

PRAYER PRAXIS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN WORD & WORLD (2019-10-05)

Time: Approximately 3 1/4 Hours

Personnel for Ministry Roles:

Presenter for the Quick User Guide

Facilitator for Overview of Unreached People Groups and of the Four Movements

Facilitator for Movement 1: Reverence

Facilitator for Movement 2: Response

Presenter for an Unreached People Group Focus

Facilitator for Movement 3: Requests

Facilitator for Movement 4: Readiness for Action

Facilitator for Movement 1(revisited): Reverence & Doxology

Presenter for the Final Instructions, Evaluation, etc.

Musician(s) for Music & Song

DETAILS:

"Quick User Guide"

Opening Prayers, Brief Explanations

Total Time: 10 minutes

Welcome, Scripture Reading, and Opening Prayer based on that Scripture portion (briefly model the 4 movements right away).

Quick Introduction... Who is World Mission Prayer League & What is WMPL about?

Quick Overview... What do we hope to accomplish during this time today?

Quick Explanation... What is "Prayer Praxis: Filling the Gap between Text & World?"

(1) The approach to prayer taken today is Scripture-fed, worship-based, and Holy Spirit-led prayers for those populations with little or no access to the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This approach is as old as the Scriptures.

(2) The approach today is also "praxis." The word "praxis" may be defined as "practical application of a theory" (*Merriam-Webster.com*), and "practice, as distinguished from theory; application or use, as of knowledge or skills" (*Dictionary.com*).

In this case, we desire to bring the Word of God to bear upon the present reality of peoples without the gospel through our intercession. We are bridging the promises of God contained in the Word across to today's World of those populations who have restricted to no access to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ through our prayer on their behalf. This is our practice of prayer today.

Quick ABCD's for prayer gatherings:

- Audible:** Pray loudly enough so that others can hear.
- Brief:** Brevity in prayer is encouraged, being socially aware of the length of your prayers is valuable.
- Clear:** Pray clearly, about one thing at a time. It encourages greater agreement and focus.
- Dynamic:** Be alive! Be awake! Avoid falling asleep: take a position that encourages wakefulness: stand, walk, kneel, sit, prostrate, squat on floor, hold hands up, in front, at your sides, open hands or clenched, whatever allows for your expression in relationship with the God revealed in the Bible. Be respectful and aware of others and be Dynamic.

Music & Song in Worship (2-3 songs. Examples: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* by Ed Cash, Isaac Watts, John C. Hatton, Keith Getty, and Kristyn Getty; *Your Great Name* by Krissy Nordhoff & Michael Neale).

Total Time: 10 minutes

Stand if possible in order to change body position.

Overview

Total Time: 25 minutes

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 so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."* (NIV)

Provide summary of Chapter. Explain how we fill the gap with our prayers this morning and for whom.

Matthew 9:37-38 (NCV) *Jesus said to his followers, "There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them. Pray to the Lord, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to gather his harvest."*

Overview of people groups and populations with limited or no access to the gospel (Unreached Peoples)

Overview: The FOUR Movements for today's Prayer Praxis:

Examine The Lord's Prayer

- Two parts: God is Worthy / We are Needy
- Four movements: Reverence, Response, Requests, Readiness, (and revisit Reverence)

Some further explanation about the Four facets/movements/phases of prayer.

Be intentional to link Scripture to our prayers today and the information/understanding about unreached populations and God's heart for the nations.

Move into the Four Movements, each with Explanation, then Practice, Evaluation, and then the Real Thing (Prayer Praxis):

MOVEMENT 1. Reverence/Adoration

Answers the question: Who is God? (Adoration provides the foundation and context for our prayers.)

Total Time: 30 minutes

Explanation: This is the starting place! The Word. What does the Scripture passage reveal to us about the One we pray to? What does it reveal about God and His character? Then in prayer, state this back to God in worship of who He is.

The Lord's Prayer, "*Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*"

Example to Practice: Provide Scripture and prayer help. Time to practice in groups of 2-4 people. Follow with time for questions/feedback from participants. Correct, admonish, encourage.

You could use these names/attributes of Jesus:

Jesus (the Greek form of Joshua = the Lord saves) (Matthew 1:21)

Friend of Sinners (Matthew 11:9)

My Master/Teacher (Matthew 23:8)

The Physician (Luke 4:23)

My Keeper (John 17:12)

The Way (John 14:6)

The Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)

My Peace (Ephesians 2:14)

My Hope (1 Timothy 1:1)

My Sin-Purifier (Hebrews 1:3)

Begin your prayer by finishing this sentence: Jesus, I thank You that You were my _____ [Jesus' Name/ Attribute] when _____ (think of a time when you experienced Jesus in your life this way).

Now, the Real Thing: Provide Scripture (especially choosing Scriptures that reveal something of God's character in relation to His Heart for the nations). Pray Scripture back to God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in worship. Give praise & thanksgiving for His choice to bring salvation to all peoples around the globe. You could use the following:

Jos. 4:23-24 *...the hand of the Lord is powerful*

1 Ch. 16:23-25 *Declare his glory..., his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise*

1 Ch. 16:31 *...let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"*

Ps. 48:10 *...your right hand is filled with righteousness*

Hag. 2:6-9 *"... I will grant peace" declares the Lord Almighty*

Rev. 4:8 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.*

In order to model the application of this approach: end this part (and all 4 movements) with a Scripture-fed prayer that incorporates all 4 movements

Music & Song in Worship (1 song. Example: *Give Us Clean Hands*, by Charlie Hall).

Total Time: 5 minutes

Stand if possible --to change position.

MOVEMENT 2: Response

Answers the question: How do I respond? (The revelation of God demands our response.)

Total Time: 20 minutes

Explanation: Pray Scripture back to God in our confession, repentance, surrender and humble thanksgiving for His provision of saving grace through Jesus Christ that is for us and all peoples, nations, tribes and tongues.

The Lord's Prayer, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Example to practice: Provide Scripture and prayer help that reveal something of our character in relation to our need for forgiveness and salvation and that of all peoples. Time to practice in pairs. Time for questions/feedback from participants.

You could follow this example:

How do we respond to this God who is Holy and Righteous?

God's revelation demands our response:

Confession, Repentance and Surrender

We have disobeyed. We have disregarded God's commandments. We have failed to pray Luke 10:2, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.*" And we have failed to earnestly pray Matthew 28:19 "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*"

Now, provide Scripture (especially choosing Scriptures that reveal something of our character in relation to our need for forgiveness and salvation and that of all peoples). Prayer for all peoples with limited or no access to this saving gospel--the removal of our shame & sin, forgiveness in the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:8-2:2).

Example:

1 Ch. 16:24 "*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*"

Ps. 139:23-24 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Da. 9:5 "*We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.*"

Ac. 3:19 "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*"

Ro. 3:23 *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

1 Jn 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Pray, thanking God for forgiveness in and through Jesus Christ for you and for all people. Let us try to be specific about our failings with regard to God’s call to pray to the Lord of the harvest.

Music & Song in Worship (1 song. Example: *Is He Worthy?* by Andrew Peterson & Ben Shive).

Total Time: 5 minutes

Stand if possible --to change position.

Unreached People Group Focus (Choose a people group such as The Sea Gypsies.)

Total Time: 10 minutes

The Harvest Field. Ten minutes to inform about a particular people group--fuel for informed and specific prayer.

MOVEMENT 3: Requests/Intercession

Answers the question: What will I pray about? (This is where we bring our prayers for Resources & Relationships.)

Total Time: 30 minutes

Explanation: Pray the Lord of the Harvest. Having acknowledged Who we are praying to and submitted to His will to be done in and through our lives, we can now turn to more specific requests according to His will...

The Lord's Prayer, *“Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”* Here we find two subcategories for requests/intercessions (Mt 9:36-38, Lk 10:2): daily needs and restoration of relationships.

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

Bridge the Gap for populations with little or no access to the gospel: the Sea Gypsies.

1 Ti. 2:1 *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.”*

1 Ti. 2:3-4 *“This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

Jn 3:17 *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

Ac. 17:26-28 *“From one man he made all the nations... and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him.”*

Rv. 7:9-10 *“A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”*

Example to Practice: Provide Scripture and prayer help. Practice in pairs. Time for Questions and sharing from participants.

Now, the Real Thing: Provide Scripture--especially choosing Scriptures that reveal something of God's heart to restore relationships (people to people, and people to God) and meet people's most important needs, and especially (first) their need for salvation from eternal judgement for their sin, by holy God, and (secondly) the transformation of relationships within their families, communities, and the planting and growth of the church, the living body of Jesus Christ (the living testimony of God's grace and the hope of resurrection life), etc.

Harvest is plentiful... Pray!

Ac. 4:12 *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

Pray for God to prepare the minds and hearts of the Sea Gypsies

Ps. 115:15 *“May you be blessed by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”*

Pray that the Lord will provide for the necessities of daily living for the Sea Gypsies: health care, education, work, home ownership etc.

Mk. 1:27 *“He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey Him.”*

Pray against demonic influences incorporated into Sea Gypsies' beliefs that they might find freedom from bondage through faith in Christ.

Workers are few... Pray!

Ro. 10:14 *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in and how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them.”*

Pray for the few workers among the Sea Gypsies: for boldness, creativity and integrity to preach the Gospel.

Mt. 9:37-38 *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

Pray that the Lord would call more workers and for believers to hear God's call for the harvest field.

Ps. 119:105 *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

Pray for progress of translation; for Scripture audio/video media and other creative ways for God's Word to touch and transform Sea Gypsies, for God's glory.

Music & Song in Worship (1 song. Example: *You Said* by Reuben Morgan).

Total Time: 5 minutes

Stand if possible --to change position.

MOVEMENT 4: Readiness for Action/Battle

Answers the question: Where do I plan to go from here? (We are in a Battle for the Unreached Populations.)

Total Time: 20 minutes

Explanation: It's time to identify what challenges will oppose our prayers and in which we may declare God's will be done. The Lord's Prayer, *"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil/the evil one."* (declare your trust in God's presence and protection today as you pray for those populations least reached and still very much under the power of our spiritual enemy Satan. Declare your trust in God's power to enable you to overcome your struggles.)

1 Sa. 17:47 The battle is the LORD's

Ps. 46:9-11 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations

Zc. 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty

Eph. 6:12 Our struggle is not against flesh and blood...

Eph 6:18 Be alert and always keep on praying

Example to Practice: Provide Scripture and prayer help. Time to practice in pairs. Allow time for questions/feedback from participants.

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Pray: Father, today I will resist the devil's attacks to divert my prayers for _____ and I stand firm in my trust in your promise of _____ Amen!

Now, the Real Thing. Provide Scripture (especially choosing Scriptures that reveal the Lord's power, victory and comfort in the battle against deceptions, temptations, and overwhelming odds and trials. Declare His truth over the lies and deceptions of the world, ourselves and the enemy). (eg: Neh 1:7)

Psalm 46:7-11(NIV)

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth... He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pray: Father, because You are mighty in confronting your enemies (v.9), I will trust You to overcome my struggle with _____ .

1 Peter 5:8-11 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Pray like this: Father, give me grace to be sober/self-controlled and vigilant/alert as I face the enemy today in my prayers for _____.

Music & Song in Worship (1 song. Example: *The Stand* by Joel Houston).

Total Time: 5 minutes

Stand if possible --to change position.

MOVEMENT 1 REVISITED: Reverence/Adoration

(Could use all four movements to model the approach for participants during this time.)

Total Time: 15 minutes

Explanation: Close the gathering with recalling Who is the One we have been in prayer with. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for hearing our prayers today. Here there is the invitation to offer prayers of praise and adoration... Father we adore you, Jesus we adore you; Holy Spirit we adore you.

Follow the directions in Movement 1 OR open it up for anyone in the room to pray out loud in worshipful response (one by one/together) for what God has revealed about Himself in the Word and through this morning's experience.

Music & Song in Worship (1 song. Example: *Facing a Task Unfinished* by Ed Cash, Fionán De Barra, Frank Houghton, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Samuel Wesley)

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Total Time: 5 minutes

Stand if possible --to change position.

Final Instructions/ Announcements/Evaluation

Total Time: 4 minutes

Doxology

Total Time: 1 minute

Revelation 7:10-12

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb... Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”
