

Prayer Groups Leader Guide

(This is just a guide, let the Spirit this time – add your own thoughts)

Have someone read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

QUESTION: What 3 things are we told to do?

ANSWER: Be Joyful, Never Stop Praying, Be Thankful

MAKE THIS POINT:

- Being Joyful begins with Prayer
 - When life gets you down...praying reminds us that we serve the God of the universe who is in control...and things will be OK, even when chaos is going on around us
- Being Thankful requires Prayer
 - To tell God how thankful we are...we need to pray to tell Him

SAY: When you pray, whether to find Joy or give Thanks...or for anything else: You don't have to use special words. Simply talk to God as a friend.

SAY: If it still seems hard to pray...you can use this card as a guide:

ACTS of Prayer Card (Have them look at the card - Below is what is on the card)

- **Adoration:** What things do you love about God? Pray and tell God how much you love this about Him.
 - **NOTE:** Mention some of God's attributes as examples: Unconditional love, Grace, Wisdom, etc...or whatever comes to mind
- **Confession:** What sins do you need to confess? Pray and ask for forgiveness.
 - **NOTE:** Mention it's important we allow the Holy Spirit to continue to point out sin in our life. When we are aware of sin, we need to confess it, seek forgiveness, and repent.
- **Thanksgiving:** What are you thankful for? Pray and thank God for these things.
 - **NOTE:** This is pretty self-explanatory but I wondered if you would read this sentence and allow me to waste a few moments of your life.
- **Supplication:** Who do you know that needs to be prayed for? Pray and ask for God's will to be done in these requests. (Supplication Definition: the action or begging for something earnestly or humbly.)
 - **NOTE:** Simply put: pray for people

NOTE: They can take this card home as a prayer help

SAY: There are other cards available during youth group.

- Prayer Request Cards – Praise & Thanks Cards – Private Prayer Request Cards

NOTE: Have them look at these cards while you explain them

Prayer Request Cards

- Write your prayer request on a card.
- Put it in the prayer requests container on the prayer wall

Praise & Thanks Cards

- Write a praise or thanks to God on a card.
- Put it in the Praise & Thanks container on the prayer wall

PRACTICE PRAYING!!!!

- If there are Prayer Request Cards or Praise and Thanks Cards in the containers
 - Take one – Pray or Give Thanks
 - Place it back in the top “Prayed for Container”

Private Prayer Request (read this to them)

- **ON THE CARD:** This prayer request is between you and God. No one else we ever see it. It will be shredded at the end of the evening. Write a prayer asking for forgiveness or for help in other private matters. Place this card in an envelope and seal it. Nail your prayer to the cross. Pray as you do. Leave this burden at the cross for Jesus to answer according to His will.

TELL THEM THIS: Use these cards at ANYTIME!

- Before or After Youth Group
- During Youth Group: Worship, Prayer, Lesson – ANYTIME God prompts you to do so

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

- If they are willing: Have each student say a simple sentence pray (or more if they want)
- Simple Prayer Could Be: Thank you for loving me.
 - Pray however the Spirit directs you