



**START A CAMPUS**  
**M A N U A L**

**College of Prayer**



A large, light gray, stylized flame logo is centered on the page. It consists of several overlapping, teardrop-shaped elements that create a sense of movement and heat, resembling a fire or a torch. The logo is positioned behind the main title text.

# **START A CAMPUS**

## **M A N U A L**

“Start a Campus” Manual  
Copyright 2026 Fred A. Hartley, III and College of Prayer  
All rights reserved

ISBN: 979-8-90271-228-2

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the  
English Standard Version® Bible.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

© 2001 by Crossway,

a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

All rights reserved.

[www.collegeofprayer.org](http://www.collegeofprayer.org)

# CONTENTS

WELCOME!

Lessons:

LESSON ONE: Start a Campus

LESSON TWO: Build With Excellence

LESSON THREE: Lead With Confidence

LESSON FOUR: Encountering the Manifest  
Presence of Christ

Supplements:

SUPPLEMENT A: START A CAMPUS Worksheet

SUPPLEMENT B: Build Your Prayer Shield

SUPPLEMENT C: Hearing God



# Welcome!

The purpose of this Start A Campus Manual is both to equip and empower you to start a campus of the College of Prayer.

By the grace of Christ, we have started close to 10 million campuses of the College of Prayer around the world, and it is now our privilege to serve you.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the only thing he left on earth was a upper room, Christ-encountering prayer gathering. The reason his model of an upper room prayer gathering is so essential, is because it serves the unique purpose of welcoming the manifest presence of Christ. The purpose of your campus of the College of Prayer is to teach you how to build an upper room, Christ-encountering prayer gathering in your church, so you too can welcome the manifest presence of Christ.

We have discovered that starting a campus of the College of Prayer is the most effective way to build a praying church and to establish an upper room, Christ-encountering prayer culture anywhere in your region.

This Manual will give you the tools you need to start a healthy and fruitful campus of the College of Prayer. Anyway we can serve you better, please let us know. [Contact@collegeofprayer.org](mailto:Contact@collegeofprayer.org).



# LESSON ONE

## “START A CAMPUS”

*“Lord, teach us to pray.” Luke 11:1*

A campus of the College of Prayer gathers pastors and leaders who are hungry for the manifest presence of Christ and who want to develop a healthy prayer life. Like the first disciples, people gather in the College of Prayer with a desire to seek Christ and ask, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

The College of Prayer has now planted close to 10 million campuses worldwide.

We have discovered that the most effective way to build a praying church is to start a campus of the College of Prayer. Rather than simply offering a single prayer conference, which is one-and-done, a campus provides an ongoing environment where people encounter the manifest presence of God, and a safe place to process their spiritual formation. Just as Jesus took three years to train his disciples in prayer, now you can too by establishing a campus in order to pursue three years of training.

The vision of the College of Prayer is to mentor pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church.

### What is a CAMPUS?

A campus of the College of Prayer is a Christ-encountering group of believers who are committed to gather for two days, twice a year, for three years, using the three-year curriculum.

*Lord, Teach Us To Pray, Year One*  
*Lord, As Families, Teach Us To Pray, Year Two*  
*Lord, As Churches, Teach Us To Pray, Year Three*

### Three Types of Campuses

*Which type of campus is best for you?*

**1. A Church Campus.** A Church Campus is a small group, Sunday school class, house church, or organized church that hosts a College of Prayer campus primarily for your own people.

**2. A Regional Campus.** A Regional Campus is a Church Campus that serves your own church family, plus you invite area-wide pastors and churches to participate, to give them an experience of upper room prayer and potentially start their own campus.

**3. A Hub Campus.** A Hub Campus is led by a pastor or leader who has already been trained in the College of Prayer, and it is designed to train others how to start their own campuses of the College of Prayer. (There are thousands of Hub Campuses around the world.)

### **Five College of Prayer Distinctives**

There are five College of Prayer distinctives that make planting a campus worth the effort.

**1. The 3-year cadence.** Jesus took three years to make praying disciples, and you will not do it any faster. We have modeled our three-year cadence after the way Jesus built his leaders and his ministry.

**2. The biblical curriculum.** Our entire curriculum is from the Bible, largely from the teaching of Jesus and the Lord's prayer.

**3. Leadership development.** The heart of Kingdom leadership development is prayer. It was for Jesus, and it is for all biblical leadership development.

**4. Encountering the manifest Presence of Christ.** The reason for the effectiveness of the College of Prayer is leading leaders to a fresh encounter with the manifest presence of Christ. This is the heart of every module of the College of Prayer, and it will be the heart of your campus.

**5. The missional thrust**—from the upper room to the nations. Jesus will complete His ministry on earth the same way He started it, by building upper rooms of prayer. Into these upper rooms He pours out His Presence, and out from these upper rooms He thrusts forth His empowered workers into the harvest field. This upper room pattern is the fullness-fulfillment pattern. Fullness is God's work in us. Fulfillment is God's work through us. The vast majority of other prayer curriculum is all about fullness, focusing on the spiritual disciplines and God's work in us. The Kingdom of God, however, is both fullness (God's work in us) and fulfillment (God's work through us) Part of the genius of the College of Prayer is that we have an equal balance between fullness and fulfillment. This is why the College of Prayer has become just as much a missions mobilizing movement as it is a prayer mobilizing movement.

### **The Upper Room, God's Secret Weapon**

A campus of the College of Prayer is modeled after the upper room in the book of Acts.

Jesus built the first upper room (Acts 1 and 2).

There are fourteen distinct upper rooms in the book of Acts.

Virtually every church in the New Testament is an upper room.

The College of Prayer exists to build upper room disciples and upper room, God-encountering prayer environments.

Our distinct assignment is to join the Lord Jesus Christ in mentoring, training, and equipping Christian pastors and equipping Christian

pastors and leaders to reach a lost world through a revived church. "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 "upper room" Gk. HUPERON "a large room normally located on the rooftop or upper story of a private home used as a gathering place for family and friends for secluded, extended time of fellowship and conversation."

Definition. An upper room is a gathering of praying Christians who receive and minister to the manifest presence of Christ. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Today, upper rooms can be in college dormitories, living rooms, office buildings, a church sanctuary, or a back porch.

The upper room is the closest place to heaven on earth.  
The upper room was Jesus' crowning achievement; when He ascended into heaven, all He left behind was the upper room disciples.  
Your strongest friendships are forged in the upper room. Upper room relationships last for time and eternity.  
The upper room is the key to reaching the nations.

**NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARS' COMMENT ON THE UPPER ROOM**  
Theodor Zahn says that the definite article "the" in Acts 1:13 before HUPERON indicates one particular upper room with which the early Christians would have all been aware. (Zahn, Acts of the Apostles, p.44)

F. F. Bruce, "In Jerusalem the apostles went to the place where their company was lodging in Jerusalem, 'The Upper Chamber.' It is possible ... that this was the room where Jesus and his disciples had kept the Passover on the eve of his execution; it may also have been the room where he appeared to some of them in Jerusalem after he rose from the dead." (F.F. Bruce, Commentary on the Book of Acts, p. 42)

R.C.H. Lenski, "Sometimes they (Upper Rooms) were merely booths that were erected on the porches of the stone building ... sometimes they were roomy and even ornate ... they were used as places for retirement and quiet and for the company here described, as a place that was free from interruption and disturbance." (R.C.H. Lenski, The Acts of the Apostles, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Augsburg, 1961. P. 39)

The upper room is God's secret weapon because there is no way to stop it. It is the most universally transferable paradigm of the church. The upper room is the genius of God.

### **What takes place at a CAMPUS?**

At every module of the College of Prayer, you enjoy three activities in equal parts.

- Intercession, prayer, worship- 1/3 time
- Instruction- 1/3 time
- Interaction- 1/3 time

Once you decide that a campus is your best option to build a praying church, these are the three simple steps to take to plant your campus. To start a campus of the College of Prayer is as simple as 1, 2, 3. Pray. Gather. Launch.

### **PRAY            GATHER            LAUNCH**

Keep in mind, a campus is not physical buildings, but rather meaningful friendships. You don't pay faculty salaries, but you train leaders. In the past 40 years, there have been many short-lived revivals in the U.S. and around the world. The College of Prayer was started to assist churches in building a culture of prayer that can sustain revival.

#### **PRAY**

Gather a prayer team to begin interceding as you start your campus. Seek Christ. Receive His direction as you hand-pick your Servant Leadership Team, select the dates for your first module, and share the vision of a College of Prayer campus first with your leadership team and then with your entire church family. You want to rally your entire congregation as you build strong prayer for your campus.

Determine the readiness of your church to start a campus.

- Is there an increased hunger for God?
- Do you and your leaders agree with the vision of the College of Prayer to mentor pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church?
- As you pray, do you hear an "Amen!" from heaven?
- Is there unity and agreement among your elders that now is the time to start a campus?

#### **GATHER**

Gather your prayer team to pray for the campus.

Begin to gather your local Servant Leadership Team of the College of Prayer. (The Servant Leadership Team is explained in the next lesson, Lesson Two.)

Select the date and location of your first module.

Select your presenter.

Begin promotion. Be as inclusive as possible--gathering men, women, senior adults, young adults, college-age, high school, and middle school students, as well as children. Provide a nursery. Rally everyone in your congregation. The Holy Spirit will show you how to effectively communicate the benefits of this new initiative to your church family. You may also want to invite area pastors to bring their congregations to join with you as you launch your campus.

## **LAUNCH**

Use the thirteen-week countdown. See Lesson Three.

There is nothing more exciting than the first gathering of a new campus of the College of Prayer. Like a newborn baby, you wait months for this moment, and it finally comes. Expect God to manifest His presence because He loves to come where He is invited. Be bold. Be biblical. Be believing. Be a blessing.

### **What Exactly Is a Campus of the College of Prayer?**

A campus consists of a Servant Leadership Team of at least 2-5 Christian leaders (including at least one pastor) who are committed to the vision of the College of Prayer, with influence to gather 20-50 or more people for two days, twice a year for three years.

You will enjoy extended times of prayer, worship, repentance, cleansing, and renewal in addition to life-giving teaching. Best of all, you encounter the manifest presence of Christ together.

Each campus of the College of Prayer is part of a bigger movement leading the church back to encounter the fire of the manifest presence of Christ, and to ignite the final missions movement around the world.

### **Five Irreplaceable Benefits**

1. As a pastor or leader, you will go deeper in your walk with Christ. Guaranteed.
2. You will have a consistent place to make praying disciples for all your leaders.
3. You will build a prayer culture in your local church.
4. You will have an environment where you can raise the level of Christ-encountering prayer in your community.
5. Your local church will immediately connect with a global prayer and missions movement.



## LESSON TWO

# “BUILD WITH EXCELLENCE”

*“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.” 1 Corinthians 3:10*

When Jesus made disciples, he made upper room, praying disciples. These are the type of disciples you want to make as well.

There are now close to 10 million campuses of the College of Prayer worldwide. You are part of a significant movement of the Holy Spirit, and God will help you build your campus.

Starting a campus is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Pray. Gather. Launch. You not only want to start your campus, you want to build it with excellence.

The purpose of this lesson is to help you build your campus with excellence.

When Jesus planted his church, He planted an upper room, a praying church. This upper room church is the prototype for New Testament ministry. The same way Jesus started His ministry on earth through the upper room, is the same way He will finish His work on earth. A campus of the College of Prayer is the most effective way to build a church like Jesus.

There is no higher honor than to be invited by Christ to join Him in building an upper room, a God-encountering prayer environment where upper room disciples are equipped and from which they go forth to reach the nations. It is vitally important that you move forward confident of the promises of God, fervent in prayer, and full of the Holy Spirit to build upper room environments.

*“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*

## A. DETERMINE THE READINESS OF YOUR AREA

There are certain non-negotiable criteria that must be present in a new area before you plant a new College of Prayer campus.

- Desperation and hunger for God.
- Commitment to the College of Prayer vision.  
Unity, agreement, and collaboration.
- Influence to gather 10-50 or more people twice a year for three years.
- A clear and compelling call of God – a divine assignment.

*“The Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabus and Saul.’” Acts 13:3*

### Identify and Recruit your Servant Leadership Team

Any College of Prayer campus is only as strong as its Servant Leadership Team. It is vital to be intentional, prayerful, and thorough as you select, empower, and build the servant leaders around you. Jesus prayerfully selected His servant leaders (disciples); then He trained, exercised, equipped, and empowered them to lead the ministry when He ascended into heaven.

As College of Prayer leaders, we are to follow His pattern of mentoring and discipleship.

**1. Pray.** Ask God for your Servant Leadership Team; He knows what you need. Carefully listen for the affirmation of the Holy Spirit as He identifies His anointed.

**2. Establish a Prayer Team** of several intercessors to pray systematically and strategically for the new campus. Ask God for the right leaders and listen for the affirmation of God in the selection process.

### 3. Qualities of leaders.

Look for these qualities in your leaders.

- Leaders who are Kingdom-minded.
- Who share the College of Prayer vision.
- Leaders with influence who can gather at least 50 people.
- Who will make a three-year commitment.
- Leaders with demonstrated equipping gifts (equipping gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher in Ephesians 4:11-12).

**4. Select the President** (Director or Coordinator are titles used in different settings) **and the Dean.** These are your two most important leaders.

The President is a visionary leader with influence who can clearly communicate the College of Prayer vision and oversee the entire development and growth of the Servant Leadership Team.

The Dean is the pastor of the local Servant Leadership Team and the entire College of Prayer campus, working closely with the President. It is the responsibility of the President and Dean to select and appoint the remaining members of the College of Prayer in collaboration with each other. No appointments should be made without consultation and whole-hearted agreement between both the President and the Dean.

**5. Identify and appoint each of the other Servant Leadership Team members.**

There are four requirements for every Servant Leadership Team member.

- Hunger for God.
- Passionate about the College of Prayer vision.
- Influence to gather at least 50 people.
- Commitment for at least 3 years of training.

**6. Build your Prayer Shield** (See Lesson Supplement B) Every Servant Leadership Team member is required to establish a healthy Prayer Shield prior to assuming office.

## B. PLAN YOUR FIRST MODULE

Select and confirm the date and location of your module.

Choose a venue of adequate size and good location for the initial module.

Set your budget.

Recruit your presenter. You can either select a presenter from someone trained and experienced in the College of Prayer, or you can select a presenter from within your congregation. (You will find a list of trained teachers who are equipped to teach and facilitate modules of the College of Prayer @collegeofprayer.org.)

Consider establishing GAP Groups.

GAP Groups (Growth, Accountability, and Prayer). GAP Groups are useful to facilitate processing and interaction during discussion time. You learn so quickly during the College of Prayer that it is good to have pre-assigned breakout groups that provide a safe place to talk about what you're learning, and to ask good questions. Each GAP Group should be led by a mature person, and normally it is best to designate groups gender specific-- men with men, women with women.

## C. STRENGTHEN YOUR SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM

1. Pray for each other by name.

2. Love each other. Though you have a great task and many assignments, take time to love each other, pray for each other, and care for each other.

3. Learn to pray with cupped hands, always receive from God.

*"Freely have you received. Freely give." Matthew 10:8*

4. Require each Servant Leadership Team member to assemble their own Prayer Shield.

5. Frequently visit our [www.collegeofprayer.org](http://www.collegeofprayer.org) website and certainly download the College of Prayer app. On the app, you will have access to Year On Fire, our daily Christ-encountering briefing. You will also receive monthly podcasts on Kingdom leadership.
6. Teach each member to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the work of the enemy.
7. Teach each member to use the Lord's prayer pattern; frequently use the three prayers for protection, direction, and revelation.
8. Be inclusive; multi-cultural, inter-generational, inter-denominational.
9. Be accountable. Download our app where you will receive significant Kingdom, leadership mentoring, and where you can report on victory testimonies from your campus.
10. Meet together at least twice between modules; first to debrief your previous module, then to plan your next module.

#### D. BE CONFIDENT! YOU ARE NOW READY TO START YOUR CAMPUS

- You have established your Prayer Team.
- You have recruited your SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM who are committed to the College of Prayer vision with influence to gather 50 or more leaders for the next three years.
- You have selected your dates and venue.
- You have recruited your Prayer Shield.
- You have established your budget.
- You have secured your presenter.

Now begin promotion. You want to attract leaders from every group within your larger congregation—men and women, older and younger, young adults, young marrieds, youth, and even children. Consider inviting other area pastors and encourage them to bring their congregation. Be sure to have childcare.

## LESSON THREE

# “LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE”

*“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.” Acts 2:1*

Now that you have prayed and gathered, you are ready to start your campus. The Holy Spirit will help you.

The purpose of this lesson is to equip you with what to do before, during, and after the module of the College of Prayer.

It is an honor to facilitate a College of Prayer module where pastors and leaders will have a fresh encounter with God. It should not be entered into casually. The following guidelines will help you facilitate a healthy module.

### **A. PRIOR TO THE MODULE**

#### **1. Pray**

Every Servant Leadership Team member should pray for protection, direction, and revelation, and request their Prayer Shield to do the same. You desperately want the manifest presence of Christ to fill your gathering.

#### **2. Plan**

The Servant Leadership Team should meet as often as necessary to schedule the module and to designate roles, responsibilities, and assignments for each member. Immediately prior to the module, you should meet again to review your plan so that everyone is on the same page.

#### **Alternate Fullness and Fulfillment**

Part of the genius of the College of Prayer is based on a balance between both fullness (God’s work in you) and fulfillment (God’s work through you). Most prayer ministries emphasize fullness to the exclusion of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God, however, is both fullness and fulfillment. Each of our three years of curriculum are structured with equal lessons on fullness and fulfillment. As you plan your module, it is important to emphasize both fullness and fulfillment.

#### **3. Promote**

A College of Prayer module is most dynamic when you have the full diversity of your congregation—men and women, youth, children, and young adults. For this reason, you want to promote your module as broadly as possible.

Each member of your Servant Leadership Team should extend personal invitations. It is best to begin promotion using the “13-Week Countdown.”

#### 4. Seating

The configuration of the seating is highly important. Chairs should be arranged in a semicircle or a horseshoe. (The rationale for this is that it puts the focus on Jesus, not on the presenter; it puts everyone on equal footing so that everyone’s prayers are important; it encourages everyone to participate freely and not to wait for the upfront leader.)

Jesus said, “Where two or three come together in my name there am I in the midst,” Matthew 18:20. This gets difficult with crowds of 300 or more, but it is highly important for groups of 300 or less to be seated somewhat in the round, or in a horseshoe.

#### **13-Week Countdown**

Select dates and topics. *13 weeks prior*

Servant Leadership Team meets to discuss module agenda and answer questions and concerns; confirm date, venue, and presenter. *12 weeks prior*

Complete brochure. Print. Distribute. Post to website and social media. Decide on any special pricing, discount codes for online registration. Use social media. *11 weeks prior*

Send out first e-blast invitation. *6 weeks prior*

Send out second e-blast invitation. *5 weeks prior*

Send out third e-news blast invitation. Every Servant Leadership Team member should use their influence to invite all key people. *4 weeks prior*

Send out fourth e-blast invitation. *3 weeks prior*

Send out fifth and final e-blast invitation. Use social media. *2 weeks prior*

### **B. DURING THE MODULE**

#### 1. Servant Leadership Team Responsibilities

The Servant Leadership Team should meet each day of the module for prayer and a briefing to make sure every team member understands their assignment. The Servant Leadership Team should share victories, solve problems, and discuss what God yet wants to accomplish.

Make sure every Servant Leadership Team member is well-cared for

and that they are relationally and emotionally connected with the rest of the team. Listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to each member, express the importance of every member, and make sure that you are corporately following the leading of the Lord. The Servant Leadership Team should meet with the presenter immediately prior to and during the module so that the team is tracking together.

## 2. The Three Essential Elements of a Module

Each module should give equal time to three vital elements:

- (1) Intercession: prayer, worship, and intercession (1/3 of the time)
- (2) Instruction: Biblical Kingdom teaching (1/3 of the time)
- (3) Interaction: with each other in GAP groups (Growth, Accountability, and Prayer) or other discussion group. (1/3 of the time)

(1) Intercession. You spend approximately one-third of each module in worship, prayer, and intercession.

Always invite and welcome the manifest presence of Christ so that you lead every student to a fresh encounter with the holiness of God.

Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, it is important to begin each session by leading your people to pray three prayers: (1) protection, (2) direction, (3) revelation.

Protection - God gains so much ground from the evil one and the Kingdom of God expands so rapidly during the College of Prayer module, you want to pray preemptively for protection for yourself, your families, your business, and your home church.

Direction - You want to ask for and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Revelation - You want to pray for the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Encountering his manifest presence during the module is essential.

During the module, it is important to give everyone an opportunity to pray. It is helpful to tell the group as you begin to pray, "Now if you have a prayer to pray, pray it. If you have a song to sing, sing it. If you have a scripture, feel free to read it." This gives opportunity for maximum participation.

Always give opportunity for repentance.

Every student should feel that a College of Prayer module is a safe place for repentance.

Protect people's dignity and respect their space. This means you avoid manipulating people or forcing repentance.

Give permission for people to repent. Always give preference to the spirit of contrition. When God brings repentance, your agenda goes out the window, time stands still, and you want to give as much time as needed for people to fully repent.

Ask God for the Nations – All healthy prayer meetings where the Holy Spirit is in charge will eventually ask God for the nations.

(2) Instruction. You will spend approximately one-third of each module in Biblical teaching and instruction.

The curriculum follows a three-year rotation, with a different emphasis each year.

*“Lord Teach Us to Pray”* Year One

*“Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray”* Year Two

*“Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray”* Year Three

It is essential to utilize the curriculum. Every lesson is designed to lead students to an encounter with Christ. You want to give people practical steps of obedience that lead to life transformation.

(3) Interaction. We spend approximately one-third of each module in group discussion.

GAP groups - Growth, Accountability, and Prayer groups provide a powerful time for interaction. Groups of 4-8 people meet together during the module, either during a meal or a breakout time. They are led by a trained GAP leader, under the supervision and mentorship of the Servant Leadership Team

GAP leader. It is best for groups to be gender specific-- men with men, and women with women. This is done to avoid any impropriety and to foster true accountability. Debrief what you have learned in a GAP group or break-out discussion group. Because you learn so rapidly during the College of Prayer and because Christ is doing so much in your inner lives, unless you talk about it, it is difficult to retain the gains. For this reason, GAP groups might meet when appropriate following the teaching session. In some cases, these GAP groups may naturally lead to continued mentorship opportunities between modules.

If GAP groups are not possible due to size, space, or time, you may simply direct your students to turn toward each other in groups of 2-4 and have them talk to each other in break-out discussion groups.

“One thing I just learned during this session is...” or “One thing God spoke to me about was...” or “One thing I am going to take back and put into practice is...”

Talking to each other during the modules about what you are learning is essential.

## **Five Stages of Encountering God's Manifest Presence**

You will discover that there are five stages of virtually every encounter with God.

- (1) high worship
- (2) deep repentance
- (3) receiving forgiveness from sin and freedom from demonic strongholds
- (4) being filled with the Holy Spirit
- (5) being empowered for ministry back home

When you consciously and intentionally follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, he will lead you through each of these five stages. Take your time. Seek the Lord. You need flexibility to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While you will always have a schedule for the module, be sure to make adjustments according to the Holy Spirit. Give the Holy Spirit the right to change your plans.

As important as it is to have good Biblical teaching, it is equally important to build the upper room environment and lead all students to encounter the manifest presence of Christ.

Teaching into a God-filled environment makes all the difference. For this reason, it is always good to start a session with Christ-encountering worship. Invite his presence. Then, when you teach into this God-filled environment, the students are keenly aware of the manifest presence of God, and the Holy Spirit sets truth on fire. Learning and retention of the material takes place at a much higher rate in a prayer-filled environment. People are able to concentrate and retain more information once they have encountered Christ. This is the way Jesus taught, and this is the way you want to teach at the College of Prayer modules. This encounter-based gathering is categorically different than most other conferences and seminars. It is highly refreshing, and your people will love it!

## **C. FOLLOWING THE MODULE**

### **1. Pray, Pray, Pray.**

Before, during, and after the modules, remember prayer is our lifeline. Everything you receive from God comes by prayer.

Your prayer must never become religious, rigid, or ritualistic. You want your prayer life robust, fresh, alive. From strength-to-strength. Faith-to-faith. Glory-to-glory. Pray with cupped hands. You want to always be receiving a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

### **2. Follow Up**

Each participant should receive email communication within two weeks of the module, encouraging, sharing praises, and announcing the next module. Each Servant Leadership Team member should be given a complete list of names, email, and contact information of each student. The Servant Leadership Team may want to divide the list of students

among themselves so that every Servant Leadership Team member contacts students between modules. Remember, the objective of the College of Prayer is to mentor. Mentoring requires intentional relationship building.

### 3. Debrief

Within two weeks of your module, it is important to gather your Servant Leadership Team to debrief the previous module and plan the next module.

## LESSON FOUR

# “ENCOUNTERING THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF CHRIST”

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20*

The church is the hope of the world.

The manifest presence of Christ is the hope of the church.

The greatest need in the world today is for the church to rediscover the manifest presence of Christ.

The greatest tragedy today is that the church has lost touch with the manifest presence of Christ. It has blurred the distinction between the everywhere presence of God and the manifest presence of God.

When Jesus told his disciples, *“for where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20)*, he could not have possibly been talking about the everywhere presence. You can gather in the name of Vladimir Putin or Lady Gaga and have God’s everywhere presence. But when Jesus said, *“for where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20)*, he was talking about his manifest presence.

God’s manifest presence is the essence of revival.

His manifest presence is the power cell of the Church. Leading people to a fresh encounter with Christ is the essential work of the College of Prayer.

The Bible uses various terms for God’s manifest presence.

*“consuming fire” (Exodus 24:17)*

*“glory” (Exodus 33:18) “revival” (Psalm 85:6)*

*“anointing” (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18)*

*“presence” (Exodus 33:14)*

It is the manifest presence of God that distinguishes the people of God from all the other people who are upon the earth.

A. W. Tozer in his book, *Pursuit of God*, made the clarification between the manifest presence and the omnipresence of God.

“The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His Presence.”

“Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us.”

“If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience, God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and life radiant with the light of His face.”

<u>Omnipresence</u>	<u>Manifest Presence</u>
Real	Real
True to God's Nature	True to God's Nature
God-Everywhere	God- Tangibly Perceived
Normally unknown	Always known
Theoretical	Transformational
Pride	Contrition
Impersonal	Personal
Obedience optional	Obedience required
No prayer required	Prayer required

When God manifests His presence, fire is often present.

Moses, burning bush *Exodus 3*

Malachi, refiner's fire *Malachi 3:2*

Israel, pillar of fire *Exodus 13*

John the Baptist, baptism with fire *Matthew 3:11*

Elijah, Mt. Carmel *1 Kings 18*

Paul, Spirit's fire *1 Thessalonians 5:19*

Isaiah, burning coal *Isaiah 6*

Early church, tongues of fire *Acts 2*

In the Book of Revelation Jesus appears to be on fire from head to toe.  
(*Revelation 1:12-20*)

His hair is white like wool.

His feet are like bronze glowing in a furnace.

His eyes are like flames of fire.

His face is shining like the sun.

His right hand is holding seven stars.

He is walking in the middle of flame holders.

Throughout the Bible, we see God's people leading others to an encounter with God's manifest presence.

The Priests of Israel were to bless the people with God's manifest presence.

*"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."*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

The prophets of Israel frequently called the people to God's manifest presence.

*"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6*

The early church was led to an encounter with God's manifest presence.

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:4*

The Apostle Paul continually prayed for the church to encounter God's manifest presence.

*"Do not quench the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

A campus of the College of Prayer is primarily designed to lead pastors and leaders to a fresh encounter with the manifest presence of Christ.

Starting a campus of the College of Prayer, where you will equip believers to build upper rooms of Christ-encountering prayer, is one of the greatest privileges in life. Remember, Jesus exerted every ounce of leadership muscle when he built his upper room in Jerusalem. Now the Holy Spirit will empower you to build your upper rooms.

Be bold. Be confident. Be a blessing.



SUPPLEMENT A  
**“START A CAMPUS”**  
WORKSHEET

Pray

1. Select the Type of Campus.

Local Church Campus

Regional Campus

Hub Campus

Pray

2. Recruit your Prayer Team.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Pray

3. Recruit your Servant Leadership Team SLT.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Pray

4. Appoint your President (Director, Leader, or whatever title you select) and the Dean (or Asst. Director)

\_\_\_\_\_, President \_\_\_\_\_, Dean

Pray

5. Set the date for the first Module.

\_\_\_\_\_, Date

Pray

6. Secure the Presenter.

\_\_\_\_\_, Name

Pray

7. Other miscellaneous details.

Order the College of Prayer Curriculum.

Secure the Worship Team.

Activate the Prayer Team.

Set your Budget.

Confirm that the key leaders have recruited their Prayer Shields.

Begin promotion. (See the 12-Week Countdown.)

Ask the SLT and Prayer Team to download the College of Prayer app.

## SUPPLEMENT B

# “BUILD YOUR PRAYER SHIELD”

A prayer shield is a team of intercessors who consistently and intelligently pray for the well-being of a Christian leader - spirit, soul, and body, to protect a leader from the plots of the evil one and to call down the advancing of Christ's Kingdom through this leader.

*“I am personally convinced the following statement is true: The most underutilized source of spiritual power in our churches today is intercession for Christian leaders. I purposely did not say ‘one of the most underutilized sources of power’ because I do not believe anything else this important is actually so neglected. We do not do it, and we usually do not even talk about it.”*

C. Peter Wagner, Prayer Shield, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1992, p. 19

### FIVE GOOD REASONS TO BUILD A PRAYER SHIELD

1. It's biblical.

The apostle Paul built a prayer team, as did countless other Christian leaders through history. Paul understood the significance of having a personal team of intercessors.

*“Brothers pray for us.” 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

*“I beg you brothers through the Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” Romans 15:30*

*“You also are helping together in prayer for us ....”*

*2 Corinthians 1:11*

*“I know that this will turn out for my salvation through your prayers ....”*

*Philippians 1:19*

*“I trust that through your prayers, I shall be granted to you.”*

*Philemon 22*

*“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel ...”*

*Ephesians 6:19*

2. It's efficient.

All God's works are done by prevailing prayer.

3. It's humbling.

To ask for prayer is not egotistical; on the contrary, sharing our needs with others is a way of humbling ourselves.

4. It builds teamwork.

Rather than people randomly praying on their own, it is more helpful to build them into a group with a common purpose to pray in the same direction.

5. It's a blessing.

When people pray for our ministry, they share in the reward of the fruit Christ will produce through us.

#### ACTION STEPS -- HOW TO BUILD YOUR SHIELD

1. Humble yourself. Admit to God that you desperately need intercessors; ask Him to help you build your team.

2. Listen to God. Let God shape your vision. He will give you a clear vision and key Scriptures that will guide your prayer team. He may give you a word picture that will describe the mission of your prayer team.

God will speak to you about whom to recruit for your prayer team. List the names of specific people whom you can invite to join your team.

Let them know that you expect them to pray consistently and the length of their commitment (normally one year).

Clearly define the specific commitment you expect from your prayer team. Identify your commitment to them (i.e., write to them once a week, once a month; meet with them twice a year at a reception in their honor; give them a photo of your family and a list of specific prayer requests for the coming year, etc.)

List specific requests you will give to your intercessors and ask them to continually cry out to God on your behalf. These requests should be specific, measurable, challenging and biblical.

Peter Wagner points out that there are three levels of intercessors, and they are not all of equal value.

Level 3 - Those who say they will pray for you when God brings you to mind.

Level 2 - Those who are committed to praying for you on a daily basis and with whom you communicate so they pray intelligently.

Level 1 – Those who not only pray for you regularly, but who also qualify according to Psalm 15. These are called, qualified, and equipped intercessors who know what it is to “ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in His holy place.” (These people might also say that they live to pray for you; that praying for you is their primary ministry. If you have three to five of these, you are a fortunate person.)

3. Begin recruitment. It is always good to make personal invitations by phone to build a core of intercessors and then recruit a larger group by email.

4. Honor your intercessors. Once your team is recruited, no matter how small it is, begin affirming them, communicating with them, sharing your struggles as well as your victories. Most intercessors do not want to be acknowledged publicly by name, but they like to know they are appreciated. For your core intercessors, it is good to periodically give them a gift, treat them to dinner, or in some other way express to them your deep personal appreciation. Frequently inform them of God's answers to prayers.

5. Select a Leader for your Prayer Shield Team who will assist in overseeing the communication, facilitate the Prayer Partner reception, and help with other matters. This is particularly important as your Prayer Shield grows.

6. Pray for your intercessors each week by name. Just as you need their prayers, they need your prayers. There are few people in ministry with whom you will share a more intimate partnership than those who labor for you before God's throne. They are your "most valuable prayers."

We require every College of Prayer Campus President to have a Prayer Shield, and we strongly urge every Servant Leadership Team member at every campus to also have a Prayer Shield. This should be a matter of accountability between the College of Prayer campus Presidents and their Servant Leadership Teams. Every College of Prayer Board Member and all who serve on the Leadership Team are also required to have a Prayer Shield. We, in the College of Prayer, are actively advancing Christ's Kingdom, and we need protection and empowerment.

SUPPLEMENT C  
**“HEARING GOD”**

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16*

In order to facilitate a module of the College of Prayer, it is important to learn to hear and obey the voice of God.  
God often chooses to manifest His presence by speaking to His people.

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16*

This one verse answers the three basic questions of hearing God.

How does God speak?

How do we hear God?

What does God usually say?

A. How does God speak?

*“The Spirit himself testifies.”*

B. How do we hear God?

*“The Spirit himself testifies to our spirit.”*

99% of the time, God will speak to your spirit, because your spirit is the only part of you that has been born again.

C. What does God usually say?

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16*

When God speaks to you, he says things that a loving Father says to his child.

God always speaks by the Holy Spirit.



College  
of Prayer

[collegeofprayer.org](http://collegeofprayer.org)

ISBN 979-890271228-2



9

798902

712282