

Apprentice Group Meeting Guide – Prayer (Step 11)

“Are we all ready?” - *If you haven't yet read through this guide, take a look now.*

“How are we all doing?” - *High, Low & Buffalo*

“Shall we dive in?” – *Read 2 Cor. 3:17-18 out loud. Take a few seconds, then read it again.*

“Let's take a moment.” (Silence) – *Take a few minutes to “tune” your heart towards Jesus.*

“How are we all doing with The Plan?” – *Each person gives an update on The Plan from step 9.*

- *Did you connect with everyone on your list?*
- *Have you begun to make amends?*
- *How have the conversations been so far?*
- *Is there anything you should have done but haven't done yet?*
- *What do you need from the group?*
- *What is your next step?*

“Can someone read the next part out loud?”

Step 11: *We seek through prayer [talking to God] and meditation [thinking about God] to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

In other words, step 11 is being aware of God's presence here and now. We join God in a conversation, we learn to listen to Him, and we get His input on our decisions.

“Can someone read this prayer?”

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – welcome to our group!
Help us become more aware of you.*

“Who would like to go first?”- *Share one at a time – Set a timer if you'd like.*

1. Have you ever felt like you heard something from God? If so, share that experience.
2. Consider your life right now. What situation, relationship, or problem is on your mind?
3. What is your 'best idea' for this situation, relationship, or problem? What do *you* want to do?

4. This next part has 4 steps: *pray, pay attention, share, and weigh*. Have each person go through all 4 steps as part of their sharing. Read through the whole box before the first person begins.

I. PRAY - I pray this prayer:

*God, I surrender ____ (this situation / this relationship / this problem) ____ to you.
I surrender all my best ideas to you.
What do you want to do?
What do you want me to do?*

II. PAY ATTENTION – We all take a moment. Set a timer if you'd like.

Pay attention to God's presence. *What do you notice? What comes to mind?*

- *This could be a word or idea, a Scripture verse, a line from a song, an analogy, a picture in your imagination, or even an emotion.*
- *Remember: God will always bring us closer to Jesus, make us more like Jesus, and agree with the Bible. Anything that doesn't do that is not from God!*

III. / SHARE – What did I notice? What came to mind?

"I noticed that ____" or "I feel like ____" or "Something that came to mind was ____" or "I wonder if God might be saying that ____."

- *Again, this could be a word or idea, a Scripture verse, a line from a song, an analogy, a picture in your imagination, or even an emotion.*
- *Remember: God will always bring us closer to Jesus, make us more like Jesus, and agree with the Bible. Anything that doesn't do that is not from God!*

IV. WE SHARE - What did everyone else notice?

"I noticed that ____" or "I feel like ____" or "Something that came to mind was ____" or "I wonder if God might be saying to you that ____."

- *This is not the time to give your opinion, offer advice, or share your personal experience!*

V. / 'WEIGH' WHAT WAS SHARED – Did it draw you closer to Jesus? Did it make you more like Jesus? Did it agree with the Bible? If so, consider what God might be saying! If not, it was not from God. (If it wasn't from God, don't worry – this is an opportunity to grow and learn God's voice together!)

"Thanks for sharing ____. I want to remind you of Jesus' promise: **"The Good Shepherd calls you by name and leads you. He will go ahead of you, and you can follow him because you know his voice."**¹ Can I pray for you?

"Alright, who's next?" (Everyone Takes a Turn Sharing and Being Prayed For)

"Thanks everyone! Same time next week?" (Confirm Next Meeting & Wrap it Up)

¹ Adapted from John 10:4-5