

# Praying for Unbelievers

## Participant Handout

*The purpose of this module is:*

***To urge church leadership to pray for the lost.***

*The objectives for this module are:*

- pray together;
- Understand the need for praying for people who reach lost people;
- Identify tools for leading a church to pray for unbelievers.

### How to Pray for People

1. Pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ words.
2. Pray for the fear to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Pray for clear \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Pray for a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to compel you.

Colossians 4:2-6

1. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to prayer is key to seeing unbelievers come to Christ.
2. Pray there will be open doors.
3. Pray for wisdom regarding actions toward outsiders.
4. Strive for right \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Make the most of everything \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be full of grace.
7. Season your conversations with \_\_\_\_\_.

### Encouraging a Local Church to Pray

1. Begin with the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ One or two books that focus on pray-ers effective in evangelism.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture to study—ask God to open your heart to them.
  - Pray you will have the same \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus has for the lost.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The idea to your congregation.
4. Conduct mini \_\_\_\_\_ on prayer.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ An awareness of the need to pray for the lost.

6. Begin to \_\_\_\_\_ the part God wants you to play in praying for unbelievers.
7. Start praying for the lost—begin with:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities for others to participate in prayer and increase their awareness of the need to pray.

### Passing This Information on to Others

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a prayer.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ prayer songs (directed toward God).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ mini devotionals frequently.

### Individual Exercise

This exercise is designed to give you an opportunity to reflect on the information presented. Space is provided for you to jot down key thoughts as you prayerfully mediate on this topic.

1. Ask God to guide you in your thoughts over the next few minutes as you focus on praying for unbelievers.
2. Pray for your pastors and one or two of your leaders.
3. Pray you will have a heart like Jesus had for the lost.
4. List your unsaved family members.
  
5. Ask God, “What is the part you want me to play in leading my church to pray for unbelievers?”
  
6. Write down what **you** will do this week in praying for unbelievers.

*I will . . .*

## PRAYING FOR AN UNSAVED PERSON

1. First, I must know I am in total oneness with the will of God in my own life. I pray and search my heart.
2. Pray I will be able to show Christ to this person by my actions, words, and love.
3. Pray for patience— I pray for patience because it may be years before this person comes to know Christ.
4. Pray for the opportunity to be able to witness to this person.
5. Pray God will send someone into the life of this person who will be the key to his or her coming to know Christ.
6. Pray God will begin to speak to this person and deal with his or her life.
7. Pray God will begin to soften the heart.
8. Pray for an obedient heart.
9. Pray he or she will be wise in the decisions he or she makes.
10. Pray he or she may know “how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is, and know this love surpasses knowledge.” (Eph. 3:18-19)
11. Pray he or she will come to the point that he or she will hate sin.
12. Imagine him or her discovering God at work.
13. Ask, “What about God, if it were known, would attract him or her to God?”
14. Ask, “How can I leak the good news about God?”
15. Pray God’s love will be experienced.
16. Pray God’s people will multiply conveniently.
17. Pray God’s people will become sensitive to the openness of people.
18. Pray the ear of the unbeliever will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s speaking.
19. Pray the unbeliever will open his or her social circle to the Christian and the Christian to the unsaved.
20. Pray the unbeliever will see God at work in his or her life.
21. Pray he or she will re-envision God to be loving, just, good, and ultimately desirable.
22. Pray he or she will long for personal peace and freedom from guilt.
23. Pray he or she will desire to worship.
24. **Ask, “What can I do or say today to bring Your light to their world?”**

## PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER FOR OTHERS

\_\_\_\_\_’s Father who art in heaven Hallowed be thy name in \_\_\_\_\_. Thy kingdom come in \_\_\_\_\_. Thy will be done in \_\_\_\_\_ on earth just as if he/she were with you in heaven. Give \_\_\_\_\_ this day his/her daily bread, and forgive \_\_\_\_\_ his/her trespasses as he/she forgives those who trespass against him/her. Lead not \_\_\_\_\_ into temptation, but deliver him/her from the evil one. Let \_\_\_\_\_’s joy be in your kingdom, your power, and your glory forever. Amen.

Tracy, Freeborn, Tartaglia, Weigelt, *Upward Call*, pp. 89-90.

## AN INTERCESSORY MEDIATION: USING PSALM 23

Close your eyes and picture a person you know who is going through a difficult time. Get a sense of the reality of that person -- appearance, tone of voice, etc. Then quietly meditate on the 23rd psalm, using this person’s name instead of the personal pronouns. The following translation is from the American Bible Society’s *Today’s English Version*:

The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_’s shepherd; \_\_\_\_\_ has everything he/she needs. He lets \_\_\_\_\_ rest in fields of green grass and leads \_\_\_\_\_ to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives \_\_\_\_\_ new strength. He guides \_\_\_\_\_ in the right paths, as He has promised. Even if he/she go[es] through deepest darkness, \_\_\_\_\_ will not be afraid, Lord, because you are with him/her. Your shepherd’s rod and staff protect \_\_\_\_\_. You prepare a banquet for \_\_\_\_\_ where all his/her enemies can see \_\_\_\_\_. You welcome \_\_\_\_\_ as an honored guest and fill \_\_\_\_\_’s cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_’s life; and your house will be \_\_\_\_\_’s home as long as he/she lives. Amen.

Tracy, Freeborn, Tartaglia, Weigelt, *Upward Call*, pp. 89-90.

**ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING**

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Conduct a minimum of three activities where the church prays for unbelievers. As a team, begin to plan for these three activities. Discuss what setting you'll use, the methods you'll use, who will be involved, when the activity will take place, and what results you expect to see.

| Idea | How | Who | When | Desired Results |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----------------|
| 1    |     |     |      |                 |
| 2    |     |     |      |                 |
| 3    |     |     |      |                 |
| 4    |     |     |      |                 |
| 5    |     |     |      |                 |