



# PRAYER EXPERIENCE

## Participant Guide

### GOAL:

As a group, experience a meaningful time of extended prayer that focuses on our spiritual transformation

### OPENING TO GOD

*Praising and thanking God as well as surrendering this time together to His purposes.*

- ◊ *Psalm 100:4-5 “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”*
- ◊ *Ephesians 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*
- ◊ *Psalm 138:3 “On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.”*
- ◊ *Psalm 9:1-2 “I will praise you, Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.”*
- ◊ *Psalm 42:1-2 “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”*
- ◊ *Psalm 143:8 “Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”*
- ◊ *Psalm 73:25-26 “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

## LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

*Responding to what we sense the Spirit saying to us through Paul's prayer for the Colossians.*

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.*

What resonates with you in this passage?

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

*Interceding for each other concerning the specific ways we sense God would have us grow right now.*

Write down any area where you sense God is calling you to grow spiritually. Are there places where "your roots need to go deeper?" Is there a characteristic of Jesus that needs refining in you? Is there a spiritual habit that you need to strengthen?

## PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH

*Praying that our church family would be the kind of people God wants us to be.*

*Matthew 5:13-16 (MSG) “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. . . . You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine!*

*Philippians 2:1-4 “Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of self-ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

## DEBRIEFING

- ◊ What part of this experience was most meaningful?
- ◊ Which segment(s) caused you to pray in a way that is new for you?
- ◊ What can you take away from this experience that might help you in your own prayer life or that you would like the group to practice more?