

# STRATEGIC PRAYER

## Praying Through Scripture

Although Scripture was not written for the exact country or people you are praying for, it's still a wonderful tool to pray Scripture over nations and people! Here are a few different ways you can pray through Scripture:

- 1) Read and Pray
  - a. Take turns pray-reading verse-by-verse through a passage (5-8 min.)
  - b. After each verse, pray a prayer inspired by that verse (5-8 min.)
  - c. After each verse is read, the person to the left of the reader prays a prayer inspired by that verse (5-8 min.)
  - d. (optional addition) Emphasize one word as you read through the verses and pray off of the emphasized word.
- 2) P.P.V.: Pray-Per-Verse
  - a. Read through a passage, but after reading each verse, spend 2 min. going around and praying through that verse for the nation/people.

\*Especially look in the Psalms, Isaiah and Jeremiah for good passages to pray through for a nation/people.

## Treasure Hunting the Scriptures

Spend 10-15 minutes searching the Psalms or other parts of the Bible for verses that magnify the greatness of God, then share them aloud with the group and have everyone in the group agree with an audible "Amen", "Yes, Lord" or "Woohoo!"

## Tunnel of Prayer (best with big groups)

Make a tunnel with the group you have (two sides). Have people walk through the tunnel slowly and as they walk past, the people in the tunnel reach out and touch them and pray for them as God leads. (cont'd)

Another option: have each person represent a country and as they walk through, pray over that nation.

## Intentional Listening

- 1) Get into small groups (3-4 people) and each of you choose a nation or people to pray for.
- 2) Spend a minute quieting your hearts and listening for a theme from God to pray for that nation/people (ie the children, the women, the government, etc.)
- 3) Take turns praying (go in a circle if you want!) for your theme one at a time (4-5 min)
- 4) Take turns praying for the theme of the person on your right (4-5 min)
- 5) Choose a theme from your small group for all of you to agree on in prayer and take turns praying for that (4-5 min)
- 6) Go around the room and have each small group share their theme and then pray a short (30 sec-1 min) prayer into their theme.

## Acronymical Prayer

Choose a word or the name of a nation/people, make it into an acronym, and spend 5-6 minutes praying for that aspect of the nation/people!

Or you can make up a word (like *acronymical*), for instance: G.E.H.A.R.P.

Glory of God to permeate the land

Expansion of the Kingdom of God

Hearts and minds to be open to the Gospel

Anointing of the Spirit on the people

Repentance of their sin and turning to Jesus

Prosperity for the people, esp. the poor

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## **“Korean Style” Prayer**

In Korean-style, or Asian-style prayer (I don't know who made that name up), everyone prays at the same time. You can pick a theme and let people pray into it for a set amount of time- 3 minutes or so. Not too long, then people get distracted or bored.

## **Rapid Fire /Popcorn Prayer**

A good way to keep people 'on their toes' while they pray is to keep the prayers moving. Some people have a tendency to pray long, drawn out prayers, which is ok in some cases, but in others it prohibits other people from enjoying sharing what the Spirit is teaching them!

For 3-5 minutes, pick a topic and encourage people to keep their prayers between 10-15 seconds long.

## **Praying In The Middle (best with big groups)**

Get your theme (city/nation/people) and get two people who have a focus of that theme. Make those people stand facing each other with a gap in between them. When the first person begins to pray for their focus (ie the women, the poor, the hungry), anyone else who feels led to agree with them in prayer will come and stand in the middle.

After the first person finishes praying, the person in the middle will begin praying for that same theme. This will repeat until the line is exhausted, upon which the second person begins praying for *their* focus, and the process is repeated.

When one of the first two people is finished, they will step away and another person will step in their place (or they can tap another person to take their place). This is also best kept to quicker prayers (30 seconds to a minute) to keep the lines moving.

## **Suggestions and Notes on Prayer**

### **\*REMEMBER IT IS GOD WHO LEADS\***

These are just a few of the many models that can help facilitate prayer. Ask God to lead you to a passage or theme. Ask Him what He wants you to pray about and be sure to capture and share it!

### **BE CREATIVE**

Sometimes we lay a blank sheet of paper with markers or crayons and encourage people to declare things over that people/nation and write them down. Other times, we have people write down/draw prayer requests for all to see on one board/sheet so that we can all pray into them together.

### **INCLUDE MUSICAL WORSHIP**

Some people have said that they don't pray without musical worship!

### **PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Be encouraged that when you pray, God hears and responds. He can do whatever He wants, but He has told us to ask Him for things (Matt. 21:22, John 14:13)!

### **PRAY WITH EXPECTATION**

If we pray with doubt, we shouldn't expect to get anything. But we need to pray expecting God to do BIG things in our city, in the world, and in unreached people groups. He's a big God, so He deserves us to pray to Him that way!

### **THINK OUTSIDE YOURSELF**

Praying for your family and yourself is great, but don't limit it just to that. "If God said "yes" to every prayer you prayed today, would the world be changed, or would only your world be changed?" Be a world-changer through prayer!