

Concert of Prayer: What is it? Why is it important?

Concerts of prayer can turn corporate prayer into powerful and dynamic prayer times. With leadership and participation, such times can become a blessing in the lives of all who take part. We urge you to prayerfully read and consider what follows as a means to enliven any prayer group!

What is a concert of prayer?

A concert of prayer is an orchestrated prayer time. The prayer leader acts like the conductor of an orchestra, moving through different seasons or topics of prayer. You might consider yourselves like different instruments, all praying along together, blending your voices into the same symphony—rather than each one praying his or her own melody.

The prayer leader will generally move us through seasons of prayer which follow the A-C-T-S acronym: Adoration, Confession (silent), Thanksgiving and Supplication (intercession).

Concerts of prayer are sometimes built around a theme: for instance, you might sometimes pray with a focus on prayers for your pastor(s). At other times you might pray for ministries and missions, for families, for our country, for revival, etc.

Why pray in small groups?

A group should be small enough that people can hear each other, or you can form smaller groups of three or four. With a leader, each person is given the opportunity to pray one or more brief prayers for each topic, person or concern. When you all stay on the same topic in your season of prayer, you are able to pray with a sense of direction and depth, as each one's prayer about a given subject leads to another's different prayer or concern about the same thing.

In a small group setting, you are able to learn from each other as you pray. It's one of the most effective ways God has of enlarging the scope of your prayers. Suppose you are praying for your pastor. In your personal prayer times at home you may typically fall into the comfortable pattern of asking for the same kinds of things for him over and over. When you pray with others, your vision of what to pray for the pastor is stretched as you hear—and pray along with—they. In the same way, they will be learning from you. They may be asking for things it would never have occurred to you to ask, things you may be led to use at a later time in your personal prayer times for your pastor.

You will be encouraged by the prayers of others.

Many people today rarely have the opportunity to hear what is on someone else's heart. When we pray with each other, though we are praying along with them rather than simply listening to their words, we cannot help but be impressed by the love shown through their prayers—love for our Savior, for ministries and missions, for each other.

What if we're not comfortable praying with others?

Many people are uncomfortable praying aloud. Be encouraged by this: learning to pray with others is like riding a bicycle; once you learn, you do not have to re-learn. Simply telling others you are trying to learn will help dispel nervousness. Most others in your group will remember when they felt the same way.

Even if you are not ready to try praying aloud, we encourage you to join a group, and simply say, "I'll pray along with you silently." Then, listen, learn and be encouraged as you do. We would encourage you to begin to add a brief prayer of your own now and then, as the Lord begins to help you grow comfortable with the idea—especially if you pray and ask him to.

What if we're not comfortable following a prayer leader?

This is likely a different experience, even for the most seasoned pray-ers. One reason we are sometimes uncomfortable staying with topics or seasons of prayer is that at home in our private prayers, we tend to be rather free-flowing, praying about whatever comes to mind.

The idea of a concert of prayer is that the group(s) will all be praying about the same thing at the same time. At any one moment you will have all your voices entwined as you come in agreement. The purpose of a concert is to add strength to your prayers by praying in one voice, in agreement.