

Praying Scripture Back to God

Description: This training session emphasizes the importance of prayer to successful Small Groups and suggests methods of praying.

Objective: To provide practical experience in using Scripture for prayer, either in personal devotions or in group settings.

Goal: To strengthen the expression of prayer in personal lives and groups.

Biblical Foundation: Matt 6:9-13; 1 John 5:14-15; Psalm 107:20

Benefits of Praying Scripture:

- You will always be praying in accordance with God's will
- You will never be selfish in your prayers (CR James 4:3)
- You will keep your groups Scripture-centered
- It will teach you how to pray and what to pray for
- It will keep prayer focused on matters of the heart
- It will move you from Scripture reading to Scripture meditation and memorization.
- It will move you toward Scripture application
(reminder: application is the point)

Exercises in Praying Scripture

EXERCISE #1: Praying by personalizing Scripture

Explanation: Changing 3rd person to 1st & 2nd person, and tenses from the past to the present or future.

Application: Primarily individual or group prayer time.

Practice: Sample text - **Psalm 23:1-6**. Change “*the Lord*” and “*He*” to “*You*.” Change “*I*” and “*me*” to “*us*” and “*we*.”

Psalm 23:1-6 The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters,
He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

EXERCISE #2: Praying Scripture as supplication/intercession

Explanation: Praying for biblical truths, commands, and promises to become earthly realities for you (supplication), and other individuals, groups, or community (intercession).

Application: Individual or group prayer time.

Practice text: Choose a Scripture passage.

Step 1: Read through the text

Step 2: Make your prayer list. Identify from this text specific things that could be prayed as thanksgiving, praise, supplication (for yourself), or intercession (for others).

Step 3: Identify anyone who needs these prayers

Step 4: Pray and intercede

EXERCISE #3: Praying Bible Prayers

Explanation: Taking a prayer recorded in Scripture and using it to pray for yourself, other group members, family, or friends. This exercise may use personalization, but does not have to.

Application: Individual or group prayer time.

Examples:

Jesus - The model prayer: John 17 (high-priestly prayer)

Paul - Prayers for the church: Colossians 1:9-12; Ephesians 1:15-19a;
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Jabez - 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

David – Psalms 51 and 139