

PRAYING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP



Fairfax Community Church

Praying in a neighborhood group can be the most joy-filled part of the time spent together or a huge challenge. It all depends on the makeup of the group. Even after being together for some time, you know some of the significant things going on in each other's lives but the requests may feel a bit shallow and seem to miss the bigness of our God. What do we do if many of the things we pray for skim along the surface without ever getting deeper?

Praying is a learned skill that takes time, discipline, and work. Recognize that we all have room to grow in learning to pray to God together. Be gracious with one another yet learn to guide a small group's prayer time. Here are a few suggestions:

IT'S JUST CONVERSATION

Remind the group that prayer is essentially talking with God and as we approach this holy and awesome God, we should be delighted in our ability to have such access to him. Our prayer is to know him and to love him and not merely list our requests to be answered.

GET TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Many of us do not naturally discern what we really need. God cares about all our concerns and requests but he's most interested in how his kingdom will be worked out in our hearts and minds. Answering the question, "How do we want to see our lives changed?" can help formulate our requests.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Break up into smaller groups for prayer so requests can be shared more intimately. Some groups divide by gender on occasion for the same purpose.

DON'T FORGET!

Remind the group to pray for each other during the week. Check in at the next gathering to see how God is answering prayers. It can be such a boost to our faith to know that others are praying during the week.