



A DISCUSSION ON

LEAD WITH PRAYER

NCCB + FWCOM



Hi there! Thank you for joining us in our Lead With prayer series. The purpose of this booklet is to take us further into some of the resources available to us as we progress through the six week series.

Working chapter through chapter we have a pool of further resources, activities and guidelines to help us as we seek to implement what we are studying into our day to day lives. “Doing a little is better than knowing a lot.” (Andy stanley) We don’t just want to know more, we want to engage with this content in a way that changes us to look more like Jesus and see Him more in our lives.

Chapter One

PRAYER

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you.

In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all.

You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.
—St. Augustine

PRAYER TOOL

WALK WITH GOD GUIDE

Like Francis Chan and Rosebell, many of the leaders we interviewed use a daily walk to “waste time” with God and build upon their friendship. Recent studies have shown that walking is one of the healthiest activities you can engage in for your mind, body, brain, and spirit.

Mental Health

Walking connects the right and left hemispheres of your brain, helping your brain get “unstuck.” It releases endorphins and fires up your neurotransmitters, providing greater clarity of thought.”

Body Health

Taking a single step moves more than 200 bones and 600 muscles in the human body, pushes blood through the cardiovascular system, and fires up the nervous system to keep you loose.”

Brain Health

Walking regularly improves memory, fights rigidity in your brain, and helps long-term brain function and health in myriad ways.”

Spiritual Health

Most saliently, walking with God and praying is one of the easiest ways to expand your prayer life. You are engaging both sides of your brain in communion with God. So, regardless of your default brain dominance, your whole self can engage with God in prayer.”

HELPFUL TIPS TO WALK AND PRAY

- Verbally invite Jesus to join you on a walk.
- Take a Scripture with you and memorize it.
- Read a psalm several times over on a walk.
- Listen to a worship song while you walk.
- Look at nature around you and compliment God on its beauty.
- Take time to listen.
- Repeat a simple phrase several times, like “God, I need You,” “Jesus, I love You,” or “Hallelujah.”
- Share your worries, fears, frustrations, anxieties, challenges, and struggles.
- Share your hopes, your dreams, what excites you, and what energizes you.
- Take time to pray for anyone you see on the walk to experience Christ.
- Reflect on your life, your family, and your ministry, and offer everything into Christ’s hands.

Find ways to enjoy and find joy in Jesus. Joy and friendship with Jesus are the lasting foundations of Christian leadership.”

Chapter Two

PRAYER

Jesus, conqueror of this world,
Help me overcome this world of pride
And live in humility.
Help me overcome this world of pleasure
And find joy in Your presence.
Help me overcome this world of greed
And live in simplicity.
Help me overcome this world of achieving
And live in obedience.
Help me overcome this world of fear
And live in peace.

Help me overcome this world of selfishness
And give up my rights.
Help me overcome this world of darkness
And live in pure light.
Help me overcome this world of hate
And deeply, daily love people.
Help me overcome a world of anger
And live in kindness.
Help me overcome this world of gossip
And rest in silence.
Help me overcome a lazy world
And live with discipline.
Help me overcome a world that has forgotten You
And live in daily gratefulness.

You conquered all temptation and live in me.
Rise up, my God.
Be strong in my heart and overcome,
For the greatest challenge I will face
Lies in my own deceitful desires.
To help me overcome this world,
please destroy my desire for it.
I want to be single of heart, only
longing for you, My Christ, my captain.

Ryan Skoog

PRAYER TOOL

PRAYER MAP

Every workout plan begins with a commitment to try something. To help you develop a plan, we have created a customizable tool to create your own Rule of Life.

Don't think of these practices as written in stone. Even by the end of this book you may identify other strategies you'd like to try or different rhythms that help you connect regularly with God.

Over time God will use your prayer practices, and the rest of your Rule of Life, to transform you, even defining your leadership. You will move from a leader who prays to a praying leader.

Weekly Prayer Rhythm

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THEME							
PSALMS							
PRACTICES							
MORNING PRAYERS							
MIDDAY PRAYERS							
EVENING PRAYERS							
SCRIPTURE							

Weekly Prayer Rhythm

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THEME	Worship & gratefulness	Family	Work & ministry	Confession & listening & forgiveness	Nations & the poor	Salvation Friday	Growth & character
PSALMS	Psalms 19, 84, 148	Psalms 63, 112	Psalms 27, 91	Psalms 25, 51	Psalms 10, 67	Psalms 34, 103	Psalms 139
PRACTICES	Read through hymns & worship songs	Pray for & speak blessings over entire family	Pray for staff, companies, work, & goals	Repentance of sinful thoughts, actions, & neglect	Gospel reaches the nations, persecuted church, missionaries	Pray for: family, friends, neighbours, co-workers	Fruit of the Spirit, Beatitudes, Armour of God
	Confess realities of the Gospel & truths of Scripture	Pray a written prayer for each member	Pray for leadership in church & nation	Listen for God’s prayer list—pray for whoever comes to mind	Pray for the poor & oppressed nearby & around the world	Pray for opportunities to share your faith with others	Pray for the character of Christ to be formed in you
MORNING PRAYERS	Praise & gratefulness list	Ephesians 1, Ephesians 3	Lord’s Prayer, Lorica of St. Patrick	Forgiveness prayer, surrender prayer	Colossians 1	Philippians 1, Ephesians 1	Prayer of St. Francis
MIDDAY PRAYERS	One-sentence praises	One-sentence prayers & praises	One-sentence prayers & praises	One-sentence prayers & praises	One-sentence prayers & praises	One-sentence prayers & praises	One-sentence prayers & praises
EVENING PRAYERS	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship	Communion, Examen, worship
SCRIPTURE	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb	Reading plan, daily Proverb

Chapter Three

PRAYER

You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and Your deeds are wonderful.
You are strong.
You are great.
You are the Most High.
You are Almighty.
You, Holy Father, are King of heaven
and earth.
You are Three and One, Lord God, all
Good.
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,
Lord God, living and true.
You are love. You are wisdom.
You are humility. You are endurance.
You are rest. You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.
You are all our riches, and You suffice
for us.
You are beauty.
You are gentleness.
You are our protector.
You are our guardian and defender.
You are our courage. You are our haven
and our hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation.
You are our eternal life, Great and
Wonderful Lord,
God Almighty, Merciful Savior.
—St. Francis of Assisi

PRAYER TOOL

ONE-SENTENCE PRAYERS

Lord, fill my soul with Your peace.
Father, fill my heart with Your love.
Holy Spirit, fill me with Your joy.
Teach me to listen to Your voice today.
Help me understand Your will.
Open my eyes to see You.
Protect my mind, soul, and spirit this
moment.
God, You are my God; earnestly I seek
You.
Why so downcast, my soul?
Give me Your wisdom in this moment.
Remind me You are here right now.
You are my best thought both day and
night.
Make my life a prayer to You.
Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

Make me a blessing to everyone here.
Show me Your heart.
Help me love everyone in this room.
Help everyone in this room find
salvation.
I give You this burden.
Lift my eyes to see You, Jesus.
Forgive my wandering thoughts.
Father, I need You right now.
Take this sin from my heart.
Yahweh, show me Your glory.
Come near, Lord Jesus.
Help me do what pleases You today.
Come bring salvation to the nations.
Come to my neighborhood/family/
work.
Remind me of Your love in this
moment.
Lord, what do You want?
Show me how deep and how long and
wide and high Your love is.
Help me be still and not miss Your
presence in this moment.
God be gracious to us and bless us,
and cause Your face to shine upon us.”

Chapter Four:

PRAYER

Jesus, fill my heart with Your love,
fill my soul with Your peace,
fill my mind with Your wisdom,
fill my eyes with Your compassion,
fill my ears with Your voice,
fill my mouth with Your words of life.

May my hands be ever serving You,
may my knees bow in surrender,
may my feet walk in obedience.

Empower me—heart, soul, mind,
strength—to live for Your glory,
my Friend and Lord forever.
—*Ryan Skoog*

PRAYER TOOL

ENGAGING POSTURE IN PRAYER

Here are three ways to incorporate
posture into your prayer habit:

1. KNEELING

If you haven't attempted it, try it. Spend the first moments of your day and the last moments of your day on your knees in prayer. Commit for the next seven days. While on your knees in the morning, try to incorporate a psalm, hymn of praise, or worship accompanied by a time of surrender and humility before God. In the evening, incorporate repentance and gratitude toward God.

2. HANDS DOWNWARD, HANDS UPWARD”

One of the more powerful posture prayers we encountered was a simple prayer of releasing and receiving. It takes only two to five minutes, so it can be done periodically throughout the day.

Hands Downward

Start with your hands facing downward, open toward the ground, as a physical symbol of letting go of all the heavy weights you don't need to be carrying.

LET GO OF:

Anxieties
Stress
Guilt
Fears
Worries
Anger
People
Hurt
Emotional Pain

Place all these things in the strong hands of Jesus.

Hands Upward

Then take a moment to turn your hands upward and receive the grace of heaven.

RECEIVE:

Mercy
Love
Forgiveness
Beauty
Peace

Grace
Kindness
Truth
Healing
Joy
Blessing
Compassion

3. LIFTED EYES

We also see several Scripture references to people lifting their eyes in prayer. Most notably, Jesus does this often in the gospels. Our eyes are symbolic of our attention. By lifting our eyes to heaven, we put our attention on God (our Father in heaven) and acknowledge Him with our thoughts and focus. Lifting our eyes is also an act of humility, as we acknowledge that God is above us and sovereign over us.

Chapter Five

PRAYER

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me, "God's
wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
From snares of the devil,
From temptations of vices,
From everyone who desires me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ
behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ
above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit
down,
Christ in the heart of every man who
thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who
speaks of me,

Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the
invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through a confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.
—*St. Patrick (ca. 377)*”

PRAYER TOOL

PSALMS TO PRAY DURING TOUGH TIMES

Psalm 3: “But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high” (v. 3).

Psalm 13: “How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?” (v. 1)

Psalm 18: “He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters” (v. 16).

Psalm 22: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me?” (v. 1)

Psalm 23: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me” (v. 4).

Psalm 27: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?” (v. 1)

Psalm 42: “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God” (v. 5).

Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (v. 1).

Psalm 91: “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty” (v. 1).

Psalm 121: “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where “—where does my help come from?” (v. 1)

Psalm 126: “Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy” (v. 5).

Psalm 130: “Out of the depths I cry to you” (v. 1).”

Chapter Six

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen.
—*Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV*

“PRAYER TOOL

LECTIO DIVINA

Four Steps in Lectio Divina
One method of Lectio Divina is to read a passage four times, focusing each reading on one of the four steps outlined by Guigo, a twelfth-century monk who elaborated on the sixth-century practice St. Benedict introduced. Our friend Bill Gaultiere of Soul Shepherding shared his approach to these four steps, perhaps best understood as four underlying rhythms, that are embedded in the process of Scripture meditation.¹⁷ In Latin, Guigo’s divine reading steps are lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation), oratio (prayer), and contemplatio (contemplation). In English, you can use four R’s to remember the four steps as read, reflect, respond, and rest.

1. Reading

“In Lectio to read the word of God is to take it as food and put it into your mouth. You listen carefully to Scripture—without hurry or intellectual strain. You wait quietly for the Holy Spirit to bring God’s word to life. Then you pause on the portion of the passage that you’re drawn to.

2. Reflecting

“To meditate on Scripture is like chewing your food. You reflect and ponder its deep meaning. Gently repeat to yourself a phrase from the Scripture, turning it over and over in your thoughts and feelings to renew your mind (Romans 12:2).”

3. Responding

“Praying Scripture is like tasting your food. You respond to the words with feelings, confess your sins or struggles, and ask God for what you or others need.”

4. Resting

“To contemplate on God’s word is to digest its sweetness. You rest quietly in God’s loving arms. No words are necessary at this point and may detract from simply being in God’s loving presence. This is the goal of Lectio Divina.

“Some spiritual teachers add a fifth step in Lectio Divina of incarnatio, which is incarnating the Word by living it out in your daily life.”

Three Questions in Lectio Divina

1. One Word

What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence, meditate on that.

2. Feelings

What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3. Invitation

What is God’s personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit’s presence.

How to Pray in Lectio Divina

“We have to listen in a very personal and intimate way to the word of God as it comes to us through the scriptures,” writes Henri Nouwen, “let[ting] the word descend from our minds into our hearts.”¹⁸ Lectio Divina is one method for doing this. After each of the several Scripture readings in Lectio Divina, stay in quiet prayer for a few minutes (depending on available time and spiritual readiness).¹⁹

Here are some biblical passages to approach through Lectio Divina.

- Ephesians 1:16–20
- Ephesians 3:16–21
- Philippians 1:9–11
- Colossians 1:9–12
- The Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9–13
- The Armor of God, “Ephesians 6:10–19
- The Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22–23
- The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1–12
- The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:2–17
- The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18–20
- The Greatest Commandment, Matthew 22:34–40
- Psalm 91
- Psalm 23

Chapter Seven

“PRAYER

Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You, always follow Your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will. Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever You require of me. Help me respond to the slightest prompting of Your Grace, so that I may be Your trustworthy instrument for Your honor. May Your Will be done in time and in eternity by me, in me, and through me. Amen.

—*St. Teresa of Avila*”

PRAYER TOOL

STEPS TO HEARING GOD

Driving humble surrender into the core fabric of our hearts takes work, time, counsel, and flexing a muscle that is sometimes quite underdeveloped. As we seek to listen well, we’ve found these practical steps from George Müller instructive.

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble

with people generally is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever that may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or a simple impression. If so, I make myself liable to great delusions.
3. I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.
4. Next, I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.
5. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.
6. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge; and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving the most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

Chapter Eight

“PRAYER

God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the glorious Lord, the blessed essence, the God and Sovereign of all, who is blessed to all eternity, Sanctify also, O Lord, our souls, and bodies, and spirits, and touch our understandings, and search our consciences, and cast out from us every evil imagination, every impure feeling, every base desire, every unbecoming thought, all envy, and vanity, and hypocrisy, all lying,

all deceit, every worldly affection, all covetousness, all vainglory, all indifference, all vice, all passion, all anger, all malice, all blasphemy, And every motion of the flesh and spirit that is not in accordance with Thy holy will: and count us worthy, O loving Lord, with boldness, without condemnation, in a pure heart, with a contrite spirit, with unshamed face, with sanctified lips, to dare to call upon Thee, the holy God, Father in heaven. Amen.

—*Liturgy of St. James*”

“PRAYER TOOL

EXAMEN

We encourage you to try the Examen or another practice of daily repentance.

1. “Give thanks to God our Lord for the favors received.”

We may thank God for the joy of knowing Him, the undeserved gift of His love, or His sacrifice in taking our punishment on the cross.

2. “Ask for grace to know my sins and to rid myself of them.”

We now seek illumination: asking God to shine a light into our souls so that we may see what He would reveal to us, that we might, as King David wrote, discern our own errors (Psalm 19:12).

3. “Demand an account of my soul from the time of rising up to the present examination. I should go over one hour after another, one period after another. The thoughts should be examined first, then the words, and finally, the deeds.”

We now move on to review both consolation and desolation in our day. Ignatius thought of consolation not merely as a bright spot in the day or something that brought joy but rather as something that was truly good for our souls, leading us toward God. Desolation, in contrast, is not just “is not just the feeling of

unpleasantness or despair but rather things that diminish our faith, hope, and love.

4. “Ask pardon of God our Lord for my faults.”

In light of what God has revealed, we ask Him how we ought to respond. It is here that He invites us to practice repentance, a humble and sincere expression of remorse for our wrongdoing, which may include sins of commission or omission.

5. “Resolve to amend with the grace of God. Close with an Our Father.”⁷

Rather than remaining mired in shame or guilt, we move from repentance to look ahead to the future. We might reflect on how we will respond to similar temptations in the future or ask God to show us how we can more faithfully serve Him in the days to come.”

6. “The Examen closes in praying the Lord’s Prayer, directing our attention back to our Father in heaven.”

Chapter Nine

“PRAYER

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you “in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast.

I will praise you with songs of joy. I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night. Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely.

—*Psalms 63:1–8 NLT*”

“PRAYER TOOL

GUIDE TO FASTING FOR LEADERS

If fasting is new to you, begin by finding a date on your calendar to join these praying leaders in accepting God’s invitation to fast. God may have things He wants to say to you or things He wants to do through your ministry that He’s eager to reveal when you are so committed to seeking Him that you’re willing to give something up in exchange.

These tips for fasting have been adapted from our friend Bill Gaultiere, founder of Soul Shepherding.

- Start small with a short or partial fast. Fasting just one meal each day or completing a partial fast is an effective way to begin experimenting with fasting. Partial fasts include limiting yourself to juices, abstaining from meat, eliminating sugar and junk foods, or eating significantly less than normal.
- Fast from things other than food, such as media, shopping or judging others.
- Use Scripture to cultivate your desire for God as you continually turn your thoughts from physical hunger to your deeper hunger for God and His Word. Reflect on David’s words in the Psalms as he expresses his desperation for God through the imagery of hunger. See Psalm 42:1–2; 63:1–8; 73:25–26; 119:20, 81; and 143:6.
- Memorise and meditate on Scripture, paying attention to God’s promises. Recommended passages include Matthew 11:28–30; John 1:1–5; Philippians 2:1–11; Colossians 1:15–23; and 1 Peter 2:9–10.
- Intercede for someone in need with focused prayer.
- Seek God’s wisdom and discernment regarding an important decision.
- Spend time with a spiritual mentor or director.
- Use fasting to learn to rely on Jesus’ care for you rather than seeking false

comfort through overeating, lust, anger, alcohol, overwork, judging others or gossip.

- Practise depending on the Holy Spirit rather than your own strength and abilities as you minister, preach, serve those in need (physically or spiritually), or carry out your work for the glory of God.
- Draw close to Jesus during your fast by meditating on the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on His journey from condemnation to burial.

Chapter Ten

“PRAYER

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know you,
And desire nothing save only you.
Let me hate myself and love you.
Let me do everything for the sake of you.
Let me humble myself and exalt you.
Let me think nothing except you.
Let me die to myself and live in you.
Let me accept whatever happens as from you.

Let me banish self and follow you,
and ever desire to follow you.
Let me fly from myself and take refuge in you,
that I may deserve to be defended by you.
Let me fear for myself, let me fear you,
and let me be among those who are chosen by you.
Let me distrust myself and put my trust in you.

Let me be willing to obey for the sake of you.
Let me cling to nothing save only to you,
and let me be poor because of you.
Look upon me, that I may love you.
Call me that I may see you,
And forever enjoy you.
—*St. Augustine*”

“PRAYER TOOL

RICHARD BEAUMONT’S GUIDE TO AN EFFECTIVE PERSONAL RETREAT”

1. “Go to the retreat location. Then rest. Sleep in! Slow down. Enjoy God’s gifts. Practice Sabbath.
2. Repent of any sin. Name your sins to God. Name our sins as a church, society, or family.
3. Thankfully review how God has been working. Count your blessings. Celebrate the good things. Thank God!
4. Submit to God’s plans for you.
5. Devour the Bible and take notes. Read the Bible slowly; listen carefully and chew on what you receive.
6. Write down specific issues and questions about yourself, your family, and your ministry. Speak about your pains. Make a just complaint. Weep. Wait!
7. Carry the burdens of others to God. Hold others in your heart.
8. Meet with God in a quiet place; take notes.
9. Journal. Respond in writing to questions and issues.
10. Plan how best to communicate thoughts and delegate tasks.”

HALA’S SCHEDULE FOR A TEAM RETREAT

Hala says, “Our prayer retreats include a lot of fellowship, fun, and food! This just comes naturally. We always experience a time of being refreshed, sharing, laughing, and bonding. Our gatherings are far from dry and task-oriented.”

This is a general overview of the time they spend together.

- **“Day 1, Evening: Reconnect and Catch Up**
“The first day is sharing where we are and what God’s been speaking over the course of the year.” The time isn’t just exchanging news. It’s focused on spiritual development, reflecting on how God has been moving, both individually and organizationally, over the year.

- **Day 2, Morning: Worship**
The group turns on worship music and sings along, soaking in the presence of God. “Worship is an important part of our three-day retreat,” Hala says. “We take our time. We can sit in the presence of the Lord for hours.” At some points, Hala will feel led to share some things about how the ministry is doing: organizationally, programmatically, financially, spiritually. Intercessors feed on details and specifics, so Hala understands the importance of details and specifics and aims to give these trusted colleagues the real situations, names, and needs.
- **Day 2, Afternoon: Focused Prayer**
With some themes and context in place, the group dives into various aspects of the ministry. They aren’t mechanical but rather allow God to lead them. Hala’s team may ask questions as they feel led. As the group listens to the Spirit and asks questions of God and one another, the Spirit offers increasing clarity.
- **Day 3, Morning: Personal Prayer**
On the final morning of the retreat, the group turns from ministry-focused prayers to praying for one another.”

Chapter Eleven

“PRAYER

Be my vision, oh Lord of my Heart.
Be my meditation by day or night.
May it be you that I behold even in my sleep.
Be my speech, be my understanding.
Be with me, may I be with you.
Be my father, may I be your child.
May you be mine, may I be yours.
Be my battle-shield, be my sword.
Be my dignity, be my delight.
Be my shelter, be my stronghold.
Raise me up to the company of the angels.
Be every good to my body and soul.

Be my Kingdom in heaven and on earth.
Be solely the chief love of my heart.
Let there be none other, O high king of heaven,
Until I am able to pass into your hands,
My treasure, my beloved, through the greatness of your love.
Be the constant guardian of every possession and every life,
For our corrupt desires are dead at the mere sight of you.
O king of heaven grant me this:
Your love be in my heart and in my soul.
With the king of all, with him after victory won by piety,
May I be in the kingdom of heaven, O brightness of the sun.
O heart of my heart, whatever befall me,
O ruler of all, be my vision.
—*Dallán Forgaill (sixth century)*

“PRAYER TOOL

STEPS TOWARD A CULTURE OF PRAYER

The following list lays out eight concrete steps for developing a culture of prayer in your organization.

1. Become a praying leader.
Where we find a culture of prayer, it begins with a leader who is dedicated to prayer. E. M. Bounds wrote, “None but praying leaders can have praying followers.”¹⁰ The Barna study mentioned in Chapter 1 agrees: Of the ministries that affirm “prayer is a priority,” 89 percent say that their leaders “effectively model prayer practices.” See more in Chapters 1–4.
2. Pray for those you lead.
Part of a leader’s unique responsibility is to uphold team members in prayer, offering gratitude as well as petitions for the team. Your prayers for those you lead can prepare their hearts to embrace a culture of prayer. See Chapter 12.
3. Build teams to pray with and for you.
Leaders of prayer surround themselves with other people of prayer. When John Mark Comer invited me (Cameron) to serve as

the founding executive director of Practicing the Way, the first thing we did was gather a prayer team from our church partners and givers. We had a powerful prayer team “before we even had a registered 501(c)(3). Jesus is especially present when groups gather (Matthew 18:19–20). One intercessor who works with the Maclellan Foundation, a Tennessee-based foundation dedicated to serving Christ and His Kingdom, suggests leaders ask the Lord to send intercessors. “Come together to prayer-walk the land—the property, the place. Gather your intercessors for a ‘meet and greet’ and to cast vision; write it down.” See Chapter 13.

4. Model prayer for and with other believers in the organization. To spread a culture of prayer, the leader doesn’t proclaim a program; the leader prays visibly. Next, the leader gathers a small group to pray. Prayer isn’t delegable; everything else is (Acts 6:2–4). See Chapters 5–10.

5. Support staff prayer. Leaders give their teams permission to pray. I have instructed my team that they are welcome to take up to 10 percent of their “on the clock” time to focus solely on prayer. I’ve also given my team members permission to pause meetings to pray by modeling that practice. See Chapter 14 on investing in prayer.

6. Gather consistently in prayer. Team members should be free to pray alone “, but to build a culture of prayer, the leader should also create space on the calendar for corporate prayer. Through the Word and the leader’s modeling, the Holy Spirit will grow the team’s passion for prayer. Prayer becomes a key group activity (Acts 20:36) that brings unity (2 Chronicles 5:13–14; Acts 1:13–14), powerful results (Acts 12:5–11), and direction from God (Acts 13:1–3). The ministries most likely to see God moving powerfully through their organizations are those that proactively schedule prayer as a group.” See Chapter 2 on the importance of making a plan to pray consistently. This applies not only at the personal level but also at the organizational level.

7. Devote people and places to prayer. Since prayer is a “first of all” priority (1 Timothy 2:1–4), ministries demonstrate its primacy by giving it focus. Many begin by appointing a prayer coordinator who intercedes, hosts structured prayer times, and tracks prayer points. Others create spaces dedicated to prayer where staff are welcome to pause their workday and pray. See Chapter 14.
8. Make prayer a line item in your budget. A quantifiable amount of time and resources must be invested in prayer. Consider adding a line item to your budget to capture these costs and formalize your commitment. Investing time, systems, and money in prayer elevates the organization’s commitment and provides greater visibility to prayer. See Chapter 14.

To make prayer easy for your organization, we have partnered with the Echo Prayer app to create “Echo for Ministries.” It’s a beautiful way to gather, filter, and share prayer requests across your organization. Our organizations have each invested to make this app available to increase the amount and specificity of prayer Join us at www.leadwithprayer.com!

Chapter Twelve

“PRAYER

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
—*Ephesians 1:15–19*

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of “of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

“PRAYER TOOL

PRAY YOUR ORG CHART

If you’d like to start on the journey to more intentional prayer for those you lead, consider printing a staff list or organizational chart. Dedicate and set apart a time on your calendar for earnest prayer for your colleagues.

Here are four ways to pray with specificity for those you lead:

1. Pray for the children of those you lead. One of the best practices I (Ryan) have instituted is to pray not only for my direct reports but also for their children, by name, every day. I have found this incredibly encouraging for my staff. As one leader shared, “I’m grateful when you do something nice for me, but I will never forget you if you do something nice for my kids.” Few acts say “I genuinely care for you” more than praying for the children of your closest team members every day.
2. Pray blessings on those you lead. The most common prayer that leaders pray for those they lead is a

- blessing—blessing their lives, their families, and their relationship with God. The second most common prayer is to pray for the spiritual development of those they lead. Pray for spiritual growth and a relationship with Jesus.
3. “Empathize in prayer for those you lead. When Paul talked about one of his praying leaders, Epaphras, he said he “is always struggling in prayer on your behalf” (Colossians 4:12 NET). The word struggle is where we get the word agonize. Praying takes commitment, time, and intentionality, but it also takes empathy and heart, letting ourselves feel the pain of those we lead.”
 4. Pray Scripture over those you lead. One of the most powerful ways to pray for those you lead is to pray Scripture over them. If you’d like to start this adventure, begin with prayers in Ephesians 1 and 3, Philippians 1, and Colossians 1.”

Chapter Thirteen

“PRAYER

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only all for thee.
—*Frances R. Havergal*”

“PRAYER TOOL

STEPS TO BUILDING PERSONAL PRAYER TEAMS

There are two main types of prayer teams.

1. Small prayer team: a small, select group that prays for one another.

Example:
Jesus invited a small, close group—Peter, James, and John—to join Him in prayer before facing the cross (Matthew 26:37–38).

2. Large prayer team: a broad group of intercessors who feel called to lift you up in prayer.

Example:
The apostle Paul frequently invited—even pleaded for!—the churches receiving his letters to pray for him (see Romans 15:30–32; Ephesians 6:18–20; Colossians 4:2–4; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2).

“STEPS TO CREATE A SMALL PRAYER TEAM

1. Pick your team.
Choose a group of three to five people for whom you can pray, who will also commit to praying for you. This group must comprise people you can trust with personal prayer requests.
They should be:
 - People of humility and character who love to pray.
 - People you would love to pray with and for.
 - People without ulterior motives or agendas.
 - People who can maintain confidentiality and be trusted implicitly.”
2. Set a rhythm.

Ask these three to five individuals to commit to praying for you and with you.
Commit to one year initially; renew your commitment one year at a time
Set a regular time to connect either online or in person for prayer.

3. Establish open communication
Communicate what you would like them to pray for.
Give them prayer resources like books, prayer cards, Scriptures, and ancient prayers to pray for you, etc
Share real-time requests but also share regularly on a monthly or weekly basis.
Celebrate wins, share praises, and offer updates on previous prayer requests so they can see how God is working through their prayers for you.
4. Thank them regularly.
Give them a small gift, send a handwritten note, or treat them to a meal.
Make sure they feel appreciated and know that their prayers are making a difference.

“STEPS TO CREATE A LARGE PRAYER TEAM

This is a larger group of people with whom you can communicate through group email, a closed group on social media, text messaging, or some other form of group communication.
This group by and large does not need to be screened. You can issue a broad invitation for people who feel called to pray for you to join this group.
Because this is a larger group, your prayer requests will naturally be more ministry- and leadership-focused and less personal.”

1. Send out the call.
Send out a broad request for people to join your prayer team.
Lay out the expectations (join for one year, receive monthly or weekly requests, etc.).
2. Establish open communication
Communicate what you would like them to pray for.
Give them prayer resources like books, prayer cards, Scriptures, and

ancient prayers to pray for you, etc
Share real-time requests but also
share regularly on a monthly or
weekly basis.

Celebrate wins, share praises, and
offer updates on previous prayer
requests so they can see how God
is working through their prayers for
you.

3. Thank them regularly.

Give them small gifts or send a
handwritten note to members of
your prayer team on a rotating basis.
Make sure they feel appreciated and
know that their prayers are making a
difference.”

Chapter 14

“PRAYER

Grant to us, Lord,
that we may set our hope on Your
name
which is the primal source of all
creation,
and open the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know You,
who alone dwells in the highest
heavens,
“holy in the holy,
who lays low the insolence of the
proud,
who sets the lowly on high,
and brings the lofty low,
the Creator and Overseer of every
spirit,
who multiplies the nations on earth.
We beseech You, Lord and Master,
to be our help and provider.
Save those among us who are in
trouble,
have mercy on the lowly,
lift up the fallen,
show Yourself to the needy,
heal the ungodly,
convert the wanderers of Your people,
feed the hungry,
release our prisoners,
raise up the weak,
comfort the fainthearted.
“Let all the Gentiles know that You are
the God alone,
and Jesus Christ is Your Son,
and we are Your people and the sheep
of Your pasture.
Yes, Lord, make Your face to shine on

us in peace for our good,
that we may be sheltered by Your
mighty hand
and delivered from every sin by Your
uplifted arm.
And deliver us from those who hate us
wrongfully.
O Lord, You alone are able to do these
things
and things far better than these for us.
We praise You through the High priest
and Guardian of our souls,
Jesus Christ,
through whom be the glory and the
majesty
to You both now and for all
generations
and for ever and ever.
Amen.

—Clement of Rome (edited)

“Christian tradition holds this as the
oldest written prayer known outside
Scripture.

PRAYER TOOL

RESOURCING PRAYER

Is prayer a line item in your budget
for your home, your small group, your
business, your organization? Whether
it is as simple as buying books on
prayer for others (we have a suggested
list at www.leadwithprayer.com), food
to host a prayer meeting, or making
major investments in prayer rooms,
prayer coordinators, or prayer events,
God invites praying leaders to invest in
multiplying prayer.
Some of the ways leaders invested in
prayer are:

Physical Space

Whether it’s dedicated buildings,
dedicated rooms, or renovated
multipurpose rooms, leaders dedicated
space in their offices, homes, churches,
and buildings to prayer.
Some ministries created 24/7 prayer
rooms; others created rooms that
are available to their employees,
congregations, or even the
community.”

People

“Leaders invested in dedicated prayer roles in their organization in two ways. First was a prayer coordinator who was able to coordinate prayer coverage, disseminate prayer requests around the organization, get volunteer staff for a prayer room, and spend extra time praying.

Second is to pay intercessors to pray part-time for the organization. Some may have misgivings about paying someone to pray, but we pay worship leaders to worship and preachers to study Scripture. Paying someone while they engage in spiritual disciplines like prayer and worship is a tradition that dates back to the book of Leviticus.”

Systems

To gather and share prayer requests, ministries often create spreadsheets or databases of prayer requests, along with email lists of intercessors.

To streamline this process for churches, ministries, and companies, we have partnered with the Echo Prayer app to create a beautiful tool to help your organization gather, filter, and share prayer points. Imagine submitting a request and getting an update the next day confirming “three people have prayed for you.” Imagine the intercessors in your community receiving timely, specific prayer points to focus their prayers. Check out www.leadwithprayer.com to join us in using this tool.”

Schedules

Allowing your employees to pray “on company time” is a real, quantifiable investment that many organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, have made. Whether it’s allowing prayer meetings, quarterly days of prayer, or daily prayer times, this is a tangible way to communicate the value of prayer in any team or organization you lead.”

CONCLUSION:

“PRAYER

Jesus,

Teach me to pray.

Help me awaken the dawn with praise and thanksgiving.

Help me abide in You in the moments of each day.

Help me welcome the evening with grateful worship.

Help me watch and pray with You into the night.

Show me the joy of Your presence in the trials I face.

Show me Your miraculous power in my neighborhood and in the nations.

Show me Your wisdom in the secret place.

Show me the freedom of Your forgiveness.

Teach me to fight on my knees against the forces of darkness.

Teach me to listen to Your whispers in the noise of this world.

Teach me to rely on Your strength when the world weighs on me.

Teach me to cast my cares on You when anxieties rise.

Teach me to surrender when my heart wants to stray.

May I learn to fall on my knees in humility.

May I learn to rise up in resurrection power.

In dark nights, may I hold fast to Your love.

In bright days, may I not forget Your blessings.

Then my soul will walk with You in the garden in the cool of the day.

Teach me to pray, Lord.

Teach me to pray.



A DISCUSSION ON

LEAD WITH PRAYER

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The content in this companion guide references and draws extensively from the book *Lead With Prayer*. Where appropriate, material has been quoted or adapted to support the learning journey.