

Using Word-Share-Prayer to Feed Spirit-filled Disciples

WORD
SHARE
PRAYER

The following template has been prepared by Mat Bryant and Ginny Sheets from Whitelick Presbyterian Church, Avon, IN. This handout is meant to supplement materials prepared by Stan Ott, Vital Churches Institute.

Word – Share – Prayer

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus:

Choose a focus topic or a passage from the Bible

Consider how the scripture reflects the purpose for the group’s gathering.

A focus topic could be a poem, a passage from the study guide, or a reflection from a daily devotional. Consider quotes or known writings from Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Calvin, Mother Teresa, or other person of choice.

Word:

Have one person read the passage.....slowly.

Take time to reflect in silence on the passage.

Have another person read the passage again.

Optional: Have participants circle key words or a phrase that jumps out at them.

Share:

Develop 1-2 questions regarding the passage to stimulate personal reflection.

Have each attendee verbalize what the passage says to him/her. If the group is small, the entire group may share together. If the group is large or meeting for the first time, share with a partner then open for group sharing.

Prayer:

This section is frequently reserved for the end of the gathering. Allow plenty of time for this prayerful ending. Do not shortcut due to lack of time.

Have each attendee write down a prayer request.

Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer

END with LORD’S PRAYER

WORD
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Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of Witness

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: WITNESS

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus
Luke 5: 17-20 Acts 1: 8 1 Peter 3:15 Col 4:2-6 Matthew 28:20 John 1:11-12
2 Corinthians 2:15-16 Ephesians 6:12
Read and Reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to them.
Questions to stimulate discussion
What is witness?
Is it important to be prepared to share witness?

Prayer: Have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END WITH LORD’S PRAYER

Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of Prayer

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: PRAYER

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus
Matthew 28: 9-10 Matthew 16-20 Psalms 63:1-8 Psalm 95:1-6 Romans 8:26
1 Chronicles 16:11 Proverbs 15:8 Philippians 4:6 1Thessalonians 5:17
Have one person read the passage.....slowly
Take time to reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to him/her.
Questions to stimulate discussion
What is it like to know that God is with you always?
What do you value most?
How do you show honor to someone? How do you show honor to God?

Prayer: have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END with LORD’S PRAYER

Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of Care

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: CARE

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus

- God cares for his people (Deuteronomy 7:9)
- God cares for underprivileged people (Psalm 68:5)
- Protect the needy (Psalm 82:3)
- God’s people should help the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17)
- Care for your enemies (Luke 6:27)
- God’s people should care for the needy (Luke 14:13–14)
- God cares for his children (Romans 1:6–7)
- Treat parents with care (Ephesians 6:2)
- Treat co-workers with care (Colossians 4:1)
- Care for the elderly (1 Timothy 5:1–4)
- Christians need to care for the needy (James 1:27)

Have one person read the passage.....slowly
Take time to reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to him/her.
Questions to stimulate discussion

- How do you care for someone you love?
- What does it mean to care for someone you do not know or know very well?
- How can you care for someone with whom you have a disagreement?
- How might the church care for those living in nations in conflict with the US?

Prayer: have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END with LORD’S PRAYER

Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of Word of God

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: WORD

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus
Psalm 1 Psalm 78:1-7 Psalm 24 Deuteronomy 6:6-9 1Chronicles 16:15
Isaiah 34:16 Matthew 7:24-25 Luke 11:28
Have one person read the passage.....slowly
Take time to reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to her/him.
Questions to stimulate discussion
What would it be like to practice praying the scripture every day?
What might get in the way or interfere with your practice of praying the scripture?
Who told you about God’s love for you? Who told you the stories of the Bible?
Which story is your favorite and why?

Prayer: have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END with LORD’S PRAYER

Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of With-Me

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: WITH ME

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus
Luke 10: 1-3 and 18-20 Mark 6:6-7 Acts 16:1-5 Matthew 19:24
Read and Reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to her/him.
Questions to stimulate discussion
Why pairs?
Am I spending time with those who encourage my faith and my life?
Am I inviting those in my few to be with me to grow in the faith together, in friendship?

Prayer: Have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END WITH LORD’S PRAYER

Example of a Word – Share – Prayer Spiritual Practice of Send

“Be the People of God before doing the work of the people of God”

BEGIN with Lighting the CHRIST CANDLE and PRAYER

Focus: SEND

Word: Choose a passage from below or use a favorite one that involves the focus
Isaiah 6:8 Matthew 10:5 and 16 Luke 7:8 Mark 6:7 Galatians 4:4-5
Matthew 28:19-20

Have someone read the passage slowly.
Read and Reflect in silence on the passage.

Share: Have each attendee verbalize what does the passage says to her/him.

Questions to stimulate discussion

What does it mean to be sent into the world to glorify God?

What does it mean to be *in* the world rather than *of* the world?

How might we become better servant leaders?

Prayer: Have each attendee write down a prayer request. Pray for each other by name if possible but give everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

END WITH LORD’S PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Word-Share-Prayer for Ministry Teams

These Word-Share-Prayers (Read-Reflect-Respond-Request) are for use with small groups, committees, ministry teams, and boards. The texts are deliberately a bit short so that committees and teams with limited time can still "be the people of God before doing the work of the people of God." For small group meetings, a longer section of text may be used or just more time spent discussing each segment.

For many team and committee meetings, we follow a 7-7-7 format - 7 minutes for individual Bible Study, 7 minutes to share one insight per person and 7 minutes to pray for one another. If we use these sheets for a regular one and one half hour Bible study, then the biblical passage could be a bit longer and our schedule would be the Word-30 minutes, sharing of lives (blessings and prayer requests)-45 minutes and prayer-15 minutes.

To use for a ministry team/committee with the 7-7-7 (plus or minus) format. If the group is larger than 12 to 14, you may find it easier to break into fours, at least for the sharing of prayer requests and prayers for one another.

1. Give every person 5-7 minutes to work on it in silence (we don't have people do them as "homework" since many will fail to do so).
2. Spend another 7 minutes or so asking people to briefly share one insight from their paper. If the group is larger than 14, you can have them break into 4's to save time.
3. Ask for one-sentence prayer requests. Spend more time on this if someone in the group is in real distress about something. Otherwise, just a sentence or so per person as we want to lift one another up but haven't the time for more sharing... unless we are willing. Teams are often willing to spend more time in this Bible study portion of the meeting simply because we will work to be more efficient in the rest of the meeting.

Pray for one another out loud by name, giving everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

Hope this is useful for you... praying for you and yours and your congregation to experience the transforming presence of our Lord in new ways.

With joy – E. Stanley Ott

<http://www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com>