



HOW TO NURTURE A FAITH-SHARING CULTURE

REFOCUS YOUR INTERCESSIONS

Intercessors' Workshop – Leaders notes

Praying for the Ministry of Evangelism

Core Shift 3 of How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture is about including prayers for the ministry of evangelism in our intercessions whenever we gather as the people of God.

We tend to pray for the world, our country, the community around us, the church, and the sick and dying. This is a good discipline in our corporate worship, as it reminds us we exist to serve and bless others, and one way we do that is by praying for them.

Adding an additional element to the intercessions by praying for those we know who are not yet Christians communicates that, as a church or congregation, we not only have a global concern for world events and community needs, and a pastoral concern for those who are struggling, but also an evangelistic concern for those without Christ. We can also ensure that any other evangelism-related activity is prayed for each week.

This is an outline of a one-hour training session you could run with those who lead intercessions in your context to resource them to add this element to the way they lead the intercessions. Adapt according to your situation.

It could be 40-45 minutes if you remove dwell in the word or celebrating what we do well and just focus on praying for the ministry of evangelism. It could be run online or onsite. If onsite, be sure to set up the venue well and provide some amazing refreshments as a way of valuing those who come. If online, take a look at our [How to be a Zoom Ninja](#) guide.

OUTLINE OF SESSION

- Welcome.
- Dwelling in the Word.
- Celebrating what we do well and sharing resources.
- Praying for the ministry of evangelism.
- Prayer together.

There is a suggested way of approaching the training session overleaf, but do adapt it according to your context.

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LEAD ON

INTERCESSORS' WORKSHOP

OUTLINE OF SESSION

WELCOME (5 MINS)

- Thank the team for all they already do.
- Outline the session.
- Pray.



DWELLING IN THE WORD: LUKE 10:1-12 (10 MINS)

- Explain the approach using the notes in the handouts.
- Practice it together.

CELEBRATING WHAT WE DO WELL AND SHARING RESOURCES (20 MINS)

- Get people into 2-3's and give them 8-10 minutes to address the three questions on the handout (page 2).
- Get feedback and capture any useful insights and ideas to distribute after the session. Note the challenges, and if some of them can be quickly dealt with offer a way forward. Otherwise, explain you will give some thought to them and get back to them with some ideas over the coming week.

PRAYING FOR FAITH-SHARING (20 MINS)

- Position this section in the wider context of what you are doing as a church with regard to nurturing a faith-sharing culture. You could use these [introductory slides](#) if that would help (at bottom of webpage).
- Ask them to read the introduction to this section in their handout (page 3).
- Talk through three main ways you would like to include the ministry of evangelism in your weekly intercessions:
 - ⇒ **Prayer for 5.** If you haven't previously done this as a church (perhaps using the [Thy Kingdom Come](#) materials) you will need to introduce the concept. There are various materials available [here](#).
 - ⇒ **Prayer for growth.** There are a variety of set prayers that can be used for this (see handout page 4). Perhaps choose one for each Sunday of the month.
 - ⇒ **Prayer for any evangelism related activities.** Be clear that this isn't about mission activities or your mission partner overseas, but specifically about evangelism related activities. So, for example:
 - * For people to show and share the faith in their daily encounters through the week on their frontlines.
 - * If you are running an enquirers course (Hope Explored, Alpha, Pilgrim and so on), praying for it each week it is running.
 - * Events with an evangelistic focus i.e. Christmas carol service, marriage course, wine and cheese/beer and pies event with a speaker and so on.
 - * National events that provide opportunity for conversation.
 - * Praying for a different street in your community each Sunday, that the people in that street may come to know Christ.
 - * Praying for ministries that you run that connect people to church life and community with an evangelistic intent i.e. parent and toddler group, senior citizens lunch club, CAP project, food bank.
- Talk through the top tips on the handout, helping people to see how to be sensitive to guests who may be attending, and how pattern and variety are both helpful in intercessions.
- Invite people to share other ideas related to praying for the ministry of evangelism.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER (5 MINS)

- If you have previously introduced pray for 5 give some space for people to pray for their five people, either in quiet or out aloud. If you haven't done pray for 5 before, you may like to use this time to introduce it to the group and give them a [card](#) to begin to fill in for who their five might be.
- Pray one of the set prayers for the ministry of evangelism.