

# Praying Your Friends to Christ

## Session 5

### Practical Application

#### Four Ways to Pray Evangelistically

This final session introduces believers to four additional ways to pray for lost people. Teachers can lead participants to apply what they have learned in sessions 1-4. Spend time introducing and describing the four different approaches to evangelistic prayer listed below. Then lead the participants to choose one of the four approaches listed below to apply what they have learned in the earlier sessions concerning evangelistic prayer (give the participants around 45 minutes to complete the prayer experience). Use the remaining time in the session to talk about their experiences in praying for lost people.

- **List praying** – Make a list of each person and each request that you want to pray for. Many people who want to pray forget the specific requests and people that have requested prayer or for whom you have been led to pray. Specific prayer on behalf of others results in specific answers to prayer (see **1 Thess. 3:10-11; 2 Thess. 1:3**). Encourage participants to take their lists and find a place where they can get alone with God and pray. See [www.praytimer.org](http://www.praytimer.org) for a software database and outreach Bible study that helps pray-ers and prayer coordinators to organize and print specific prayer lists. It sold more than 10,000 copies in its first two years and is endorsed by T.W. Hunt and Evelyn Christenson.)
- **Prayerwalking** – Journey through your world and pray for others as you walk, run, bicycle, or drive. As participants prayerwalk they will be able to pray according to what they observe, know and are inspired to pray for (see **1 Tim. 2:1-4**). Break participants into teams of two and send

them out into the community to Prayer Walk. Provide evangelistic tracts for the teams for divine encounters. Encourage teams to look for opportunities to share the gospel with people they meet. Be sure to contextualize the prayer walking experience. Some teams may need to prayer drive the community. For more information about intentional, biblical prayer walking see *Taking Prayer to the Streets* at [www.namb.net/prayer](http://www.namb.net/prayer). Henry Blackaby and Steven Hawthorne endorsed this resource.

- **Prayer visitation** – Break up into visitation teams of 2 and not more than three to a team. Visit homes, hospitals, prisons, etc. and ask for prayer requests. Provide evangelistic tracts and information concerning the church for each team. This approach allows for open doors for believers to care and share Christ with others. As we pray for people and their needs, God builds relationships and opens hearts to the Good News of Jesus (see **James 5:13- 18**). One way to begin the conversation is . . . , “Hi, we are from \_\_\_\_\_Church and we are praying for our community today. Are there any prayer concerns we can pray about for you?
- **Prayer Groups**—Unite with other believers in focused prayer. There is power in united prayer toward the Great Commission (see Acts 4:31). Prayer groups can be as small as three and as large as wanted or needed. Pray for specific church and government leaders. See [www.namb.net/prayer](http://www.namb.net/prayer) for free, and priced resources to help you pray specifically for police, firefighters, pastors, families, the president and government leaders.

### **Dialogue Session**

After participants have had their prayer experience and returned, spend the remaining time in dialogue concerning the various experiences people had with the four prayer approaches listed above. Ask participants to share testimonies of divine encounters with people and to reflect on their experiences. Ask them to share how they were led to pray and what they

specifically prayed for. Ask for specific answers to specific prayers. Conclude the session with a focused prayer time as a group.

### **Conclusion**

All Christians are faced with the question of how to incorporate this into their lives. One of the most overlooked aspects of prayer is the element of consecration. There is a consistency in the Old and New Testaments of individuals who renew their devotion to God. Every time Abraham, David, and Paul renewed their devotion to God, it was in a specific area of obedience. Following the first persecution in the book of Acts, the early church offered a specific prayer of consecration to share the gospel boldly.

Dwight L. Moody was correct when he said, "Those who have left the deepest impression on this sin-cursed earth have been men and women of prayer. You will find that PRAYER has been the mighty power that has moved not only God, but man."

Do not stop praying and do not stop at just praying. Evangelism without prayer is ineffective, and prayer that does not lead a person to deeper compassion for and actions to reach the lost is flawed. Be willing to be the answer to your prayer or the evangelistic prayers of others. Be obedient and boldly share the gospel.

"That God would place such an incomparable privilege and such responsibility in our hands is past understanding, but He has done just that. Through intercession we can become the instrument of salvation to men and women we never see face to face in this life," says Ron Dunn, author of *Don't Just Stand There, Pray Something*.

### **Final Note**

At some point following the completion of the training, lead church members, and the church as a body, to yield themselves afresh to specific consecration

to God in praying evangelistically from this day forward. If the following commitment card does not express the consecration needed, develop your own.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, consecrate myself to God afresh to the following, to honor God and participate in the Great Commission:

(Check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_ I commit to pray consistently for the evangelistic ministry of my church.

\_\_\_\_ I commit to set aside time regularly to discover and pray for specific lost people.

\_\_\_\_ I will join with the following believers to pray evangelistically on a regular basis.

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## References

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2. George Barna, *Evangelism That Works* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1995).
3. Barna, *Evangelism That Works*, 51.
4. Basil Miller, *John Hyde: A Man of Prayer* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1949), 127.

5. Darrel Robinson, *People Sharing Jesus* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996).
6. James C. Schofield, *Biblical Links between Prayer and Evangelism: How the Bible Interfaces Prayer with Preparation Evangelism* (Th.M. thesis, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC, 1995), 94.
7. Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*, compiled and edited by Robert Hall (Lynnwood, WA: Emerald Books, 1993), 73.
8. Donald G. Bloesch, *The Struggle of Prayer* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1980), 139.
9. E. M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer* (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982), 102.
10. *Praying Your Friends to Christ* (Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 1997), 16–18.