

How to Get Everyone to Pray

What happens when group members commit to prayer?

Your relationship with Christ and with each other will deepen.

You will experience spiritual growth.

There is less chance of burnout as you put problems in God's hands and trust His care.

You allow the Holy Spirit to work in your group so your time together is filling and refreshing.

God will answer your prayers in amazing ways, and your faith will increase.

Model it...

1. Be a person of prayer yourself—pray for your members and for who might come to your group in the future, asking God to give you His direction in leading the group. Personal prayers make a public prayer life possible.
2. When you pray out loud in the group, keep your prayers honest, authentic, and from your heart.
3. Basic guide for group prayer:
 - Short prayers create safety.
 - Simple prayers are direct and honest.
 - Spirit-led prayers rely on God's power.
 - Silent prayers are okay for anyone, especially newcomers. (Everyone always prays, some are just silent.)

Keep it safe...

1. Don't call on someone to pray unless you've asked permission beforehand (or you know them well enough to know that they will be okay with it).
2. Try to avoid praying around a circle. Allow members to pray one at a time as they feel led.
 - Not everyone has to pray every time.
 - You can pray more than once during a single prayer time.
3. Respect the intimacy level. As the group grows in deepening relationships, a sense of safety will foster a deeper experience in prayer.
4. Be clear on who will close the prayer time.

Guide the prayer...

1. Give guidelines, but let the Holy Spirit lead.
2. Include prayer each time you meet.
3. Use a variety of praying methods.*

*Suggestions for how to pray in different ways:

1. Pray through a Psalm out loud together.
2. Split in twos and pray for each other.
3. Vary prayer time among the beginning, middle, and closing of the meeting.
4. Pick a portion of Scripture to pray for one another during the week (for example, Col. 1:9 or Eph. 3:14-19).
5. Pray through your group's requests.
6. If someone is in crisis, stop right then and pray for him or her.
7. Pray for Chi Alpha, a country, a family in need, specific seeker-oriented events, or any area for which your group has a passion.
8. Do a study on prayer.
9. Is there someone in your group with the gift of faith or encouragement? Ask that person to be the prayer coordinator, who writes down requests each meeting and keeps track of answers. If a group member has an emergency, he or she can call the prayer coordinator, who will notify all the other members to pray for that person.
10. Praise can be a part of intercession. Is a member in the midst of struggle? Praise God in the struggle (see Psalm 13).
11. Have each member write down requests for the week on a piece of paper, fold the paper, and put it in a hat. Pass the hat, each member agreeing to pray for the person he or she picks and to call to encourage that person during the week.
12. To cut down on the time your group spends talking about prayer requests, give everyone a three-by-five-inch card to write down prayer requests for the week and have them exchange cards with another member of the group.
13. We need to voice our requests from God's perspective and will (John 5:14-15). The next time you are asked to pray for an event, for someone's salvation, or for someone's health, stop and ask your heavenly Father how He sees the situation and what He wants to do in it.