

INTERCESSION

Liturgy is nothing more than a form for offering worship and glory to God. This liturgy is for your benefit as you guide a room to worship and see the glory of God through the practice of Intercessory Prayer.

This form of prayer is modeled by Jesus and is asked for by the church fathers throughout the New Testament. Jesus demonstrates this when he asks his disciples to pray for workers (Matthew 9:35-38), Luke records this when Peter is in prison and the church prays for his release (Acts 12:5), and Paul does the same when concerned for gospel proclamation (Ephesians 6:19-20).

The following liturgy has been provided as an example for your benefit. Take liberty to form a moment that is specific enough to direct the room yet general so that those you lead can have freedom to prayerfully explore the topic.

Supplies: Bible, paper, pen/pencil

Introduction: Each week we enter this room under the weight of busyness. Let us, in this space, set the responsibilities of our day down to free our souls and awaken our spirits to the study of God's presence before we study (insert course title).

Tonight, we will practice Intercessory Prayer. Intercessory prayer is the act of praying on the behalf of others. It is a form of prayer that demonstrates sacrificial love and compassion for others. We slow down. We lay down our own desires and needs, and instead seek to listen and understand God's heart for the people for whom we are praying. Then, we pray in alignment with God's heart and with Scripture.

Open your Bible with me to 1 Timothy 2:1-6.

Body: Paul writes,

1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NLT)

¹"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ²Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone."

Jeremiah says,

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NLT)

⁴“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.

Activation: Tonight, we are going to pray for the city of Marshfield. We will start individually by acknowledging that God created this city with purpose and intention and thanking God for his design and blessings over Marshfield. We will then ask God to give us his heart for Marshfield. Write down anything you sense he is saying during this time. We will then pray for Marshfield as a group.

Benediction: Heavenly Father, despite our shortcomings and our failures, it's by your great authority you have commissioned us to be disciple makers in this city. You have called us to be lights in the darkness so that your Kingdom will come in Marshfield and the surrounding areas as it is in Heaven. We thank you for your great love for this city and for sending us here to carry out your plans. Help us to love this city and its people like you do.

Amen.

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Note(s): Prepare a worshipful playlist of three songs to be played during the activation portion of the liturgy

Resources: [Praying like Monks. Living like Fools: What Is Intercessory Prayer?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdVEXYYDmlg) - Tyler Stanton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdVEXYYDmlg>