

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 18 of 30 | Sermon date: May 1, 2022

Guided Prayer: Scripture fed, spirit led, worship-based prayer.

Abiding (grow as a disciple yourself)

This week our curriculum is focusing on guided prayer as a Life Group. Daniel Henderson, a guest preacher in August of 2021 (click here to listen), boiled it down like this: we pray simply because, "He is worthy, and we are needy." Let's seek the face of God and not just the hand of God, and our heart posture will change from request-based prayer (self-focused) to worship-based prayer (God focused). Shifting our focus to seeking God's face and not just His hand, we begin to experience prayer.

<u>Leading</u> (facilitate your group effectively)

Set the stage well by sharing the importance of prayer. Explain how this evening will look different from "regular" group time. Let them know that you'll open in prayer and that you'll then lead them in guided prompts (see facilitator page). Simply read the scripture then move through the <u>4 R's</u> (see below) by reading the prompts out loud with your response, then invite each group member to read the prompt aloud with their response as they feel led and make it comfortable for those who chose not to prayer on certain prompts. Feel free to add some ambient music to set the tone.

Reverence: Begin with a focus of worship on the character of God as we take time to focus our entire being on the wonders of who God is.

Response: Our response to God's character in prayer as we consider His will, from His Word and for the sake of His purposes on earth. *Introspection and surrender mark this time of response.*

Requests: Now that we have rightly worshipped our God and Savior — and we have wholly surrendered to His will for our lives — we can now boldly bring our requests before Him, knowing that we are asking "in His name" and for His glory.

Readiness: This outward stroke reminds us of the spiritual battle before us, and more importantly, reassures us of the spiritual resource within us, the Holy Spirit. We entrust our welfare for the warfare to the delivering force of our Divine Enabler, through the power of His presence and promises.

Leader Announcements: May 22nd we'll have our first Life Group Leader Prayer Meeting from 10:30 – 11:30 at the church! More details to come!

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Make note that tonight will be a guided prayer night and cast vision for the group.

Make certain to read the *entire* Leader Page for context around guided prayer.

Weekly Vision (Announcements, The "Why", Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching)

Scripture References (Read from the Bible) Psalm 23 (ESV) and begin prayer.

Reverence: Praiseworthy attributes displayed in this text: (Here's a few, find more.)

- You are Jehovah Rohi, the good shepherd. (v. 1)
- You are Jehovah Shalom, who grants peace. (v. 2)
- You are a God who restores. (v. 3)
- You are Jehovah Shammah, the God who is there. (v. 4)
- You give in a way that overflows. (v. 5)
- You are good and merciful. (v. 6)

Reverence prayer prompts: (consider His attributes as you worship Him)

I praise You Jehovah Rohi, our good shepherd, that You cared for me when...
I praise You Lord when I needed _______ You were my Provider
I praise You that You led me to ______ when I _____
I praise You, Jehovah Shalom, that You give me peace even when...

Response prayer prompts: (our response to God's character in prayer as we consider His will, from His Word and for the sake of His purposes on earth)

- Lord, I surrender my desire to have _____, realizing that You provide all I need.
- Lord, because I realize You are the leader, I surrender my self-made plans for...
- Even though I will dwell in Your house forever, I confess that I often try to find value in...

Request prayer prompts: (boldly bring our requests before Him, knowing that we are asking "in His name" and for His glory)

- Lord, I pray that You will shepherd _____ (name) as they ______ (situation)
- I pray that _____ (name) will find satisfaction in You and not in...
- Lord, I am trusting You to restore...
- Lord, I call on Your name to lead as I...

 Lord, as I enter (situation), I pray for Your divine preparation and anointing. I pray that I will have a firm assurance of Your goodness as I 	
I pray that You will demonstrate Your mercy to (name) as they	
 Readiness prayer prompts: (an outward stroke that reminds us of the spiritual battle before us, and reassures us of the spiritual resource within us) Even though we walk through (dark situations) we will fear no evil. You are our provision, even in the presence of (various forms of evil). 	

Bring Your Prayer Time to a Close