

Praying Together

IN OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

by Kath Wells

WHY?

- Harmony—being in agreement with each other—with the Spirit, with the Word of God is an unbeatable combination in finding God’s mind and resources. We must seek this through Word and worship and being willing for our hearts and minds to be changed.
- When Jesus is present, things happen. Learn to cultivate and guard his presence not only on Sundays but during your weekly events and meetings.
- Many of our leadership challenges will need ‘the wisdom that comes from above’ (**James 3:17-18**), because we are handling Kingdom matters. We must be like children in seeking our Heavenly Father’s guidance.
- Discover how *each* person brings discernment, wisdom and direction from the Lord—and ask them to do that. Don’t just settle for ‘everyone takes a turn at doing devotions’.

TIPS

1 Pray to prepare

→ Make time for worship and waiting on God before you do the business. Just one song or CD and praise from a Psalm can bring us into his presence and realign us to God’s Spirit. Learn to linger there and listen for God. Who leads this sort of time well in your team? Let them do it often.

→ Make time to ask and receive what the Lord is impressing on various members of the team before you get into business. He can speak at any time. It could save time for you all in the end!

2 Seek God during your meeting

→ If things get confused or in conflict on the team, agree to worship and wait for God’s direction and leading, either then or at a later time.

→ There will be things that need PUSH prayer (Praying Until Something Happens). Identify them—and decide how you are going to do this. Congregations feel safer and more responsive to leadership when they know their leaders are regularly in prayer, so make prayer spaces a priority in leadership.

3 Pray specifically

→ Be specific in your prayers, not vague. Remember the concept of a boiler room. For example, instead of praying ‘God bless our meeting’, pray specifically: ‘Father, we need to develop a heart for the lost—reveal your heart of love to us’, or ‘we are about to ... prepare hearts for this ...’.

→ Do more than ask—declare the Word of God over situations. Be alert to Scripture that is the Lord speaking his will and purpose for your church. Declare it until it comes to pass. Try declaring it in your auditorium regularly. It will stir your faith! Further insight comes as we do this.

4 Encourage everyone to participate

→ When interceding as a team, make space for each other. Pray short prayers on one topic before moving onto another topic. Many leaders are naturally articulate and can ‘take over’ a prayer time, not allowing others to participate. See this as a shared conversation with your Father. (There is an exception—when a strongly ‘prophetic prayer’ pours out from someone’s spirit and moves us all.)

5 Develop your prayer ministry

→ Once a year, read a book on prayer together (all have a copy), so as leaders you seek to grow in your awareness of the power of prayer for individuals and a congregation.

RESOURCES

Books

- *Spiritual Authority* by Dutch Sheets
- *The Power of a Praying Church* by Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)

Articles from www.prayerchangeslives.org.nz

- *Those Novel Prayer Pauses; Cultivating the Presence of God Together; Devoted to Prayer; Holy Priests Offering Spiritual Sacrifices*

From the Booth College of Mission library

- *Strategic Prayer: Applying the Power of Targeted Prayer* by Smith and Hennen (248.3 SMI)
- *Teaching P.R.A. Y.E.R.* by Brant Baker (248.32 BAK). Excellent teaching and activities to stimulate Psalming, Reconciling, Adoring, Yielding, Entreating, and Realising.
- *People in Prayer* by John White (248.3 WHI). An inspiring study of the prayers of key biblical characters like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Daniel and Hannah. Would be great for a preaching series!

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