

Learning to Lead

Session Three

Worship and Prayer

✓ Check each item below after you have discussed it with your Leader.

Preparation before you meet with your Leader.

- 1. Read **Being God's Servant**. Be prepared to discuss what it means to be God's servant leader. Be prepared to share your prayer to God with your Leader (optional).
- 2. Read the third main objective **Worship and Prayer**. Be prepared to discuss your responsibility and also how you might involve other group members in leading in the worship and prayer time.
- 3. Read **How to Have Meaningful Worship and Prayer**. Be prepared to discuss with your Leader the worship and prayer strategies you would like to implement in our group.

To be completed with your Leader:

- 4. Each share your personal praise and prayer requests. Talk about the needs of group members.
- 5. Discuss and (✓) check off points 1 through 3 above.

Planning to share with our group this month:

- 6. Leader and Apprentice discuss and decide when, what strategy and who will implement some of these worship and prayer suggestions over the following weeks.

Date _____ Strategy _____ Name _____

Prayer and Closing:

- 7. Pray for each other and for our group members.
- 8. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Four.
- 9. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Learning to Lead session.
- 10. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Dynamic Sharing training.

Being God's Servant

To be a servant leader in God's ministry you need to be God's servant.

Many scripture passages describe Jesus as God's Servant. He came as a servant to accomplish God's will in the redemption of humanity. Paul described Jesus' servant attitude and commended it to us in this way:

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross”.

Philippians 2:5-8

We are to develop the servant attitude of Christ which calls for humility and obedience. In His instructions to His disciples about servanthood, Jesus described His own role of service: *“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”.* Matthew.20: 27,28

The call to salvation is a call to be on mission with Him. In this new relationship you move into a servant role with God as your Lord and Master.

Some would define a servant like this: *“A servant is one who finds out what his master wants him to do, and he does it”.* The master tells him, and the servant goes off *by himself* and does it. That is not a biblical concept of a servant of God. Being a servant of God is different. A servant of a human master works *for* his master. God, however, works *through* His servants. My understanding of a servant of God is more like the potter and the clay. The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, *“Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?’ says the Lord. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!’”*

Jeremiah. 18:1-6

To be useful, the clay has to be mouldable, and once made into a vessel it has to remain in the hand of the potter to be used. He used ordinary clay! I am glad that God uses ordinary people like Elijah, Peter and John and Dwight L. Moody. D.L. Moody was an ordinary, poorly educated, unordained shoe salesman who felt the call of God to preach the gospel. Early one morning he and some friends gathered in a hay field for a season of prayer, confession, and consecration. In that prayer meeting Henry Varley said, “The world has yet to see what God can do **with** and **for** and **through** and **in** a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him”. Moody was deeply moved by those words. “The world had yet to see! **With** and **for** and **through** and **in!** A Man!”

Varley meant any person! Varley did not say he had to be educated, or brilliant, or anything else! Just a man! Well, by the Holy Spirit in him, Moody would be one of those men.

Dwight L. Moody was an ordinary man who sought to be fully and wholly consecrated to Christ. Through this one ordinary life God began to do the extraordinary. Moody became one of the greatest evangelists of modern times. During much his life he preached in revival services across Britain and America where thousands and thousands came to Christ.

Could God work in **extraordinary ways** through your life **to accomplish significant things** for His kingdom?

An ordinary person is whom God most likes to use. Paul said God deliberately seeks out the weak things and the despised things, because it is from these things that He can receive the greatest glory (see 1 Corinthians. 1:26-31). Then everyone will know that only God could have done it. If you feel weak, limited, ordinary, you are the best material though which God can work!

As a servant you must be mouldable and remain available for the Master's use. Even though you may consider yourself to be an ordinary person, God will prepare you, and then He will do His work through you, revealing Himself to a watching world.

“Discover what God is Doing, and Join Him in it!”

Do you want to be a servant of God? _____

Do you want to see God accomplishing things through you that only God can do? _____

Then find out where the Master is - that is where you need to be.

Find out what the Master is doing that is what you need to be doing.

Jesus said: ***“if anyone serves Me let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My father will honour”.*** John 12:26

Follow the example of Jesus, recognize that you can do nothing and God can do anything.

Humble yourself to God right now in prayer and acknowledge this truth.

Pledge to Him your **absolute surrender and obedience** to anything He calls you to **be or do**.

Write out a prayer to God: _____

*Revised from “Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby.

Worship and Prayer

*“Never try to make prayer important - only God is important.
Prayer becomes important only when God has become important.
It becomes a need when God has become a need.
If prayer is not important to you, it is a sign that
God is not that important to you.”*

Sergio Garcia

“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.” Psalm 145:18,19

Worship: (Leader)

- **Sing** one or more praise **songs or hymns**.
- **Read a Psalm** or other passage of scripture.
- **Share verbal praise** to **God** for answered prayer.
 - **Focus on the attributes of God.**
 - **Share communion** if appropriate.
- **Encourage** each one to participate. **Do not** share or pray around the circle and do not embarrass anyone.

Prayer: (Apprentice or Leader)

- conversational prayer (short, sentence prayers)
- encourage each one to participate but do not embarrass anyone
- briefly ask for requests or answers to prayer. Record requests and answers. (See Sample)
- pray for each other and the specific needs expressed
- pray for each other during the week
- pray for your family and friends by name
- pray for opportunities to witness to those in their **Sphere of Influence**
- pray for prospects being invited to the Life Group or an Outreach Event

How to Have Meaningful Group Prayer

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Your group prayer time can be a very vital and exciting time for each one in your group. Prayer has not always been that kind of experience for some. This is often because they do not have a personal relationship with God in prayer. You have the exciting opportunity of teaching those in your group how to talk to God personally as though He were actually present as indeed He is.

Conversational Prayer

I am going to suggest that you teach your group how to pray conversationally. Conversational prayer is simply conversing with God. Instead of each person making a “prayer speech” to the Lord, see your prayer as an opportunity as a group to talk things over with Him. One person can bring up a subject for prayer, praying briefly about it. The next person, instead of going on to initiate another thought, may choose to continue to pray about the same subject. The important thing is to allow an opportunity to pray back and forth on the subject until everyone who wants to participate seems finished. Then someone else can begin a new prayer topic.

The following example illustrates spontaneous conversational prayer:

One person may begin, *“Lord, I love You.”*

Another follows, *“Thank You that You are here today and that we can talk to You knowing that You hear us.”*

Another prays, *“Thank You for Your love that sent the Lord Jesus to die for my sins.”*

One quotes the Psalmist, *“Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised...”*

Another may admit, *“Lord I confess that I didn’t want to come here tonight, but thank You that I am here, and that You have already spoken to me.”*

Another petitions, *“I pray that You will draw my friend, Jim, to Yourself, so that he may experience the new birth and become a vital witness and disciple for You.”*

Another agrees, *“I agree with this prayer, Father. Show us how we can approach him with the gospel soon.”*... and so on.

Format for Your Time of Prayer:

- Thank the Lord for who He is, for His goodness and His love, for His ability to meet all your needs, for eternal life and for personal answers to prayer
- Praise God for answered prayers and pray for the needs of others. Pray together concerning personal needs of the group members, for family needs, for your church leaders and missionaries and any other needs expressed. Pray for the salvation of individuals with whom you have contact. Pray for spiritual renewal of our community, country and world.
- Pray for your own needs.
- Express your adoration for our prayer hearing and answering God.
- Vary the format from week to week:
 - pray together as a total group
 - form smaller groups for greater intimacy, divide group into 2 groups or groups of 3 or 4 with a mixture of men and women or men and women separately

Prayer Guidelines:

1. Many adults feel the need to pray but hesitate to pray out loud in a group. You may need to encourage them by helping them get started.
 - It is important to stress the need for prayer.
 - Discuss the importance of confessing all known sin - admitting it to God and thanking Him for His forgiveness.
 - Talk about how important it is to thank God for everything He sends into our lives.
 - Encourage them to pray prayers that are sincere, brief and a reflection of their faith.
 - Encourage them to talk to God any time they feel a need.

- Encourage them to develop sensitivity to their awareness of God.
 - Encourage them to pray aloud when they are alone so they can get used to hearing their own voice praying.
 - Encourage them to write out their prayers and bring them and share them with the group.
2. Rather than praying around the circle, let anyone who wants to pray, do so.
 3. Don't be afraid of silence. Use any pause to allow God an opportunity to speak to you.
 4. Limit each prayer to one or two sentences but let each person pray as many times as they choose to do so.
 5. Remember, that Jesus Christ Himself is actually present in the room. It may help to set a chair in the middle of the room as a visual reminder of His presence. He promises in Matthew 18:19,20, ***"I also tell you this - if two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask for, My Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are Mine, I will be right there among them."***
 6. You may want to hand out prayer requests or discuss prayer needs ahead of time or simply mention your request by praying about it in the actual time of prayer. Others in the group can join you in praying about your request. Feel free to add additional requests as they come to mind.
 7. For variety, use a passage of scripture and pray it back to God restating it in your own words. E.g. Using Psalm 145.
One person reads verse 1: "I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever." Then that person prays, "Father, I worship you. Thank You that You are my God and my King. It is a pleasure to bless Your name today and I look forward to doing so throughout eternity". Another person continues by reading a verse or phrase and then personalizing it in prayer to God and so on through the rest of the Psalm or as time permits. You will enjoy this experience together - give it a try!
 8. In a similar way, you may want to pray claiming verses of scripture for specific requests. For example:
 - For the sick and heavily burdened - emergency - James 5:14,15; 1 Peter 1:5
 - For those in authority over us - government, church - 1 Tim. 1:1-6; Rom. 13:1
 - Salvation requests - Rom. 10:1; John 14:12,13; II Peter 3:9
 - Fellow believers - Pastors - Eph. 3:14-20; Col. 1:9-12
 - Labourers for the harvest - existing and needed, - Matt. 9:37,38; Rom. 10:13-15
 9. Record your requests and answers.

Do not feel that you have to implement all of these ideas at once but try a variety of methods to keep prayer vital and personal. Remember also to involve other people in the implementation of these strategies for prayer. This is part of your training of future Leaders.

