

PRAYER SUPPORT

Building prayer support for your Single & Parenting outreach is an essential part of effective ministry. The strategies outlined here will help you do that.

The foundation for all great moves of God can be traced to men and women of prayer. We hear about the need and importance of prayer from those we come to know and respect in history. We read about the Apostle Paul's constant request for it. We hear from the lips of our Lord Jesus as He promises great things from it. Prayer. May this and every year be measurably marked by increased prayer for our ministries and from our own lives.

QUOTES ABOUT PRAYER

Reflecting on the quotes below gives us a refreshed look at the importance of prayer. God *will* show Himself strong on behalf of those who seek Him with their whole heart (2 Chron. 16:9).

“Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.”
—D. L. Moody

“The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.” —F. B. Meyer

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”
—Oswald Chambers

“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.” —Martin Luther

“The secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer.”
—The Kneeling Christian

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.”
—Paul the Apostle (Col. 4:2–3 NIV)

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”
—Paul the Apostle (Eph. 6:19 NIV)

“... as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”
—Paul the Apostle (2 Cor. 1:11 NIV)

“Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.” —Paul the Apostle (2 Thess. 3:1 NIV)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” —Our Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:7 NKJV)

“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” —Our Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:24 NKJV)

PRAYER SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Learn how to increase prayer for your ministry by applying these proven strategies by other effective leaders. Start with a few of these ideas, and then add more over time.

Strategy 1 – Think Outside Your Single & Parenting Leadership Team and Ministry

Consider key groups *outside* your ministry team who could provide consistent prayer support. We suggest your pastor, church prayer team and small group leaders. Email a short prayer request to these groups, stating who you are, a sentence about your ministry and that you're requesting their prayer for three things: (1) your leadership team to grow and be used by God, (2) participants to hear about and attend your 13-week session and (3) God to use the seminar time mightily to minister to and change the lives of all who attend.

Send the email at least once during your 13-week session:

- Your senior pastor, asking that he share it during the next staff meeting. This way you get the entire church staff praying for you.
- Church website prayer request section. Most church websites have a location on the site for people to submit prayer requests. Simply copy and paste your email prayer request into that section. Your church's prayer team will get it.
- Home small group leaders. If you have an email for these leaders, simply request that their small groups would pray for your request during one of their home meetings. All small groups have a time of prayer.

Strategy 2 – Think *Inside* Your Single & Parenting Leadership Team and Ministry

Ensure that prayer support is happening *inside* your Single & Parenting ministry team too. Use the practical ideas below to request prayer from your Single & Parenting alumni, leadership team (to include your greeters, snack providers, promo team, etc.) and individual leaders/facilitators.

- Alumni, if you have them. Eventually you will! Send them your email prayer request once in the 13-week cycle.

You can also try to build an "Alumni Prayer Team," in which alumni commit to praying for your group every week. Don't share specific needs of participants (because of confidentiality), but request that alumni would pray weekly for the items on your email prayer request, instead of just once. You could update them on what is happening, the growth, promotion initiatives, new leaders, etc.

- Your leadership team. Pray with them before each meeting. Schedule time for this, even five minutes. Pray for participants, more leaders to join you, leaders in the groups to lead effectively, technology to work, more people to hear about your ministry, your church and God's blessing that day.
- Individual leaders. Have them pray for specific requests from the participants. You can hand out 3 x 5 cards during your Single & Parenting session and have participants write *one* prayer request and their name. Women participants give them to women leaders, men to men leaders. Your individual leaders could also pray for the three items on your email prayer request.

These two main strategies of *outside* and *inside* your leadership team and ministry are a great foundation for building prayer support for your Single & Parenting outreach. God does and will answer prayer. Commit to more prayer during your sessions and see what great things God will do!