

TIPS & TOOLS FOR PRAYER COORDINATORS

Stonecroft Prayer Resource

***“O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt You and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness You have done marvelous things,
things planned long ago.” —Isaiah 25:1, NIV***

Stonecroft materials are developed to provide an inspiring path to lead your groups in a meaningful time of connecting with God and nurture those new to personal, audible prayers. The following ideas are for you as a Prayer Coordinator or prayer leader.

Prepare Your Heart

*“When we depend on each other, we get what women can do.
When we depend on God, we get what God can do.”*

—Anonymous

Let the Prayer Connection material be the starting point of your personal preparation. Read and reflect on the devotions, listening for God’s guidance in how to personally apply what is shared.

If you are using the **ACTS format**, ask God to lead you to the verses He wants you to share. Spend time meditating on them and responding to their truth.

Ask the Lord how He would have you utilize any additional resources enclosed with the Prayer Connection mailing.

Seek God’s guidance for your Prayer Connection gathering. Be open to creative ideas He may give you.

Ask God to lead you as you facilitate the upcoming Prayer Connection.

Prepare the Plan

Invite Any Woman

It’s been said we’re only as convincing as we are convinced. Do you believe the effectiveness of your outreach ministry is truly dependent on God? Do you believe seeking Him in prayer will make a difference? If not, renew your heart in prayer, then confidently invite!

*“To desire revival . . . and at the same time to neglect prayer
and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.”*

—A.W. Tozer

Create Interest

Look for appealing places in the community where you can meet that may draw more women.

Consider combining Prayer Connection with community outreach.

- *Baby Shower for Crisis Pregnancy Center*—Hold the Prayer Connection at a room in the center, pray for the women there, and donate items. Invite clients and staff to your outreach meeting.
- *Prayer Connection in the Park*—Have invitations and refreshments available to share with mothers and children nearby.
- *Prayer and Share*—Bring food pantry items to the Prayer Connection. After prayer, go to a local shelter and donate items.
- *Prayer Walks*—Walk through a nearby park or in various parts of your community. Pray for homes, businesses, and people you pass. (Example: One group had devotions sitting in a circle of lawn chairs in forest clearing, then found prayer requests placed in containers among the trees.) This is a great opportunity to invite people who are new to prayer. Have the Stonecroft Life Publications booklet *A Gift for You* on hand for those who ask you about your activity.
- *Special Interest Group*—Devotion and prayer time could be conducted prior to a book club or craft session.

Invest in Prayer Leaders

This is an opportunity to develop new leadership. Invite a woman with potential to attend a Prayer Connection that you lead. Encourage her interest by asking her to lead one that you attend. As you continue to train and encourage these women, you may develop several prayer leaders, enabling your group to hold multiple Connections each month.

Involve Other People

Ask others to host, bring refreshments, share an answer to prayer, or lead in a song. This expands participation and ownership of the prayer gathering.

Interact Online

Our web site, www.stonecroft.org, has many resources to stimulate creativity. If you are not online, involve another and ask her to print materials for you.

Prepare the People

Stonecroft Prayer Connections are a great place for women to grow in prayer. Encourage lively, heartfelt participation with respect for the differences in each woman's walk of faith. The following can help you achieve this goal.

- Let each pray as she is inspired and give the option of silent prayer. Avoid praying in a circle so there is not pressure to pray out loud.
- Encourage prayer for one subject at a time.
- Enjoy times of silence as the participants listen to the Lord and pray silently.
- As Coordinator, gently keep the participants moving into the various areas of prayer. Do not feel pressured to audibly pray for every request. Set an example by praying simple, succinct prayers on one subject.

Worship Ideas

- **Names of God**—Give every attendee a list of biblical names/attributes of God. Encourage participants to allow this list to fuel your time of worship. Set the example by speaking out one of the attributes. (Example: “You are the Alpha and Omega;” “My Redeemer;” “The Lord Almighty”.) A list of the names/attributes of God is available at www.stonecroft.org.
- **Songs/Music**—Music can draw our hearts to worship. Songs also provide transitions to new prayer topics.

Personal Request Ideas

- Write requests on blank sheets, then pass them to another for prayer.
- Establish the practice of bringing written personal requests. They could also be e-mailed to the Prayer Coordinator in advance.
- Break into pairs or triplets and pray for one other. Be respectful of those who aren’t yet comfortable praying out loud.
- Select a verse of Scripture and encourage the women to lift their personal concern to the Lord using the Word of God. (Example: 1 Peter 5:7—“Father, today I cast the care of my rebellious daughter to You. I believe You care for me.” Each person inserts her personal concern in the underlined portion. This keeps the prayer brief, but allows each to present her need to God.

Prayer Resources

This list of books, DVDs, and web sites has been developed by Stonecroft to equip you as a leader in prayer. Most are available for purchase online or can be ordered at your local Christian bookstore.

BOOKS

General

- A Call to Spiritual Reformation** by D.A. Carson
- A Hunger for God** by John Piper
- A Journey to Victorious Praying** by Bill Thrasher
- A Prayer that Moves Heaven** by Ron Mehl
- Basking in His Presence: A Call to the Prayer of Silence** by Bill Volkman
- Developing a Prayer-Care-Share Lifestyle** by A.J. Vender Griend, E. Bajema, J.F. DeVries, and D. Deters
- For this Reason I Bow** by Dr. Kevin Dudley & Gail Dudley
- Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire** by Jim Cymbala
- Handle with Prayer** by Charles Stanley
- Heart Cry** by Jill Briscoe
- Heart’s Cry: Principles of Prayer** by Jennifer Kennedy Dean
- Papa Prayer** by Larry Crabb
- Possibilities of Prayer** by E.M. Bounds
- Power through Prayer** by E.M. Bounds
- Pray with Purpose, Live with Passion** by Debbie Williams

Prayer Resources

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? by Philip Yancey
Prayer 101: Experiencing the Heart of God by Warren Wiersbe
Prayer Streaming by Janet Holm McHenry
Praying God's Word by Beth Moore
Revival Praying by Leonard Ravenhill
The Inner Chamber by Andrew Murray
The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power by R.A. Torrey
The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life by C.H. Spurgeon
The Practice of Prayer by G. Campbell Morgan
Too Busy Not to Pray by Bill Hybels

Leading Prayer Gatherings

And the Place was Shaken by John Franklin
PRAYzing!: Creative Prayer Experiences from A to Z by Daniel Henderson

Women and Prayer

A Busy Woman's Guide to Prayer by Cheri Fuller
Praying for Purpose for Women by Katie Brazelton
Praying with Women of the Bible by Nancy Kennedy
The Power of A Praying Woman by Stormie Omartian
What Happens When Women Pray by Evelyn Christensen

DVDs

When God's People Pray by Jim Cymbala

BIBLE STUDIES

Connecting with God from Stonecroft Ministries
Boldly Asking by Aletha Hinthorn
Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God by T.W. Hunt & Catherine Walker
Prayer: An Adventure with God by David Healey

WEB SITES

All About Prayer – www.allaboutprayer.org
Praying Life Foundation – www.prayinglife.org
National Day of Prayer – www.ndptf.org
Global Day of Prayer – www.globaldayofprayer.com
Presidential Prayer Team – www.presidentialprayerteam.org
Prayer Shop – www.prayershop.org

*"Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together.
Never do they love one another so well as when they witness
the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer."*

—Charles Finney