

## SESSION THREE “Start A Campus”

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 committed to gathering 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 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 roof top 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 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, 13 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 of the time
- Instruction- 1/3 of the time
- Interaction- 1/3 of the 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). See Start a Campus Manual.

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 in Start a Campus Manual.

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.

# “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.