

Conversational Prayer

Conversational Prayer engages two or more people in a shared dialogue with God. Focusing on one topic at a time each participant takes turns praying a few short sentences.

Explore: To talk naturally and unself-consciously to God in group prayer times with others.

Scripture:

- “He knelt down with all of them and prayed.” Acts 20:36
- “Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayer, letting God know your concerns.” Philippians 4:6

Includes:

- Attending concerts of prayer for global concerns.
- Having short, vocal prayer in planned and unplanned venues.
- Praying spontaneously with others around specific topics as they come to mind.

Fruits:

- Growing in verbal prayer with others.
- Being free to pray spontaneously with others.
- Modeling simple ways of talking to God without pretense or flowery speech.

Short methods for Conversational prayer:

1. When you find yourself talk to a Christian friend about concerns of your heart, suggest that the two of you pray together conversationally.
2. Invite your children to take turns praying sentence prayers. You suggest the topics, inviting them each to pray one after another; pray for mom, dad, friends, teachers, people who need help, etc. Then ask them what it is like to pray this way.
3. When praying in a small group, pray one topic at a time. Allow several people to pray about the same thing. Then move to another topic.
4. When you pray with others, listen to their prayers. What do you see about God through their eyes and prayers? Don’t worry if you are a beginner and want to follow examples of how others pray. Jesus told his disciples to copy his prayers. As you grow in prayer, you will gain greater freedom to speak.
5. If you are uncomfortable praying out loud, ask someone who feels confident in verbal prayer to mentor and encourage you. Break your silence by praying with one other person.

*Hybels, Too busy Not to Pray
Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*

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