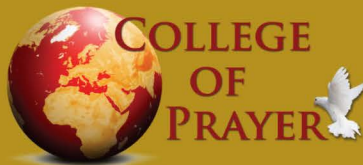


“LORD,

AS CHURCHES,
TEACH US TO PRAY!”



“LORD, AS CHURCHES,
TEACH US TO PRAY”

YEAR THREE NOTEBOOK
SECOND EDITION

“Lord, As Churches, Teach Us to Pray!”

College of Prayer Year Three Notebook, Second Edition

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WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER YEAR 3: LORD, AS CHURCHES, TEACH US TO PRAY!

The vision of the College of Prayer International is to mentor, train and equip Christian pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church. Many groups talk about revival in abstract terms; the College of Prayer, however, is seeing revival happen one life, one family, one church, one region at a time. Our training is patterned after Jesus' model of the Lord's Prayer Pattern. You will follow three years of training because Jesus trained His disciples for three years.

Year 1 – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 – Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 – Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 of the College of Prayer, "Lord, As Churches, Teach Us to Pray," is a perfect way to conclude our three year mentoring training. God's goal is to revive every local church so that through the local church He can reach the final unreached people on earth.

We are now seeing this happen in dozens of nations where we have College of Prayer campuses that provide dynamic, God-encountering environments in which worship, study and mentoring can take place. Unlike conferences, seminars or even prayer summits, the College of Prayer offers a continuity of three years of training in which relationships can be fostered and life-changing kingdom-advancing principles embraced.

» We are a Christ-exalting ministry.

"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29

» We are a Christ-encountering ministry.

"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." Isaiah 6:1

» We are a kingdom-advancing ministry.

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12

Since our beginning in 1997, the College of Prayer International has seen significant growth throughout the world. Requests are constantly coming in from all over the world to launch new campuses. To find a location near you and to learn how to establish a campus in your area, visit our website www.CollegeofPrayer.org.

5 Elements of an Encounter with Christ

Every encounter with God normally contains these 5 elements. Every College of Prayer Module should experience these same elements.

1. High worship
2. Deep repentance
3. Forgiveness of sins and freedom from strongholds
4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. Being empowered for ministry

Three Strategic Prayers

Because Christ will rapidly gain so much ground during the College of Prayer Module and because the enemy will rapidly lose so much ground, it is important for you to begin each session by praying these three strategic prayers of protection, direction, and revelation.

1. Protection – *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Psalms 46:1-2*
2. Direction – *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13*
3. Revelation – *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Ephesians 1:17*

Note to Pastors

We want to bless you and your people. This curriculum was written by pastors for pastors and their people. The College of Prayer serves the local church. We want to serve you. You are probably already too busy with too many demands. We promise you—the College of Prayer will give back to you much more than you invest in it. The College of Prayer is not a prayer seminar or simply a prayer meeting; it is a 2-3 day extended God-encountering gathering patterned after the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This curriculum is a resource for you to use to join Christ in building a praying church. This same curriculum has been field tested all over the world to lead the church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. It is essential for you, as the Pastor-Leader, to encounter the manifest presence of Christ in your own daily prayer time, in order for you to lead others to encounter His manifest presence. God can only do through you what He has done in you. As you gather your people for 2-3 days (approximately 15-18 hours) for the College of Prayer Module, these guidelines will help you as you lead your people to a fresh encounter with Christ. You will engage in 3 activities: (1) intercession (prayer & worship), (2) instruction, and (3) interaction with each other. While you will spend equal time in each of these elements, prayer and worship are unquestionably the most important parts because this is where you encounter the manifest presence of Christ. The manifest presence of

Christ is the power cell of the praying church.

- » You pray toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You teach toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You share and process about your encounter with Christ.

Immediately following strategic times of encountering God, take time for your people to talk to each other. Have them get into groups of 2-3 people and discuss these 2 questions:

1. What did Christ just do in you?
2. What did Christ just teach you that you can take with you from this College of Prayer Module?

Do NOT allow your Module to become just another teaching seminar or just another prayer meeting. The goal is not to teach through every lesson in the exact order at one single Module. The goal is to teach the right lessons under the direction of the Holy Spirit that will most effectively lead your particular group to an encounter with Christ. The College of Prayer is a place where you and your local church will spend extended time together encountering and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ. The Module will help you become a powerful praying church.

Enjoy Year Three of The College of Prayer!

SECTION 1

FULLNESS

THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST REVIVING THE CHURCH

LESSON ONE

HUNGER FOR GOD

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

Hunger for God is a miracle. Because we are born in sin, none of us naturally hunger for God. Paul writes, *"No one seeks after God."* Romans 3:11

For this reason, when we begin to seek God, we know our seeking is the first work of God in us.

1. Hunger for God is the first work of God.

"If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink." John 7:37

Make no mistake about it—hunger for God is not hunger for something **from** God; it is hunger **for** God Himself.

Only God can activate hunger for God. Christ is the one who sounds our appetite alarm!

"No one comes to Me unless the father draws him." John 6:44

2. Spiritual hunger and spiritual health are inseparably linked together.

The hungrier we are for God the healthier we are spiritually.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6

Consider all the Bible champions who hungered for God:

- » David - *"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." Psalm 63:1*
- » Peter - *"Crave the pure spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up into your salvation." 1 Peter 2:2*
- » Jesus - *"Man does not live by bread alone..." Matthew 24:4*
"My food is to do the will of Him who sent me." John 4:34
- » Jesus' Disciples - *"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst." John 4:14;*
"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no life in you." John 6:53

LESSON TWO
THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF
CHRIST

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

The manifest presence of Christ is the power cell of the church. It is vital that we know how to lead people to an encounter with the manifest presence of Christ. We must first be able to distinguish the difference between the omnipresence of God and the manifest presence of Christ.

When Jesus said, *“Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 11:20)*, He could not have been talking about the omnipresence. You can meet in the name of anyone and the omnipresence of God will be there. He was obviously talking about His manifest presence.

Jesus wants every local church to consistently encounter His manifest presence.

OMNIPRESENCE	MANIFEST PRESENCE
Biblical	Biblical
Real	Real
True to God’s nature	True to God’s nature
God is everywhere	God is tangibly perceived
General	Specific
Present to all	Normally for God’s people
Universal	Selective
No prayer required	Normally prayer required
Impersonal	Personal
Abstract	Specific
Obedience not required	Obedience required

A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD

Any Bible reference talking about proximity to God is referring to His manifest presence because you can’t move closer or further from His omnipresence.

“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.” James 4:8

Most every reference to “glory” is a reference to God’s manifest presence.

"The glory of the Lord shone around them." Luke 2:9

Revelatory words from God don't **lead** us to an encounter with God; they **are** an encounter with His manifest presence.

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" Luke 24:32

Every answer to prayer is evidence of God's manifest presence.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

The manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the church to lead us to an encounter with the manifest presence of Christ.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

Every time we gather in His Name, He wants us to encounter His manifest presence.

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

This verse could not refer to His omnipresence because you could meet in the name of Buddha or Mohammed and His omnipresence would be present.

The priests were given authority to declare and impart God's manifest presence to the people.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.' So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." Numbers 6:24-27

ACTION STEPS

Following a healthy extended time of prayer, form small groups of 2-3 people and discuss the following questions:

1. In your own words, define the manifest presence of Christ.
2. How would you describe the differences between the omnipresence and the manifest presence of Christ?

After everyone in your group has shared, begin to worship and exalt Christ.

Now everyone stand and pray together toward an encounter with God's manifest presence.

For further study, read:

Prayer on Fire – What Happens When the Holy Spirit Ignites Your Prayers, Fred A. Hartley, III
God on Fire – Encountering the Manifest Presence of Christ, Fred A. Hartley, III

LESSON THREE

FLAME HOLDERS

"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands [Gk. luxnos]."

Revelation 1:12

"The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands [Gk. LUXNOS] is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." Revelation 1:20

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

Perhaps the most accurate portrait we have of what Jesus Christ looks like today is captured in Revelation 1:12-20. Christ is exalted, ascended, enthroned, anointed, and He is on fire.

- » His eyes are like flames of fire (v. 14).
- » His feet are glowing like bronze in the fire (v. 15).
- » His face is glowing like the sun on fire (v. 16).
- » His hand is holding seven balls of fire (v. 16).
- » He is walking among the flame holders (v. 12).

Not only is Christ on fire, the church is also on fire. The church is a flameholder (Gk. LUXNOS).

This is perhaps the most accurate description of the church found anywhere in the Bible. It is also the most revolutionary. It is the way Christ sees the church, and it is the way we need to see the church.

If the primary role of the church was preaching, Jesus would have been walking among seven pulpits.

If the primary role of the church was small groups, Jesus would have been walking among seven couches.

If the primary role of the church was education, Jesus would have been walking among seven bookshelves.

But Jesus was walking among seven flameholders, because the primary purpose of the church is to receive, sustain, and hold out the flame of the manifest presence of Christ.

LESSON FOUR

THE UPPER ROOM

"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'" Acts 1:4

"When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room [Gk. HUPERON] where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James." Acts 1:13

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

When Christ went to His Upper room in heaven, He sent His disciples to their upper room on earth.

Christ received from the Father the Holy Spirit in His upper room in heaven; we receive from Christ the Holy Spirit in our upper room on earth.

Upper Room [Gk. HUPERON] - An open air space on a rooftop where people would gather socially; normally the largest meeting room in the house.

In the early church the upper room was upper in proximity. For us the upper room can be located anywhere – in the basement or on the back porch – but it is still upper in priority and upper in prominence.

THE UPPER ROOM IS THE CROWN JEWEL OF JESUS' DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

- » Into the upper room God gathers His people.
- » Into the upper room God pours out His Holy Spirit.
- » Out from the upper room God thrusts forth His empowered workers.
- » Out from the upper room He fulfills His purposes.

The tragedy of the modern church is that the highest accomplishment of Christ's leadership among His disciples (the upper room) has become our flagrant omission. Most churches do not even have an upper room.

UPPER ROOMS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- » Peter and John went to pray (Acts 3).

- » The Church prays when Peter and John are released (Acts 4).
- » Peter sees a vision (Acts 10).
- » Antioch (Acts 13).
- » Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16).
- » Every mission trip in the Book of Acts was sent from the upper room.
- » Every church Paul planted was an upper room congregation.

THE UPPER ROOM IS UNIQUE

- » The upper room is the closest place to heaven on earth.
- » Christ's upper room in heaven is command central for the entire universe; our upper room on earth is the place through which God first downloads His kingdom advancing strategies.
- » The upper room is where we fulfill our ultimate assignment on earth—to minister to the presence of Christ.

The upper room is not just another prayer meeting!

FIVE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE UPPER ROOM

The five elements of a physical room correspond with five elements in the upper room.

1. The Door of Humility and Obedience

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait ..." Acts 1:4

"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives ... they went upstairs to the room." Acts 1:12-13

2. The Atmosphere of Unity

"They all joined together." Acts 1:14

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts 2:1

3. The Walls to Remove Distraction

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:14

4. The Floorboards of Anticipation

"Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5

5. The Ceiling of an Open Heaven

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and

LESSON FIVE
MINISTERING TO THE PRESENCE
OF CHRIST

"And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Separate for me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.'" Acts 13:2 (ASV)

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

No matter who you are, your highest calling is to minister to the presence of Christ. Until you embrace this as your first and highest calling, God will not entrust to you your second, third, or fourth assignments.

Learning to minister to the Lord is the line of demarcation of the modern church.

MINISTERING TO THE LORD THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

The Levitical priesthood ministered to the Lord.

"...The LORD chose them [Levites] to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever." 1 Chronicles 15:2 (Also see Deuteronomy 10:8, 1 Samuel 2:11, 1 Chronicles 16:4, Psalm 101:6; 135:1-2, Ezekiel 40:46b; 43:19b)

It is also seen in the early church.

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." Matthew 28:16-17

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:14

"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Acts 2:11

We are priests invited to minister to the Lord.

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5 (Also see 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6; 5:10)

Have you and your church embraced your calling to minister to the presence of Christ?

BUILD A MINISTER-TO-THE-LORD CHURCH

Antioch is an example of a minister-to-the-Lord church (Acts 13:1-3).

Once God teaches you to recognize the manifest presence of Christ, He calls you and your church family to minister to His presence. After God rebuilds your private ministering-to-the-Lord altar, He will rebuild it in your family and in your local church.

1. Establish a prayer team you can mentor to become minister-to-the-Lord disciples.

Just as Christ built minister-to-the-Lord disciples He wants each of us as pastors and leaders to build minister-to-the-Lord disciples. We learn best to pray when we pray with people who know how to pray.

2. Establish a consistent Christ-encountering minister-to-the-Lord prayer meeting for your people.

When you gather for prayer, do not take prayer requests. You already have your assignment — to minister to the presence of the Lord. Once you fulfill this assignment, God will give you other prayer assignments while you're ministering to His presence.

3. Sunday worship should be an opportunity to lead your people to minister to the presence of the Lord.

- » Preach toward an encounter with Christ.
- » Lead worship toward an encounter with Christ.
- » When you encounter Christ, press in and linger in His presence. Use these opportunities to train your people to minister to the presence of Christ.

Everyday ministering to the Lord is our highest calling. No matter what other assignments God gives us, ministering to the Lord is assignment number one.

ACTION STEPS

Now is your opportunity as a group to put into practice ministering to the presence of the Lord. Stand in worship. Sing to the Lord. Declare prayers of praise to the Lord. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

NOTES

LESSON SIX

HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED FELLOWSHIP

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:4

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

A Holy Spirit-filled fellowship is a prayer-filled fellowship.

A prayer-filled fellowship is a Holy Spirit-filled fellowship.

We pray to receive the Holy Spirit.

"If you, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

We receive the Holy Spirit so that we can pray.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Romans 8:26

"Pray in the Spirit ... with all kinds of prayer." Ephesians 6:19

There are many misunderstandings about what it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLING IS NOT

- » NOT simply a one-time filling.
- » NOT a work of man.
- » NOT to make us look better.
- » NOT a formula.
- » NOT simply for the early church.

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLING IS

1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a work of God. See Acts 2-17, 33. We do not do the filling; God does. God fills; we receive.
2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of exalting Christ, not for exalting us.

"He will glorify me." John 16:14

"He will testify about me." John 15:26

3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is on-going and progressive.

Ephesians 5:18 says, *“Be filled with the Spirit.”* This literally means “be being filled.”

4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit makes possible the on-going encounter with the manifest presence of Christ.

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matthew 3:11

5. Being filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to pray effectively.

“In the same way, that Spirit helps us in all our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” Romans 8:26

6. Being filled with the Holy Spirit gives us power to live holy and serve effectively.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

7. Being filled with the Holy Spirit will impact the whole church.

Ephesians 5:18 - Written to the entire church.

Acts 2:4 - Pentecost was corporate.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the will of God not only for every believer but also for every local church.

Notice the full activity of the Triune God in His work of baptizing or filling His people with the Holy Spirit.

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.” Acts 2:32-33

ACTION STEPS

We want to take time to be filled with the Holy Spirit now. Let’s talk through the following process and then make these declarations.

1. Present yourselves holy to Christ.

I present myself to Christ – spirit, soul and body – I am holy to Christ. I hold nothing back. I declare my whole-hearted allegiance to Jesus. He is my Lord and Savior. He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

2. Break ties with the enemy.

I renounce all allegiance to satan, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I break every soul-tie that I have had with anything other than the one, true

SECTION 2

FULFILLMENT

THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY ADVANCING HIS
KINGDOM THROUGH THE CHURCH

LESSON SEVEN
HOW TO BUILD A PRAYING
CHURCH

“Devote [Gk. Proskartereo] yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2

*“All these were devoting [Gk. PROSKARTEREO] themselves to prayer.”
Acts 1:14*

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

When Jesus built His church He built a church devoted to prayer. When the Apostle Paul built his church in the city of Colassae, he built a church devoted to prayer. God does not simply want your church to be a praying church, He wants it to be a church devoted to prayer.

Devoted [Gk. PROSKARTEREO] - to adhere to, lock on and refuse to let go, single minded devotion.

Every church prays, but not every church is devoted to prayer.

A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

Prays about what it does.

Prays at their convenience.

Prays when there are problems.

Has guilt because of prayerlessness.

Announces special time of prayer –
some in the church show up.

Asks God to bless what it's doing.

Backs down from obstacles

Thinks they are too busy to pray.

Sees its members as its mission field.

Sacrifices prayer for other things.

Does things within its means.

Uses God.

A CHURCH DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Does things by prayer.

Prays at God's command.

Prays when there are opportunities.

Has joy desiring to pray more.

Announces special time of prayer –
everyone in the church shows up.

Does what He is blessing.

Prays through obstacles

Knows they are too busy not to pray.

Sees the world as its mission field.

Sacrifices other things for prayer.

Does things beyond its means.

Used by God.

1. A praying church is built by a praying pastor.

“I remember you in my prayers at all times.” Romans 1:9-10

2. A praying pastor builds praying leaders.

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'" Luke 11:1

3. Kingdom leaders recruit personal prayer partners.

"Pray also for me." Ephesians 6:19

Paul's prayer partner Epaphras is a good example of a man devoted to prayer.

"Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." Colossians 4:12

"I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers." Philemon 22

4. Praying churches appoint a Prayer Leader and a Prayer Team to mobilize prayer throughout the church.

"In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers ... while they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul.'" Acts 13:1-2

5. Praying churches have a consistent all-church prayer meeting.

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:14

6. Praying churches call for extra-ordinary prayer times.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

- » Nights of prayer
- » Eight days of prayer
- » Prayer for missionaries
- » Prayer for schools
- » Special prayer assignments
- » Pre-service or mid-service prayer

7. In praying churches every meeting becomes a prayer meeting.

"... everything by prayer ..." Philippians 4:6

A praying church develops a lifestyle of prayer!

LESSON EIGHT

EVERY MEETING A PRAYER MEETING

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

When Jesus made disciples He made praying disciples and every meeting they had was a prayer meeting.

- » Jesus began His ministry with 40 days of prayer (Luke 4:1-13).
- » Jesus often spent time alone in prayer (Luke 5:16).
- » Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before calling His disciples (Luke 6:12).
- » He took His disciples to a mountain to pray (Luke 9:28-29).
- » His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).
- » Jesus prayed for them when they faced hard times (Luke 22:32).

The early church was full of praying disciples and every meeting was a prayer meeting.

- » They gathered for prayer when Jesus ascended (Acts 1:12-14).
- » They were gathered for prayer when the Holy Spirit came (Acts 2:1,4).
- » They were on the way to pray when they healed a paraplegic (Acts 3:1-6).
- » Peter was praying on a rooftop when God opened his heart to the nations (Acts 10:9-23).
- » They gathered to pray in Antioch when the first missionary team was sent (Acts 13:1-3).

When the church recognizes itself as a flame holder (see Revelation 1:10-20), and genuinely wants to attract and sustain the fire of God's manifest presence, every meeting becomes a prayer meeting.

- » Elder/Deacon meetings become saturated with prayer.
- » Sunday School classes become saturated with prayer.
- » Home groups become saturated with prayer.
- » Mission Team meetings become saturated with prayer.
- » Youth meetings become saturated with prayer.
- » Children's classes become saturated with prayer.

HOW TO LEAD A CHRIST-ENCOUNTERING PRAYER MEETING

1. Open with strong praise and worship music. Declare the high praises of God.
2. Joyfully welcome everyone and state the purpose for the gathering – to welcome the manifest presence of Christ (fullness) and to advance His kingdom (fulfillment).
3. Continue to worship Christ with plenty of familiar praise songs that everyone knows.
4. Ask people to quickly get into small groups of 2-3 people and to pray audibly, inviting the presence of Christ to the meeting. Exhort people to be brief, be bold, be biblical, be a blessing.
5. Use a variety of prayer formats – groups of 2 or 3, groups of 4 or 6, or pray as a large group. Pray in unison.
6. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Also, listen to what people are praying. Be prepared to join God in what He is bringing to the surface during the prayer meeting. When God manifests His presence, use it as a teachable moment. Explain what is happening.
7. Always lead people to encounter the love of God.
8. Always give preference to the spirit of repentance and contrition. If anyone leads in a public prayer with weeping or contrition, give the entire group opportunity to pray similar prayers. Don't force group repentance, but don't miss a moment when God might want to lead in group repentance.
9. Before you finish, ask God for the nations. Pray for the harvest. *"Ask of Me and I will give you the nations." Psalm 2:8*
10. Finish the prayer meeting by giving all praise back to God. *"Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory."*

MODEL PRAYER MEETING AGENDA

Focus – Praise and worship.

- » Songs of praise.
- » Bible verses that exalt Christ.
- » Prayers that declare God's Names and God's virtues.

Fullness – Invite and welcome the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

- » Songs inviting and welcoming God's presence.

LESSON NINE
TEACHING CHILDREN AND
STUDENTS TO PRAY

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

Holy Spirit filled churches not only teach adults to pray, they also teach children and students to pray. Lets not limit God to one age group!

Many revivals throughout history have started among children and youth. [Illustration: The Great Awakening in North Hampton, Massachusetts started in April 1734 among the youth.]

The Bible suggest that there were young men and women in the upper room.

"Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17

What style of children's and youth ministry describes your church?

PROGRAM-DRIVEN	PRESENCE-DRIVEN
Teach the Bible	Teach the Bible
Entertainment	Encounter
High energy	High encounter
Meet with each other	Meet with God and each other
Children watch	Children worship
Technology driven	Technology utilized
Children entertained	Children empowered
Baby-sitting	Spiritually activating
Children learn to follow rules	Children learn to love God

- » God wants our children to become kingdom champions.
- » Children can receive Christ as Savior and lead others to faith.
- » Children can be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- » Children can learn to hear the voice of God.
- » Jesus said that unless we become like little children, we cannot even enter the kingdom (see Mark 10:15).

PRACTICAL WAYS TO TEACH CHILDREN TO PRAY

Children learn to pray by praying. Make your prayer gathering as experiential as possible. Bring the youth in to your prayer gatherings. Prayer is caught, not just taught.

Restless kids listen better when their hands are busy. Give them a quiet activity to do (color, Legos, puzzle, etc.) while you read and pray.

Ask your child to pray for you. You will be shocked how quickly God will answer their prayers!

Give children time to listen. They can hear God's voice.

"Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." 1 Samuel 3:7 Read 1 Samuel and you'll see he learned to hear God.

Pray big prayers. If your children do not see God directly answer specific prayers, you will lose them to satan. Children will always follow the god who shows power. We want them to see the power of God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTION STEPS

Get in groups of 2-3 and answer these questions:

1. Is the children's ministry at your church more program driven or presence driven? Why do you say that?
2. From the list of practical ways to teach children to pray, which step can you take today to lead your children to encounter the manifest presence of Christ?

NOTES

LESSON TEN

THE POWER OF FASTING

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen?" Isaiah 58:6

"...when you fast..." Matthew 6:16

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

Fasting is the fastest way to get anything from God. When congregations agree to fast together, it becomes a very dynamic tool that can break the power of darkness, set captives free and release God's blessings on those we love.

Many Bible champions have experienced breakthrough fasting.

- » Moses - Exodus 34:18
- » David - Psalm 35:18
- » Daniel - Daniel 9:3
- » Nehemiah - Nehemiah 1:4
- » Jesus - Matthew 4:2
- » Paul - 2 Corinthians 11:27
- » The Early Church - Acts 13:2-3

GUIDELINES FOR BREAKTHROUGH FASTING

1. God promises great breakthroughs to those who fast properly.

"Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I.'" Isaiah 58:8-9

2. Be sure to fast with proper motives.

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:16-18

3. Narrow your focus. Determine the specific purpose of your fast.

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice

and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" Isaiah 58:6

4. Agree together on the dates and length of your fast.

"One person can chase a thousand people; but two people can chase away ten thousand." Deuteronomy 32:30

5. As much as possible, keep your fast a secret. Freedom needs to be given to each member of your congregation to determine exactly how they will be participating in the fast.

Matthew 6:16-18

6. There is great power in agreement during the fast. Call for a special time of prayer for the entire congregation during your fast.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

7. Anticipate growing sensitivity to God's revelation. While you are fasting, you will notice that it becomes easier to hear God's voice and receive increased revelation. He will speak to you very clearly through the Bible, the inner voice of His Holy Spirit, visions and dreams.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

Remember to stay hydrated. When you go without food, be sure to drink plenty of water and juice.

Most people can fast for up to forty days. If you are on special medication, be sure to consult your doctor.

When you end an extended fast, begin by eating only fruit and vegetables which are easy to digest.

When you skip food, be sure to feed on God's Word. While fasting, you will usually spend more time reading the Bible than even praying.

ACTION STEPS

If you have engaged in an extended fast and seen breakthrough, please share a brief testimony with the group.

Get in groups of 2-3 and ask each other to share 1 or 2 insights they learned about breakthrough fasting in this session.

NOTES

LESSON ELEVEN

EXERCISING AUTHORITY IN PRAYER

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:18-20

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

God wants every local church to learn to exercise their authority in Christ to bind and loose. This is one of the greatest responsibilities given by Christ to His church. We want to learn to utilize our authority, to exercise extraordinary influence.

What do we bind? We bind what is evil.

What do we loose? We loose what is good.

"Bind" – To bind is to prohibit – to restrain. You bind what is evil – curses, sins, demonic influences, bad attitudes, the words of evil, negative outcome.

"Loose" – To loose is to permit – to release. You loose what is good – blessings, the knowledge of God, the authority of God, positive outcomes.

Binding and loosing is simple. Don't make it more complex than it needs to be. Even though it's simple, don't neglect its far reaching impact.

SPHERES OF AUTHORITY COMMON TO ALL BELIEVERS

- » Over physical bodies – health.
- » Over spouse's bodies – freedom, health.
- » Over our household – children, finances.
- » Over demons – from strongholds.

SPHERES OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS

"See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:10

- » In local churches – pastors, leaders, finances, facilities.
- » Over groups of people within our ministry assignment.
- » Over territories – neighborhoods, cities, regions.

God often uses us to exercise our authority in public settings so that Christ can be glorified. The Apostle Peter exercised his kingdom authority when he walked into the temple to pray.

"Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong." Acts 3:6-7

Notice the Kingdom authority exemplified by Peter. There is a time to pray. In addition there is a time to take dominion and exercise our Kingdom authority.

BIND	LOOSE
Poverty	Provision
Illness	Health
Death	Life
Curses	Blessing
Bondage	Freedom
Darkness	Light
Hate	Love
Violence	Kindness
Ignorance	Knowledge
Apathy	Mission

ACTION STEPS

Stand together and enter into corporate worship. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a prayer assignment in which you can exercise your authority to bind and loose.

NOTES

LESSON TWELVE

GIVE US THE NATIONS

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." Psalm 2:8

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

"The final unreached people will never be reached through a half-hearted, lukewarm church; it will only be reached through a revived church."

~ Fred Hartley, President, College of Prayer International

Our mission as the College of Prayer is to mentor, train and equip Christian pastors and leaders to reach a lost world through a revived church.

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

- » Jerusalem - your community.
- » Judea - your region.
- » Samaria - cross-culturally to those within your reach.
- » Ends of the Earth.

Acts 1:8 demonstrates that every local church is designed to be a global-impact congregation.

Reaching a lost world through a revived church means that when our local church is filled with the Holy Spirit we are empowered to fulfill Christ's mission in our world – in our own community (Jerusalem), our region (Judea), cross-culturally to those within our reach (Samaria), and to the ends of the earth.

"Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." Psalm 2:8

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM ARMIN GESSWEIN'S BOOK *GOD'S LAWS OF REVIVAL TO REACH A LOST WORLD*

The Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin to the non-Christian in the measure in which He first works in Christians in the church.

The unconverted feel their need for salvation when Christians first feel the need for them to be saved.

When Christians feel a deeper need of the Holy Spirit, non-Christians will feel a need of Christ.

Non-Christian seekers will deal with their sins according to the way Christians first deal with their sin.

When Christians repent, sinners will repent.

When revival is strong in the church, evangelism will be strong in the world.

When Christians wake up (revival), non-Christians will also wake up (evangelism).

"I will send him [the Holy Spirit] to YOU. When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regards to sin and righteousness and judgment." John 16:7-8

We do not ask God to send the Holy Spirit to non Christians; we ask God to send us the Holy Spirit so that through us He will bring conviction on unbelievers around us.

As we learn to pray, God expands our territory. He moves us from beyond simply praying for own immediate needs to asking for the nations. God wants to increase our capacity to ask for the nations.

Kingdom Principle: God withholds certain things from us until we want them with an undying passion. This passion is born of God, when He puts His zeal in us and we express it back to Him, "Lord, give us the nations."

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12

ACTION STEPS

Stand together and begin to pray corporately asking God for the nations. Ask God to make your local church a nation-discipling congregation.

NOTES

As God works in your life through this curriculum, please share your story with us.



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