

Praying Your Friends to Christ

Session 4

Personal Spiritual Preparation

Preparing to Pray Evangelistically

Evangelistic praying is spiritual work and requires spiritually fit individuals. Thus it is necessary to prepare to pray evangelistically. We do so through specific prayer. At this point, divide the participants into teams (preferably teams of three). If this is not suitable for your study, group accordingly. Then lead the group through a focused time of prayer using the following categories and scriptures.

➤ **Pray with Praise and Thanksgiving**

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (**Ps. 100:4**, emphasis added).

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men" (**1 Tim. 2:1**, emphasis added).

Think about some things for which you might be thankful. Allow the group to suggest some reasons before showing them the following three.

Thank God for your own salvation. In most cases, someone prayed for you.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ" (**2 Cor. 5:18**).

Thank God for His redemptive work.

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (**1 John 2:2**).

Thank God for allowing you to join him in his redemptive work.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (**2 Cor. 5:18**).

Prayer Prompt

Father, we come to You in the name of Jesus Christ, thanking You that You not only died for our sins, but You died for the sins of the whole world. Thank you that you love us and have given us the task of sharing your Good News with the world in which we live. We worship you for who you are, Your greatness, goodness and daily provision and grace. Thank you also for your mission and purpose in life. We truly do have full and meaningful lives in Christ!

➤ **Pray with a Cleansed Life**

Our prayers will be ineffective if we pray with unconfessed sin in our lives. In the healing James writes of is that which is necessary to bring about spiritual health according to **James 1:21**.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (**James 5:16**).

In **Psalms 66:18**, the Psalmist said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

The prayer life can not be separated from the pray-ers life. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayer for the lost.

Prayer Prompt

At this point, ask participants to bow their heads and silently ask God to reveal any unconfessed sins, such as: anything I do that displeases God; anything I say that displeases God; anything my mind dwells on that displeases God;

anything that I committed to that I should not have done (read **Ps. 15**).
Instruct them to confess, forsake, and claim 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

➤ **Pray According to the Promises of God**

God desires to save people. God wants "all men to be saved and to come unto a knowledge of the truth" (**1 Tim. 2:4**).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**2 Peter 3:9**).

We can have confidence in our prayers for the lost because they are according to the will of God. Not only does the Word of God command us to pray for the lost but the will of God demands it.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (**1 John 5:14-15**).

➤ **Nothing Is Impossible for God.**

Sometimes we are tempted to believe that some people will never respond and, during these times, we fail to prevail in our praying. We have been given a promise from God to pray back to Him when these times come. The words are in **Mark 10:27**.

The rich young ruler had rejected Christ in exchange for his wealth. Jesus then makes the statement that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved. His disciples asked, "Who then can be

saved?" That is when Jesus gives the promise "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). You are to prevail in your praying for the lost realizing that no one is beyond the reach of God.

Prayer Prompt

Instruct participants to look at the prayer lists they have made. Ask them to see if there are individuals listed that seem impossible to reach. Ask them to select one or more of God's promises to pray on behalf of the unresponsive lost people from their list. Then lead them to pray for those individuals in small groups. Before they pray remind them that:

"Prayer will reach down, down, down into the deepest depths of sin and ruin and take hold of men and women who seem lost beyond all possibility or hope or redemption, and lift them up, up, up until they are fit for a place beside the Son of God upon the throne."

"Men ought to always pray and not to faint" (**Luke 18:1**).