

PRAYER CHALLENGE RESTORE GROUPS

Restore Group Prayer Challenge Leader Guide Week 3 - "Intercession and Petition"

I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land...
Ezekiel 22:30

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6

Overview

This session centers on "Intercession and Petition" in prayer, emphasizing the call to stand in the gap for others and bring personal needs to God. Intercessory prayer reflects our care for others, while petition builds our trust in God's response to our needs. Together, these practices foster a compassionate spirit and strengthen our faith.

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to fill your gathering with compassion for others' needs and courage to present personal requests to God. Pray for hearts that seek to intercede and to trust in God's faithful provision.

2. Scripture Reading (10 minutes)

- Primary Passage: Ezekiel 22:30 - "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land..."
 - Read: Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-2 - "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority..."
- Discussion Prompts:
 - Reflect on what it means to "stand in the gap" for others.
 - How can presenting our requests with thanksgiving transform our approach to prayer?
 - Why is it essential to intercede for leaders and those in authority?

3. Discussion (15 minutes)

- Discuss the role of intercession in strengthening relational bonds and the significance of petitioning God with a thankful heart.
- Suggested Questions:
 - How does intercession reflect our faith in God's power and love?
 - What experiences have you had where God answered a specific petition?
 - How does thanksgiving affect the way we present our needs to God?

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4. Practicing Intercession and Petition in Prayer (15 minutes)

- Intercession: Encourage each participant to think of someone in their life or community who needs prayer support. Pray individually or collectively for these specific needs.
- Personal Petition: Take a few moments for each member to silently present their personal needs, thanking God for His attentiveness and peace.
- Scriptural Reflection: Use Philippians 4:6 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2 to affirm the peace that comes from entrusting others and ourselves to God.

5. Group Prayer (15 minutes)

- Unified Prayer of Intercession: Pray collectively for community and world needs, such as those in leadership, and any other pressing issues, reminding the group of the importance of lifting up others in faith.
- Silent Petition: Allow time for each member to bring personal petitions before God, reflecting on His faithfulness in responding to our needs.

6. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- End with gratitude for God's presence and response to our prayers, asking Him to continue guiding the group to faithfully intercede for others and bring their needs with thanksgiving.
- Weekly Reflection Challenge: Challenge each member to practice intercession daily, choosing one person or cause to lift up, and to spend time each day presenting personal petitions with gratitude.

7. Corporate Prayer Rhythm (CPR)

- Encourage attendance at The Prayer gathering for community intercession and petition, emphasizing the strength found in collective prayer and mutual support. ~Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Gilmer & Longview