



*“Come Pray  
With Me”*

## Prayer Group Guide

for  
Camps Farthest Out

This is a reference guide for use by Prayer Groups at CFO Camps and at home. It will be helpful to both leaders and prayer group members alike. Each will find in it: suggestions, explanations, themes, and reminders. These ideas have grown out of years of experience in prayer groups of Camps Farthest Out. They are to be used as suggestions and not as set patterns.



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*“The PRAYER GROUPS are the hub on which the activities of the Camp rise or fall... A small nucleus of searching hearts, reaching together for a new and fresh encounter with our Lord; a common concern for each individual and his needs; and open hearts ready to receive from anyone whom God uses to minister to them.”*

THELMA LEE, “CFO, WHAT IS IT?”

## THE UNITED PRAYER TOWER

This booklet is just one resource for ideas about prayer groups. Another valuable source for ideas and help is The United Prayer Tower.

The United Prayer Tower (UPT) is a year- round prayer ministry for CFQers worldwide. It is a place where someone will pray with you (if you desire), and place your request in a monthly *Call to Prayer* which is sent to CFO pray-ers around the world.

Also, The United Prayer Tower has available printed materials both for starting prayer groups and for any who desire a deeper knowledge of prayer; The UPT Prayer Resource Guide is manual covering the different prayer activities of CFO. All materials are given with no charge.

UPT also has a prayer resource library. Included are books by Glenn Clark and other CFO leaders.



For more information contact:

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## STEPS FOR STARTING A PRAYER GROUP

Glenn Clark's words of long ago are true

today: *"Before us looms a year of crisis. Poise and balance are at a premium as never before. There is a crying need for men and women who can carry within their hearts that 'peace that passeth all understanding'. ... The Christian unit or prayer Cell is the answer. There is no greater, blessing that we could bring to our nation right now than the spreading of prayer groups everywhere. "*

### FACING THE WORLD WITH PRAYER GROUPS

It is God who has given you the desire to be part of a small prayer group. The following steps can help you get started:

- Pray that God will give you the name of the first person to invite.
- If that person will meet with you, pray together that God will put in your minds the names of others to be in the group. When you are in agreement, invite the people whose names you received.
- Locate a quiet place to meet.
- Set a regular time to begin and end your time together.
- Begin by agreeing on a process for your time together. Be clear about the commitments you are making.
- Trust that God will lead your group to the perfect pattern for each meeting as you listen and obey.

## PURPOSE OF PRAYER GROUPS

A CFO Prayer Group meets daily as a group of individuals:

- To pray
- To experience the presence of the Living God.
- To experiment with prayer techniques, disciplines and forms.

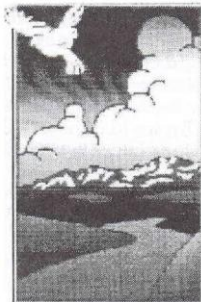
To practice principles of answered prayer:

- Letting go,
- Agreement
- Surrender
- Forgiveness
- Joyous Expectancy
- Trust

To dwell in the presence of God, and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayer Groups develop a spiritual power through obeying and practicing the laws of prayer. God works through them to establish His will in the Camp and then in ever widening circles; in families, businesses, churches, cities, states, nations and the entire world.

*This is the goal of all true prayer - to make the "stretching" of the mind to see God a continuous habit all through the day" to make the deep breathing of the soul a steady automatic habit of the subconscious. "*



THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 14

## HINTS FOR PRAYER GROUP MEMBERS

- Make sure you know where your prayer group will meet.
- Plan ahead so you can arrive on time and be relaxed.
- Enter into the experience with expectancy, trusting that God has a perfect plan for you.
- Remember that God is present. Center your mind on God.
- Trust that your group has been called together by Divine Appointment.
- Anticipate various forms of prayer sharing.
- Listen with your heart to the sharing in your group.
- Commit to keep all prayer group sharing confidential (as a sacred trust).
- Enjoy the freedom to pray aloud or in silence as led.



### Some Things to Avoid

- Dominating or monopolizing
- Discussing, arguing or diagnosing
- Problem solving or teaching
- Giving too much detail before praying

Remember: The purpose of Prayer Groups is prayer.

- Talking about denominations or doctrines.  
Remember that Jesus is our common center and focus



## Qualities of Prayer Group Leaders

- An intimate relationship with Jesus Christ
- An active personal prayer life.
- Ability to lead a group in praying together.

## Hints for Prayer Group Leaders

- A leader who is effective:
- Allows God to lead the group
- Is humble and transparent.
- Sets a tone of expectancy, joy and trust.
- Helps members feel accepted, comfortable, loved.
- Encourages the group to open to God's highest good; His perfect way in His perfect time.
- Refrains from using the time for teaching.
- Opens the door into an experience of releasing fears and clearing away anything that might be blocking an awareness of God's presence.
- Assists members in learning to pray for each other, the needs of family, friends, community, nation and the world.
- Is willing to experiment with new or different prayer techniques.
- Allows the development of quietness, silence, stillness.
- Reminds campers that your time together as a group is part of God's larger plan.
- Closes the time by:
  - Reflecting on what God is doing among you.
  - Some form of corporate expression (singing, thanksgiving, affirming, etc).

## TYPES OF PRAYER

### Praise and adoration

Recognizing who God is and celebrating His greatness.

### Thanksgiving

Expressing gratitude for blessings and mercies received.

### Confession

Admitting that we have fallen short of our high calling.

### Forgiveness

Accepting God's grace for ourselves and being willing to forgive others

### Petition

Asking God to meet our personal needs and grant us wisdom and guidance.

### Intercession

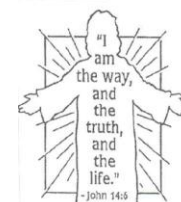
Lifting the needs of others and the world to the throne of God.

*"True prayer, then, is the Holy Ghost, Emmanuel God in us, speaking through us to God the Father, Who abides in us and in Whom we abide."*

THE SOUL 'S SINCERE DESIRE, p. 55

*"The most essential thing for a perfect prayer is perfect love. Love is the most wonderful thing in the world. Of all the virtues it is the force that draws us and holds us closest to God."*

I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES, p. 62



## One Way to Use

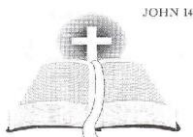
### Visualization Prayer

When Scriptures are read or prayers are prayed, allow yourself to see Jesus at work in the situation.

*"Most assuredly- I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself; but what He sees the*

*Father do, for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner"*

*"He who has seen Me has seen the Father..."*



JOHN 14:9

### Silence is:

- Becoming as quiet and still as one can.
- Listening as carefully as a child listens for the voice of its mother.
- Resting in the presence of God.
- Being aware of the presence of the Spirit of the living God
- Communing with God in peace
- Experiencing a sense of God's love.

It has been said that prayer of positive, creative quality needs a background of silence and until we are prepared to practice this silence, we need not hope to know the power of prayer.

We often need time to think before sharing thoughts and problems. The whole group focusing in silence upon a particular need can be very powerful. In the silence God often speaks to us and brings a surprising answer.



## HINTS FOR SETTING UP A PRAYER GROUP

- Pray for guidance, sensitivity and inner peace.
- Do your homework!
- Take advantage of available resources. Become a student of prayer.
- Read and re-read Glenn Clark's works on prayer.
- Know where your prayer group will meet.
- Arrive early and arrange the site, making sure you have adequate seating.
- Welcome members as they arrive.
- Invite members to gather as close as is comfortable for this unique experience.
- Include periods of silence. (These times can be extended as the group grows more comfortable with silence).
- Listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance and risk being obedient.

### First Day

Invite members to share their names and tell something about themselves in response to a chosen question (1 min). Ex: *Why did you come to camp this year? When did you first become aware of God's presence?, or What is a hope or dream you have for this week at camp?*

Topics like these seem to work better than questions about families! jobs, etc.

Share YOUR hopes and dreams for the prayer group.