



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS

QUARTER 3

2023



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PRAYER
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EPTs gather Christian workers across Australia to encourage one another in our **CONVICTION, CHARACTER, COMPETENCE, and COURAGE** so we all can share Jesus with our colleagues and to pray for each other that God may work in their lives to see Jesus known.

Vision: To reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.

Aim: 1000 people across Australia meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible

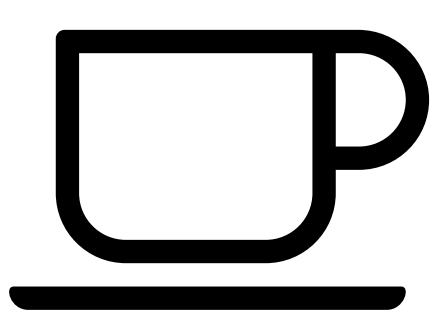


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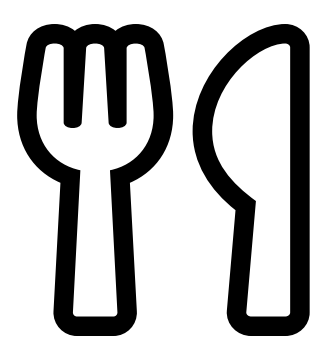
TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

COFFEE



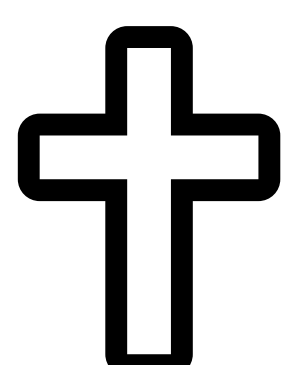
Shared a personal conversation
Knows I'm Christian
Spent social time together

DINNER



I understand their worldview
I've shared the Bible worldview

GOSPEL



Made a clear presentation of gospel
Reading Bible
Become Christian
Joined a good church



EVANGELISTIC
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OVERVIEW

TOGETHER IN PRAYER



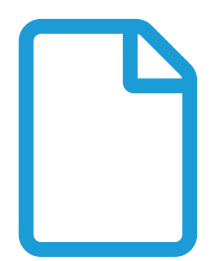
TOGETHER IN PRAYER



EVANGELISTIC
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TEAMS



TOGETHER IN PRAYER

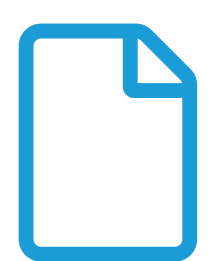


Course Summary

These studies examine the role of prayer in workplace evangelism.

We have made some of these studies shorter than usual so we have more time to pray together in our teams.

If you would like to look more into the discipline of prayer, we recommend Don Carson's book *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* - a fantastic examination of the Apostle Paul's prayers.



Course Structure

- 1: HEART'S DESIRE FOR THE LOST
- 2: FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS
- 3: STRIVE TOGETHER IN PRAYER
- 4: WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL
- 5: SPIRITUAL WARFARE
- 6: TOO BUSY TO PRAY
- 7: TOO SPENT TO PRAY
- 8: TOO COMFORTABLE TO PRAY
- 9: PRAYING FROM THE PIT



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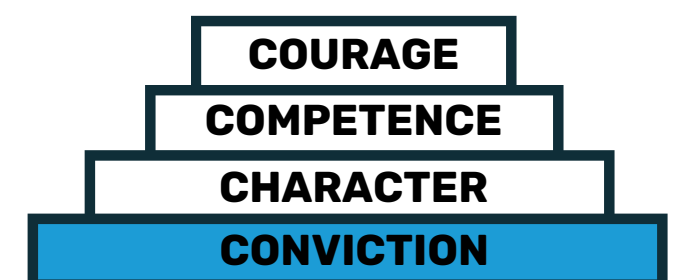
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TOGETHER IN PRAYER

1. HEART'S DESIRE FOR THE LOST



Introduction

What is your heart's desire?

What gets you up in the morning?



Big Picture

Paul's heart's desire and prayer is the salvation of his fellow Israelites.



Bible Passage

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

Romans 9:1-4a

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

Romans 10:1-2



Key Truths

1. Look at Paul's language - "anguish in my heart", "heart's desire and prayer", how regularly do you think Paul prayed for the lost?
2. The Jews are zealous for God, but they are ignorant of God - a tragedy that sees them miss God's righteousness and try to make their own.
3. Paul feels the Jews are so close and yet so far from God. So he prays that God would save them.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

How do you feel about your colleagues not being saved?

What would it look like for the 'lost' to be your heart's desire?



Prayer

Pray for a true heart's desire for the lost.

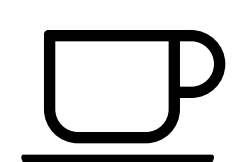
Where are you up to in your relationships with your colleagues?

What's the next step?

Pray for that next step for your colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



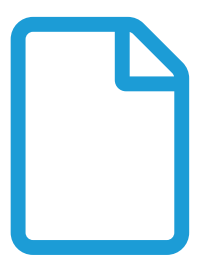
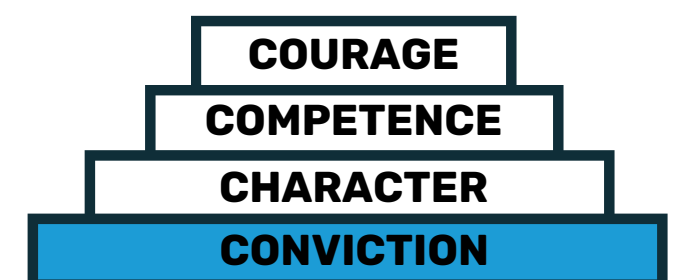
GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

2. FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS



Introduction

Fragrance can be a personal thing. What smells great to me might smell repugnant to others (Durian anyone?).

What smell do you like that others hate?



Big Picture

Paul is thankful that God parades him before the world – as a welcome aroma to God; the pungent whiff of death to some, and the potent fragrance of life to others.



Bible Passage

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

2 Corinthians 2:14-16



Key Truths

1. Paul and his team are led by God in triumphal procession as captives who spread the aroma of the knowledge of God everywhere. This is no glamorous job of the elite - all glory goes to Christ.
2. God's point in showing off Paul and his team is that knowledge of Jesus spreads everywhere.
3. The aroma of Christ is the fragrance of life to those being saved, and the stench of death to those perishing. People respond strongly to the gospel of Jesus.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

How have you seen people react to the gospel of Jesus like the stench of death or fragrance of life?

Whether we are the stench of death or the fragrance of life, Paul responds with thankfulness. How do you cope when people treat you like the stench of death?

How does this change your prayers?



Prayer

Share together about the next step with your colleagues meeting Jesus.

Pray for that next step with your colleagues.

Remember

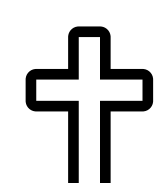
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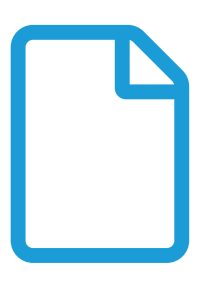
GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

3. STRIVE TOGETHER IN PRAYER



Introduction

Strive!

It's the kind of word you see in vision statements and mottos. But not one we regularly use in everyday life. What does "strive" evoke for you?



Big Picture

EPTs are a time to strive together in prayer and refresh one another for serving our great God!



Bible Passage

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

May the God of peace be with you all. Amen..

Romans 15:30-33



Key Truths

1. Prayer is a worthy endeavour. It takes effort.
2. Prayer is a group activity. It links us in gospel partnership. We partner with fellow Christians across the globe as we strive together in prayer to God.
3. Paul prays for deliverance from unbelievers, for acceptable service to the Christians in Jerusalem, and for the way to be clear for him to be with the Roman Christians - so he may be refreshed in their company.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Our time together in our EPTs can be one of joy and refreshing as we strive together in prayer.

What is your attitude to prayer?

Is it the bit we tack on the end of our other stuff, or is it something worth gathering around?

Is it worth striving in prayer?



Prayer

Thank God for our time together - for this team and for our ability to strive together in prayer.

What is the next step with your colleagues?

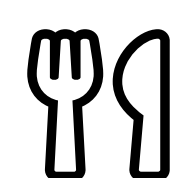
Pray for that next step.

Remember

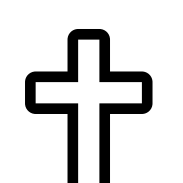
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

4. WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL



Introduction

Devoted!
It's more than being a fan. It's a commitment.

What are people at your workplace devoted to?

Big Picture

Prayer is a commitment - it requires attentiveness and thankfulness. Pray for each other - for open doors and clarity for the message of Jesus.

Bible Passage

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:2-6



Key Truths

1. Paul wants the Colossian Christians to devote themselves to prayer - not only as individuals, but as a team.
2. Prayer happens with watchfulness and thankfulness. We need to keep up with what God is doing. Remember all things come from God - our prayer needs to be soaked in thankfulness.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

How often do you stop and pay attention to what God is doing?

How often do you practice deliberate thankfulness to God?

How have you worked at developing your thankfulness in everyday life?

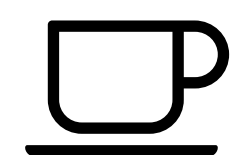


Prayer

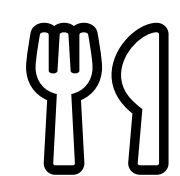
Pray for one another - for an open door to speak a clear message about Jesus when the opportunity arises.

Remember

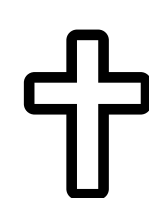
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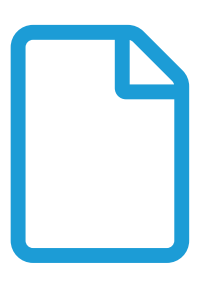
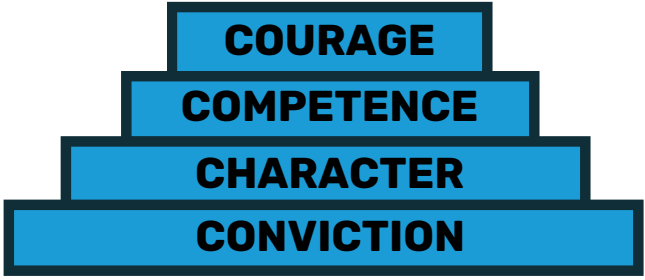
GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

5. SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Introduction

Our culture isn't always comfortable with the concept of a spiritual world behind our physical realm.

Why do you think that is the case?



Big Picture

In our spiritual battle, our prayers for each other should be for the preaching of the gospel.



Bible Passage

...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:12,18-20



Key Truths

1. The danger of spiritual evil for Paul is that he would shrink away in fear from declaring the good news about Jesus.
2. So, in light of his battle against the evil, spiritual world. Paul asks for prayer. He asks for prayer that he would fearlessly preach the gospel of Jesus.
3. Praying for each other is how we respond to the threat of evil.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We are engaged in a spiritual battle, where our temptation in our fight against evil is that we become reluctant to declare the gospel of Jesus - or even to be known as a Christian. How have you experienced that reluctance in your life?

How can we effectively fight our spiritual battles and keep preaching Jesus?



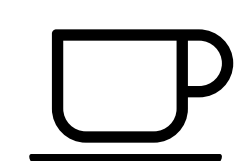
Prayer

Pray for one another, to boldly identify with Jesus and declare the good news of trusting in him.

Pray for the next relational step with your colleagues.

Remember

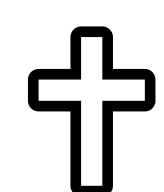
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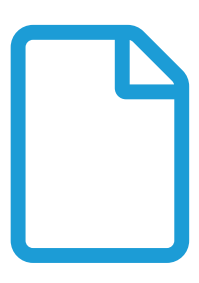


GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER
6. TOO BUSY TO PRAY



Introduction

When was the last time you were able to just spend time listening to God in his word, meditating upon it, and praying?



Big Picture

If you are too busy to pray, you are just too busy. Cut something out!

Don Carson



Bible Passage

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42



Key Truths

1. Martha had Jesus in her home - but instead of listening to him like Mary - she was too busy.
2. Mary is commended for choosing the better option. What Martha was doing wasn't wrong, it just wasn't the best thing at the time - listening to Jesus.
3. Busyness can push listening to God and prayer to the fringes of our lives.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We are no longer a contemplative culture. When we're not rushing about, we've got some screen in front of our face.

Being too busy pushes God out of our life, we can be in danger of eliminating listening to God in his word and prayer all together!

In A Call to Spiritual Reformation, Don Carson says "if you are too busy to pray, you are too busy. Cut something out!"



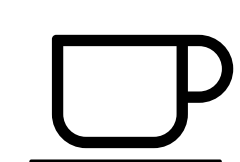
Prayer

If you have been too busy for God, pray for forgiveness.

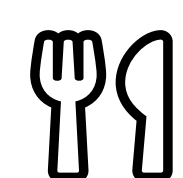
Pray for opportunities to take the next step with your colleagues.

Remember

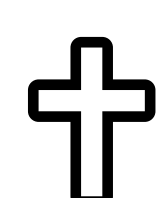
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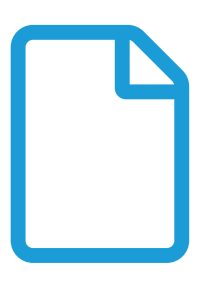
GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

7. TOO SPENT TO PRAY



Introduction

Think back to a time when you felt energised to pray.

What was going on at the time?



Big Picture

When we are reluctant to pray because of how we feel, it can be because we secretly think our holiness depends on our performance rather than on God's grace.



Bible Passage

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1-8



Key Truths

1. Even a corrupt judge will give in to persistent requests - how much more will God give to his children who persist in prayer?
2. God loves to give good things to his children; he supplies all our needs.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Prayer can be difficult because we just don't feel like it. When God feels far from us, we feel fake when we pray.

How can we pray when we feel discouraged?

We make two mistakes when we think this way:

1. That my prayers are acceptable to God based on how I feel.
2. My obligations to pray is somehow tied to how I feel at the time.

Consider these words from Don Carson:

God insists that we learn not to hide behind our feelings of dryness, behind our chronic unbelief, behind our lapses into discouragement. He wants us to learn to trust him, to learn to persevere in prayer. In short, in prayer as in other areas of life, God wants us to trust and obey.

A Call to Spiritual Reformation



Prayer

Spend some time considering what might be the next step with your colleagues to meet Jesus and pray.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

8. TOO COMFORTABLE TO PRAY



Introduction

Often as Christians we can get concerned with the quality of the preacher's sermon, the music in church, but not so much the quality of our own prayer life. We get content with mediocrity.

Big Picture

Our hearts are too easily satisfied by the things of life, and so our prayer life suffers.

Bible Passage

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Key Truths

- 1. These words form the core of the Shema - a daily prayer for Jewish people. It is a daily reminder to God's people of their need for whole-hearted (and all the other bits) devotion to God.
- 2. We need a daily reminder because we are so easily distracted and split.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Is your prayer life sagging?

Maybe we've let other things crowd out our devotion to God.

C.S. Lewis once commented:

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

The Weight of Glory

When we are too easily satisfied by the meagre things of this world, and do not seek the perfect gifts from God; it's no wonder our prayer life plummets.

Where do you find your desires met?



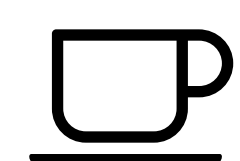
Prayer

Pray for a whole-hearted devotion to God.

Pray for an opportunity to take the next step with your colleagues this week.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





TOGETHER IN PRAYER

9. PRAYING FROM THE PIT



Introduction

Once Adam and Eve realised they had sinned, they were ashamed and hid from God. Shame forces us to retreat from the presence of God. What do you do when you just want to hide from God?

Big Picture

Just as Adam and Eve couldn't hide from God behind some trees, we can't hide from God in prayerlessness.

Bible Passage

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Hebrews 4:13-14



Key Truths

1. Nothing is hidden from God - our secret sins are done before his eyes.
2. But, we also have Jesus our great high priest, who knows our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

In our shame, when we try to hide from God, we try to hide from the only one who can forgive us and deal with our shame.

Our shame should prompt us to pray, not drive us from prayer.



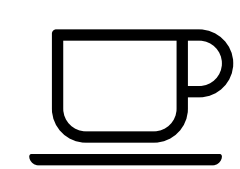
Prayer

Spend some time praying silently for forgiveness for the times you have run from God recently.

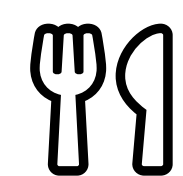
Pray for an opportunity to speak of the forgiveness that is ours in Jesus.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL



