. It should not be entered into casually. The following are guidelines that will help you facilitate a healthy College of Prayer module.

A. Prior to the Module

1. Pray

Every Servant Leadership Team member should pray for protection, direction, and revelation, and request their Prayer Shield to do the same. We desperately want the presence of Christ.

2. Plan

- The Servant Leadership Team must meet to schedule the module, and to designate roles, responsibilities, and assignments. Immediately prior to the module, they should meet again to review these so that everyone is on the same page.
- Alternate Fullness and Fulfillment

Each of our three years of curriculum is structured with five lessons on fullness and five lessons on fulfillment. Part of the genius of the College of Prayer is based on a balance between both fullness (the infilling of the Holy Spirit in us) and fulfillment (the outworking of the Holy Spirit through us). Many prayer ministries emphasize one to the exclusion of the other; we, however, embrace both. Each year of our curriculum maintains this balance, as well. As you plan your two modules each year, it is important to alternate the emphasis between fullness and fulfillment. At the first module each year, emphasize fullness and at the second module emphasize fulfillment. If you only hold one module each year, you will need to carefully include both.

3. Promote

- Promote broadly using the widest network of relationships possible, targeting denominational leaders, influential pastors, business leaders, and young adults . We want to cast a big net including both men and women
- Promote personally. Each member of the Servant Leadership Team is responsible for personally inviting 20 people.
- Promotion should begin at least three months prior to the event. See Count Down below.
- A different promotional piece should be sent out at least once a month.

College of Prayer Module Promotion Count Down

*Pre-plan dates and topics at least one year in advance and submit for website posting.
(Three years advanced schedule is prepared.)*

13 weeks prior

- Servant Leadership Team meets to discuss the module agenda and any questions or concerns.
- Confirm venue and speaker.

12 weeks prior

- Complete brochure and all content updates for website.
- Decide on any special pricing and discount codes for online registration.

11 weeks prior

- Print brochures and begin distributing to key contacts and Servant Leadership Team. This could include mailing brochures.

8 weeks prior

- Send out first e-news blast invitation.

6 weeks prior

- Send out second e-news blast invitation.
- Every Servant Leadership Team member calls all key contacts.

4 weeks prior

- Send out third e-news blast invitation.

3 weeks prior

- Send out fourth e-news blast (make sure to promote any final early-bird deadlines).

2 weeks prior

- Send out fifth e-news blast invitation.

1 week prior

- Send out sixth and final e-news blast invitation.

4. Literature

The College of Prayer is committed to distributing quality Christian teaching material. Our primary material is our three-year curriculum which should be used during at least one of the two modules each year. This is supplemented by other books we recommend. Some campuses require additional reading. (See Supplement C: The College of Prayer Recommended Booklist).

[Note: It is the responsibility of the Leadership Team to insure the doctrinal purity of teaching at every College of Prayer campus so that what is taught on each campus be in accord with the teaching of the Scriptures. While it is the responsibility of the local campuses to choose every speaker and/or recommended reading requirement, the Leadership Team of the College of Prayer International reserves the right to have final oversight of what is taught and to intercept and remove any teaching that is, in its judgment, not in accord with Scripture.]

5. Establish an Audit Team.

Recruit and appoint an Audit Team who will objectively record their observations of the module on the Audit Form at each module. They have no authority but they serve each local campus as an additional set of eyes and they provide quality assurance. The Audit Form should be returned to the Regional Director with the Module Report Form.

6. Seating

The configuration of the seating is highly important. Students should sit facing each other in a round or oblong circle with the inner circle having approximately 15-20 seats surrounded by concentric circles of chairs. This gets difficult with crowds of 300 or more, but it is highly important for groups of 300 or less to be seated in the round.

(The rationale for this is that it puts the focus on Jesus, not on the presenter; it puts everyone on equal footing so that everyone's prayers are important; it encourages everyone to participate freely and not to wait for the upfront leader. Jesus said, "When two or three are gathered, there I am in the midst." Seating in the round visually communicates this truth ... we are all looking to Christ who is in the middle of our gathering.)

B. During the Module

1. Servant Leadership Team Responsibilities

The Servant Leadership Team should meet each day of the module for prayer and briefing to make sure every team member understands their assignment. The Servant Leadership Team should share victories, solve problems, and discuss what God yet wants to accomplish.

Make sure every Servant Leadership Team member is well-cared for and that they are relationally and emotionally connected with the rest of the team. Listen to what the Holy Spirit may be saying to different members, express the importance of every member, and make sure that you are corporately following the leading of the Lord. The Servant Leadership Team should meet with the presenter immediately prior to and during the module so that the team is tracking together.

2. The Three Essential Elements of a Module

Each module should give equal time to three vital elements:

(1) Intercession: prayer, worship, and intercession

(2) Instruction: Biblical Kingdom teaching

(3) Interaction: with each other in GAP groups (Growth, Accountability, and Prayer) or other discussion groups.

(1) Intercession. We spend approximately one-third of each module in worship, prayer, and intercession.

A. The Manifest Presence - Always cultivate the manifest presence of Christ so that we lead every student to a fresh encounter with the holiness of God.

B. Leading of the Holy Spirit - Deliberately discern and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, it is important to begin each session by asking people to pray for three things: (1) protection, (2) direction, (3) revelation.

– **Protection** - God gains so much ground from the evil one and the Kingdom of God expands so rapidly during the College of Prayer module, there are times when the

enemy will manifest. For this reason, we want to pray protection from the evil one for ourselves, our families, our businesses, and our home churches.

- **Direction** - We earnestly want the direction of the Holy Spirit. During the module it is important that we give everyone an opportunity to pray. It is helpful to tell the group as we begin to pray, "Now if you have a prayer to pray, pray it. If you have a song to sing, sing it. If you have a scripture, feel free to read it." This gives opportunity for maximum participation.
- **Revelation** - We want to ask in prayer that Christ be revealed. The Apostle Paul frequently asked for revelation. *"I keep asking... that He may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know Him better."* (Ephesians 1:17)
- C. Ask God for the Nations – All healthy prayer meetings where the Holy Spirit is in charge will eventually ask God for the nations.

(2) Instruction. We spend approximately one-third of each module in Biblical teaching and instruction.

Our curriculum follows a three year rotation, with a different emphasis each year.

Year One, *"Lord Teach Us to Pray"*

Year Two, *"Lord, as Husbands and Wives and Families, Teach Us to Pray"*

Year Three, *"Lord, as Local Churches and Workplaces, Teach Us to Pray"*

It is essential that we utilize our core curriculum. Since we offer two modules each year, there is certainly opportunity to supplement the curriculum with other good Biblical teaching within the topic. All teaching should lead students to an encounter with Christ and should result in obedience and life transformation.

(3) Interaction. We spend approximately one-third of each module in group discussion. GAP groups - Growth, Accountability, and Prayer groups are a powerful interaction tool for us to talk with each other. Groups of 4-6 people meet together led by a trained GAP leader, under the supervision and mentorship of the Servant Leadership Team GAP leader. Men meet with men, and women with women to avoid any impropriety and foster true accountability in applying what God is revealing to individuals. Debrief what you have learned in a GAP group or break-out discussion group. Because we learn so rapidly during the College of Prayer and because Christ is doing so much in our inner lives, unless we talk about it, it is difficult to retain the gains. For this reason we encourage GAP groups to meet during lunch or even immediately following the teaching during the session. In some cases, these GAP groups may naturally lead to continued mentorship opportunities between modules. If GAP groups are not possible due to size, space, or time, you may simply direct your students to turn toward each other in groups of 3-4 and have them talk to each other in break-out discussion groups. "One thing I just learned during this session is..." or "One thing God spoke to me about was..." or "One thing I am going to take back and put into practice in my ministry is..." Talking to each other during the modules about what we are learning is required.

Affinity groups – Schedule a breakout session for affinity groups. Allow pastors and wives and church workers to meet together; for intercessors to meet together; for business and workplace leaders to meet together. Each of these distinct affinity groups need to be validated as having a vital place in the College of Prayer and they each need to be empowered, equipped, and emboldened for ministry in their distinct sphere of influence.

3. Five Essential Stages of Encountering God’s Manifest Presence

It is critical that every module flows through five essential stages of encountering God:

- (1) high worship
- (2) deep repentance
- (3) receiving forgiveness from sin and freedom from demonic strongholds
- (4) being filled with the Holy Spirit
- (5) being empowered for ministry back home.

Take your time. Seek the Lord. You need flexibility to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While you will always have an agenda to the module, be sure to adjust the agenda according to the Holy Spirit. Give the Holy Spirit the right to change your plans ... He usually does. SMILE.

As important as it is to have good Biblical teaching, it is equally important to build the upper room environment and cultivate the manifest presence of Christ before the teaching at every session. When the teaching follows such worship, the students are keenly aware of the manifest presence of God and the Holy Spirit sets truth on fire. Learning and retention of the material takes place at a much higher rate in a prayer-filled environment. People are able to concentrate and retain more information once they have encountered Christ. This is the way Jesus did it, and this is the way we want to do it at the College of Prayer. (This is categorically different than most other conferences and seminars. It is highly refreshing and your people will love it. Without this being carefully done, the College of Prayer will simply blend in with every other seminar and we will lose our distinction.)

4. Other Key Elements

1. Repentance

College of Prayer students need to be given the opportunity to repent. This is done in many different ways, but there are certain principles that must be established and maintained.

- a. We want to protect people’s dignity and respect their space. This means we must avoid manipulating people or forcing repentance.
- b. At the same time, we want to give permission for people to repent. An important Kingdom principle is to always give preference to the spirit of contrition. When God brings repentance, our agenda goes out the window, time stands still, and we give as much time as needed for people to fully repent.

2. Ministry Stations

One of the most effective ways to give opportunity for repentance is to establish ministry stations of two people at each station to hear the confession and to pray over the person. These ministry stations are to be located outside of the circle of

prayer in the four corners of the room or just outside the room for privacy sake. As we are worshipping Christ in the circle, we give people permission to step outside to one of these ministry stations to confess sin and receive deliverance from demonic strongholds. We call the larger group to worship and we give people instruction that when Christ points out something in them that is a hindrance to the advancing of Christ's Kingdom in their lives, they go outside the circle to confess their sin.

(The word picture we use is that of a campfire. We keep the fire of worship burning in the middle room and as Christ brings conviction of sin, we go "outside the camp to dump our garbage" at the ministry stations.)

We assign men's stations and women's stations particularly when highly personal information is confessed. We insist that men confess sin to men and women to women to avoid any matters of indiscretion and impropriety particularly over moral issues. If it is possible to have people in those positions from the Servant Leadership Team or from out-of-town, it seems to work more effectively than assigning denominational leaders who might intimidate the people who need to confess sin.

3. Healing
Welcome the healing of Christ at every module. Leaders need healing too. Every College of Prayer module should provide opportunity for healing prayer (healing physically, emotionally, marital, financially, spiritually).
4. Prayers of empowerment, blessing, and impartation should be included in every module. We want to impart God's anointing to every student so that they can return to their ministry setting and say, *"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ."* (Romans 15:29)
5. Communion and foot washing are often appropriate means of encountering Christ and encouraging each other.
6. Announce the next College of Prayer module
It is always preferable to distribute a brochure on the next module including date, location, and topic. In addition be sure to give students opportunity to complete the College of Prayer survey.
7. Ask God for the Nations
At every module we encourage students to join the "Give Us the Nations" Prayer Team. Send the names and email addresses to prayerteam@collegeofprayer.org.
8. "Pass the Torch"
We ask every College of Prayer campus to end their module by praying God's manifest presence into the next College of Prayer module taking place somewhere else in the world. As each Olympic venue passes the torch to the next venue, so does the College of Prayer. (Unlike the Olympics, however, we do not need to extinguish our torch!)

C. Following the Module

1. Module Report Form

It is the responsibility of the Servant Leadership Team to complete the Module Report Form and submit it to the Regional Director. This is required for continuing accreditation. Failure to submit the form will result in the campus losing accreditation.

2. Debrief

It is important to gather the Servant Leadership Team following the module to debrief the previous module and plan the next module.

3. Follow Up

Each Servant Leadership Team member should be given a complete list of names, email, and contact information of each student. The Servant Leadership Team should then divide the list of students among themselves so that every Servant Leadership Team member contacts students between modules. Every student should be contacted by at least one Servant Leadership Team member. This helps fulfill our mission of mentoring pastors and Christian leaders. Without this personal interaction, mentoring will not take place.

Each student should receive a letter or phone call within the first week or two immediately following the module. This is a highly important time as many students have been so vulnerable during the module. It is good to celebrate victories of the module and thank students for their participation. Remind them of the next module.

4. Pray, Pray, Pray.

Before, during, and after the modules, remember prayer is our lifeline. Everything by prayer. Our prayer must never become religious, rigid, or ritualistic. We want our prayer life robust, fresh, alive. From strength-to-strength. Faith-to-faith. Glory-to-glory. Pray with cupped hands. We always want to be receiving fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

 ***Pioneer a new nation; plant a new College of Prayer campus!***



Steps I will take to facilitate a healthy module ... Be specific.


