

How to Lead a Prayer Group . . .

Leader's hidden role:

Immerse yourself in Scripture.

Pray daily for your group.

Pray silently as group members share requests.

What to Pray for Your Group:

Love for each other (1 John 4:7).

A spirit of supplication to be poured out (Zechariah 12:10).

Answers to your prayers (Psalm 143:1,7).

Group Purpose:

Clearly communicate that you meet to pray for each other. That gives you the right and responsibility to keep the group focused on prayer. *The downloadable sheet called Prayer Group Guidelines is a helpful resource for all group members.*

How to deal with . . .

Someone who isn't comfortable praying out loud.

Ask about this the first week. Encourage any who are uncomfortable to pray silently.

Gossip or criticism.

Don't say it. Don't listen to it. Stop it before it starts.

One member dominating.

Interrupt the person. This isn't rude, it's necessary. A good leader includes everyone.

Requests that become lengthy complaints.

Step in with, "This is a huge issue. Let's pray about it now."

Too much time spent on chatter.

Redirect to meaningful conversation and prayer.

Giving advice rather than prayer.

Remind that group that your purpose for this hour is prayer. Give advice later.

A woman in crisis.

She may need extra time and attention, but everyone needs prayer. People in crisis benefit from caring for others and seeing God work in others' lives as well as in their own.