

CFO PROGRAM TRAINING

Quick Notes for **PRAYER GROUP LEADERS**

Breathing-in & Breathing-out

PURPOSE of prayer groups...

Learning to see prayer as more than “asking” but to be a conversation with God. Prayer to be prompted from God’s Word and not only from our “need”. Experience “letting go” and “listening” for God’s guidance.

GOALS of prayer group...setting the CFOer safely free

Creating a safe place for the CFOer to open their heart to God in the presence of other CFOers in the prayer group.

PREPARATION OF SITE...NO distractions

Select a location, isolated from the other prayer groups and **free from distracting noise**. The Prayer Group leader should visit the site to bless and consecrate the site as well as to ensure seating is adequate for numbers, comfort, and hearing.

PRESENTER...choosing the prayer group leaders

Leading a prayer group is facilitating. The Holy Spirit is the leader of the group. Facilitating the Holy Spirit’s leadership is best done using silence and not verbal prayer by the leader. Council Ring members should be the first choices to lead a group. It is the preferred method for the leader to remain with the same group (not rotate) throughout the entire event. This makes it easier to build that “safe environment”.

PREPARING THE MATERIAL...keep it simple

A Bible and box of tissues (tears may happen) are the essential materials of a prayer group. Consider some creative ideas for “jump starting” a group that might be reluctant to share or open-up to the group. If your group melds together quickly...there is no need of preliminary conversation starters.

PRESENTATION...keeping the group comfortable & relaxed

Prayer Groups should focus on prayer NOT conversation. In all cases **be sensitive** to the new CFOer, who might be disturbed by some methods of prayer. **Be sensitive** to the Holy Spirit’s leading and always be ready to explain why a particular method of prayer is being used. If explaining the method does not bring peace to the group it should be avoided. **Be sensitive** to any prayer that is unique to a particular denomination, as your group will most likely have many different expressions of Christianity present.

CFO PROGRAM TRAINING

PRAYER GROUP LEADER...suggestions of what to do

- The Leader should be in **prayer for the group** (during the day of but prior to the group's meeting)
- The Leader should **arrive first** to greet everyone as they arrive or if walking from a central location, **walk as a group** to the site of the prayer group. Be punctual!
- **Build joy**...smile when you greet...ask questions...be sincere in your interest in others...offer dignity and show respect...use touch, when appropriate hold hands, give hugs.
- Give everyone a few moments to **get settled**, arranging chairs into a **small tight circle**...no one should sit outside the circle...no empty chairs.
- **First day...getting comfortable**
 - Very short... name & town **introduction** maybe about their previous CFO participation (1 minute each maximum).
 - Leader mentions "**confidentiality of group**", it is NOT a place for advice, and provide a **description** of the "method" of the prayer group that will be used (e.g. silence...followed by praise...followed by listening to God...followed by Holy Spirit inspired prayer from the group).
 - **Begin promptly** after the "method" is understood...allow time for questions. Mention that a CFO Prayer Group is considered a "Prayer Laboratory", where different modes of prayer are part of the experience.
- **Each Day...focus on prayer...NOT conversation**
 - Make sure each member has an **opportunity to participate** and needs are met.
 - Make sure no member "**highjacks**" the group with dominating conversation or advice, limiting prayer time.