



***“Come Pray
With Me”***

**Prayer Group
Guide**

for
Camps Farthest Out

This is a reference guide for use by Prayer Groups at CPO Camps and at home. It will be helpful to both leaders and prayer group members alike. Each will find in it: suggestions, explanations, themes, and reminders. These ideas have grown out of years of experience in prayer groups of Camps Farthest Out. They are to be used as suggestions and not as *set* patterns.

Contents:

Purpose for Prayer Groups
Hints for Setting Up a Prayer Group
Hints for Prayer Group Members
Qualities of Prayer Group Leaders
Hints for Prayer Group Leaders
Types of Prayer
Some Ways to Pray
One Way to Use Visualization Prayer
Silence in the Prayer Group
Steps for Starting a Prayer group
The United Prayer Tower

"The PRAYER GROUPS are the hub on which the activities of the Camp rise or fall... A small nucleus of searching hearts, reaching together for a new and fresh encounter with our Lord, a common concern for each individual and his needs; and open hearts ready to receive from anyone whom God uses to minister to them. "

THELMA LEE. "CPO, WHAT IS IT?"

Purpose of Prayer Groups

A CFO Prayer Group meets daily as a group of individuals:

- To pray.
- To experience the presence of the
- Living God.

To experiment with prayer techniques, disciplines and forms

- To practice principles of answered prayer:
Letting go Agreement Surrender
Forgiveness Joyous Expectancy
Trust
- To dwell in the presence of God, and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayer Groups develop a spiritual power through obeying and practicing the laws of prayer. God works through them to establish His will in the Camp and then in ever widening circles; in families businesses, churches, cities, states, nations and the entire world.

This is the goal of all true prayer - to make the "stretching" of the mind to see God a continuous habit all through the day" to make the deep breathing of the soul a steady automatic habit of the subconscious.

THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 14

Hints For

Setting Up a Prayer Group

- Pray for guidance, sensitivity and inner peace.
- Do your homework!
 - Take advantage of available resources.
 - Become a student of prayer.
 - Read and re-read Glenn Clark's works on prayer.
- Know where your prayer group will meet.
- Arrive early and arrange the site, making sure you have adequate seating.
- Welcome members as they arrive.
- Invite members to gather as close as is comfortable for this unique experience.
- Include periods of silence. (These times can be extended as the group grows more comfortable with silence).
- Listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance and risk being obedient.

First Day

Invite members to share their names and tell something about themselves in response to a chosen question (1 min). Ex: *Why did you come to camp this year? When did you first become aware of God's presence?, or What is a hope or dream you have for this week at camp?*

Topics like these seem to work better than questions about families! jobs, etc.

Share YOUR hopes and dreams for the prayer group.



Types of Prayer

Praise and adoration.

Recognizing who God is and celebrating His greatness.

Thanksgiving.

Expressing gratitude for blessings and mercies received.

Confession.

Admitting that we have fallen short of our high calling.

Forgiveness.

Accepting God's grace for ourselves and being willing to forgive others.

Petition.

Asking God to meet our personal needs and grant us wisdom and guidance.

Intercession.

Lifting the needs of others and the world to the throne of God.

"True prayer, then, is the Holy Ghost, Emmanuel God in us, speaking through us to God the Father, Who abides in us and in Whom we abide."

THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 55

"The most essential thing for a perfect prayer is perfect love. Love is the most wonderful thing in the world. Of all the virtues, it is the force that draws us and holds us closest to God"

I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES, p. 62



Some Ways to Pray

Conversational prayer.

Praying as a group in everyday language on a given subject.

Silent Prayer

Silently focusing our group prayer power on a particular need or concern.

Meditation.

Listening for the Spirit's insight on a subject or a scripture to expand our understanding.

Visualization.

Using God's great gift of imagination to make all types of prayer more real.

Laying on of hands.

Allowing God to touch another through you.

"Pray if possible out of loyalty to God, for the joy of it, not for results. Do not pray to bring things to pass; pray to see things that are already in the Kingdom. Do not limit the avenues by which God will answer your prayers."

THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 2 *"Do not feel responsible for your prayers or the answer to them. God alone is the planner and knows best. Love, rejoice, and be thankful for the unfoldment of God's plan as you see it.."*

THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 2



Hints for Prayer Group Members

Make sure you know where your prayer group will meet.

Plan ahead so you can arrive on time and be relaxed.

Enter into the experience with expectancy, trusting that God has a perfect plan for you.

Remember that God is present. Center your mind on God.

Trust that your group has been called together by Divine Appointment.

Anticipate various forms of prayer sharing.

Listen with your heart to the sharing in your group.

Commit to keep all prayer group sharing confidential (as a sacred trust).

Enjoy the freedom to pray aloud or in silence as led.

Some Things to Avoid

- Dominating or monopolizing
- Discussing, arguing or diagnosing
- Problem solving or teaching
- Giving too much detail before praying
 - Remember: The purpose of Prayer Groups is prayer.
- Talking about denominations or doctrines
 - Remember Jesus is our common center and focus.

Qualities of Prayer Group Leaders

- An intimate relationship with Jesus Christ
- An active personal prayer life.
- Ability to lead a group in praying together.

Hints for Prayer Group Leaders

A leader who is effective:

- Allows God to lead the group
- Is humble and transparent.
- Sets a tone of expectancy, joy and trust.
- Helps members feel accepted, comfortable, loved.
- Encourages the group to open to God's highest good; His perfect way in His perfect time.
- Refrains from using the time for teaching.
- Opens the door into an experience of releasing fears and clearing away anything that might be blocking an awareness of God's presence.
- Assists members in learning to pray for each other, the needs of family, friends, community, nation and the world.
- Is willing to experiment with new or different prayer techniques.
- Allows the development of quietness, silence, stillness
- Reminds campers that your time together as a group is part of God's larger plan.
- Closes the time by:
 - Reflecting on what God is doing among you.
 - Some form of corporate expression (singing, thanksgiving, affirming, etc).

One Way to Use Visualization Prayer

When Scriptures are read or prayers are prayed, allow yourself to see Jesus at work in the situation.

"Most assuredly- I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself; but what He sees the Father do, for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner" JOHN 5:19

"He who has seen Me has seen the Father ... "
JOHN 14:9



Silence is

- Becoming as quiet and still as one can.
- Listening as carefully as a child listens for the voice of its mother.
- Resting in the presence of God.
- Being aware of the presence of the Spirit of the living God
- Communing with God in peace
- Experiencing a sense of God's love.

It has been said that prayer of positive, creative quality needs a background of silence and until we are prepared to practice this silence, we need not hope to know the power of prayer.

We often need time to think before sharing thoughts and problems. The whole group focusing in silence upon a particular need can be very powerful. In the silence God often speaks to us and brings a surprising answer.

Steps for Starting a Prayer Group

Glen Clark's words of long ago are true today: *"Before us looms a year of crisis. Pose and balance are of a premium as never before. There is a crying need for men and women who can carry within their hearts that 'peace that passeth all understanding'. ...The Christian unit or prayer Cell is the answer. There is no greater, blessing that we could bring to our nation right now than the spreading of prayer groups everywhere."*

FACING THE WORLD WITH PRAYER GROUPS

It is God who has given you the desire to be a part of a small prayer group. The following steps can help you get started:

- Pray that God will give you the name of the first person to invite.
- If that person will meet with you, pray together that God will put in your minds the names of others to be in the group. When you are in agreement, invite the people whose names you received.
- Locate a quiet place to meet.
- Set regular time to begin and end your time together.
- Begin by agreeing on a process for your commitments you are making.
- Trust that God will lead your group to the perfect pattern for each meeting as you listen and obey.

THE UNITED PRAYER TOWER

This booklet is just one resource for ideas about prayer groups. Another valuable source for ideas and help is The United Prayer Tower.

The United Prayer Tower (UPT) is a year-round prayer ministry for CFO'ers worldwide. UPT is a place where someone will pray with you (if you desire), and your request will be placed in the prayer box and also included in the prayer partner e-mail letter for CFOers world wide to pray for you. United Prayer Tower pamphlets are available for downloading from the web site www.unitedprayertower.org .

UPT also has a prayer resource library. Included are books by Glenn Clark and other CFO leaders.

For more information contact.

THE UNITED PRAYER TOWER

United Prayer Tower Coordinator

1501 S. Louisiana Ave

Mason City, IA 50401-6988

e-mail – unitedprayertower.org

Phone 641-421-6858



The Association of CAMPS FARTHEST OUT, INC.:
317 Watkins Glen, NY 14891-1120
Tel: 607/535-4415 Fax: 607/535-96898
Email: ACFOINC@aol.com
Web Page: www.acfona.org