

GENERAL LEADERSHIP GUIDE—“PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY”

The following is a small group leadership guide that corresponds to the chapters in the book and the lessons in the workbook. The leader should construct each session around two basic elements:

1. Prayer:
 - a. Leaders should open each session with prayer or ask someone in the group to pray and ask God to minister in a mighty way to the class.
 - b. At the end of each session, the class should spend time in individual, focused prayer for their families.
2. Identification, discussion, and application of the principles in the book and workbook.

Be sure and ask the class if they had any difficulty or problems with the workbook.*

*See paper on how to use the workbook.

CHAPTER 1-THE MEETING PLACE

“It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.’” (Luke 11:1, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Understand the significance and importance of having a consistent meeting place with God.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Know the Biblical basis for having a place of prayer.
2. Understand the purpose of being alone with God in prayer.
3. Identify people from history who sought God in a secret place.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Explain the two paths to the meeting place. *This sentence refers to “The Sovereignty of God” and “the Will of man”, pg. 11. Ask the class what their thoughts are on these two paths.
2. Discuss the will of God for our lives as it relates to prayer.
3. Discuss the difference between a life with Jesus and a life without Jesus.
4. Ask the class to discuss their background and the history of God at work in their lives.
5. Discuss with the class what would be the best time to begin praying in the meeting place.
6. Ask the class what priorities would need to be rearranged to have a quality time alone with God.
7. Form groups and discuss how to establish a meeting place.

APPLICATION:

1. Challenge the students to establish a place of prayer.
2. Talk about what schedule changes need to take place in order to have a place of prayer.

*End session with individual prayer time for families.

CHAPTER 2-PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY

*“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.’”
(Matthew 6:9, NASB)*

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Develop a personal prayer plan for your family.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Challenge the class to pray for their families.
2. Understand important principles for praying for your family.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Ask the class to share their personal experiences of being scorned or rejected by family members as a result of their decision to follow Christ.
2. Discuss how God prepares us to pray for our family.
3. Ask the class what changes need to take place in their lives for God to work in their families.
4. Discuss with the class what prevents them from persistence in prayer.
5. Ask the class to write in their notebooks the dreams they have for their families.
6. Discuss the four main principles for praying for your family.

APPLICATION:

1. Encourage the class to pray that God would give them the desire to pray for their families.
2. Ask the class to make a list of family members who need Christ, or need to come back to Christ, and begin praying for them daily.

*End session with individual prayer time for families.

CHAPTER 3-PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILDREN

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Help the class understand the absolute importance of praying for their children.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a vision for our children’s lives.

2. Identify and understand important principles of intercession for our children.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Have the class discuss what keeps their children from loving God with all of their hearts.
2. Ask the class to discuss why it is important to intercede for their children.
3. Ask the class which principles in chapter 3 are the most difficult to apply to their prayers and why.
4. Ask the class to share examples of how God has answered their prayers for their children.
5. Discuss: What are some of the things your children want you to pray for them?

APPLICATION: Write out the names of children and/or grandchildren and their spiritual needs, and begin praying for them daily.

*End session with individual prayer time for families.

CHAPTER 4-PRAYING WITH A FORGIVING HEART

“And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us...”
(Luke 11:4, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Encourage the class to build a prayer life founded on forgiveness.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

1. Understand the Biblical principles of forgiveness.
2. Learn what unconditional forgiveness is.
3. Learn how to lead a life in which forgiveness and prayer are united.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Encourage the class to think about their personal history and see if there is any point of hurt or unforgiveness in their past.
2. Talk about God’s forgiveness in our lives and how it relates to the people we have hurt or who have hurt us.
3. Discuss some of the cultural and personal strongholds that impede our intimacy with God (examples: guilt, bitterness and anger).
4. Discuss the two principles of prayer as it relates to forgiveness (p72).
5. Ask the class to share how unrepentant hearts and broken relationships can weaken our effectiveness in prayer.
6. Discuss how we can encourage forgiveness and healing in our families.
7. Emphasize the truth about forgiveness.

APPLICATION:

1. Reiterate the relationship between forgiveness and prayer.

2. Have the class spend private time in prayer confessing any bitterness in their hearts and/or forgiving those who have wronged them.
3. Close by reading 1 John 1:9.

CHAPTER 5-TEARING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Understand that the presence of spiritual strongholds in our families can be destroyed.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the personality traits that were passed down to us from our forefathers.
2. Identify personal spiritual strongholds.
3. Understand the weapons we need to fight against spiritual strongholds.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Ask the group to share the personality traits they believe they inherited from their forefathers.
2. Clarify what spiritual strongholds are.
3. Identify and discuss the three sources of strongholds and how they grow (see pgs. 90-91)
4. Present the weapons that we should use to tear down strongholds (see pgs. 96-98).

APPLICATION:

1. Ask the students to read the quote by William Gurnall on page 99, and to share their thoughts on his statement.
2. Reiterate how life is a spiritual battle and how we must choose to stand against Satan and the strongholds in our lives.

CHAPTER 6-DESPERATE PRAYING

“It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever.” (Psalm 133:3, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Encourage one another with transparent and persistent prayer for their families.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: Understand how to pray powerfully and desperately for our families.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Discuss why God sometimes has to bring us to a place of desperation in order to reveal Himself to us.

2. Read Psalm 51:17 and James 4:6b. Discuss the significance of these verses, especially in relation to prayer (see pgs 108 & 109).
3. Ask the class if there are any issues in their lives that they have “swept under the rug” and are not dealing with.
4. Ask the class to share testimonies of times in which they were desperate and God answered their prayers.
5. Ask the class to identify a point of hurt that they need to bring to God in prayer.

APPLICATION:

1. Ask the class to spend time writing specific steps they can take to trust God with seemingly hopeless situations.
2. Ask the class to spend time praying that God would deal with the unresolved issues and the hurts in their hearts and families.

CHAPTER 7-LEAVING A LEGACY

“I have inherited Your testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.” (Psalm 119:111, NASB)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Understand what it means to leave a legacy of prayer for our families.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

1. Understand the difference between and the importance of heritage, identity, and legacy.
2. Understand that all people have a personal family history that impacts the type of person they are today.
3. Understand the meaning of an eternal legacy.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Discuss the difference between heritage, legacy and identity and how they affect the people we are today.
2. Ask the class to share how certain things in their history have shaped their identity.
3. Discuss the steps to leaving an eternal legacy, and how the class can begin to apply those principles to their lives.

APPLICATION:

1. Have the class make a list of the people who have prayed for them.
2. Have the class make a list of the people in their family that they are asking God to work deeply in their lives.
3. Ask each member of the class to make a commitment to pray for their family members on a regular basis.