

How to lead a prayer meeting

Matthew 6:5-9

- how not to pray – showing off, long prayers, babbling, piling up empty phrases
- “Our” – corporate
- “Father” – talk to him as you would to a father in normal language
- make specific requests

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

- we are a body – closer than family
- to suffer and rejoice together there must be communication, openness, genuine sharing of personal issues, struggles, feelings (counter-cultural) – we need to create safe places in our fellowships and prayer meetings for such sharing

1 Corinthians 14:13-19

- What is the answer to v16?
- The clear expectation of people praying in a language that others can understand, of others listening in and owning the prayer with an ‘Amen’ together
- uninterpreted tongues should not be in the public prayer meeting (v28)
- there is a horizontal purpose – v17 – to build up

Preparation

Preparation and thought do not exclude being led by the Spirit – 1 Cor. 14:15

1. Structure:
 - a. Bible → Prayer
 - b. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
 - c. Leaders (1 Tim. 2), Church/mission (e.g. Col. 4:3-4), One another (e.g. Col. 1:9-12)
2. Gathering prayer points/requests and thinking about how to communicate/present them as creatively and clearly as possible

Leading

One focus – get us actually PRAYING – maximise the time spent actually in prayer