

# VISION FOR PRAYER

## *Stonecroft Prayer Format*

*“As we look toward the future, we can see many great and mighty things God can still do through the Stonecroft Ministries in answer to believing prayer. Prayer is our top priority.”*

*—Helen Duff Baugh*

This format is based on the **Principles of Prayer** resource. Some ideas for how you might use this prayer format include:

- with your Leadership or Planning Teams, after discussing your vision for prayer
- at your Prayer Connection
- at other prayer gatherings
- in your personal devotional life

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Though vision is from the Lord, vision requires faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). Through His Word, God has revealed to us who He is and how to seek Him in prayer. This prayer format can be used to guide your group in seeking God’s vision for your prayer ministry. Although some suggested verses are given for your consideration, feel free to use other passages that fit the various sections.

As we approach God, we want to come:

- Willing to **examine** the condition of our hearts,
- Wanting to **explore** the character of God, and
- Waiting with **expectation** for God’s answers.

## God-Centered Prayer

**Read Scriptures** that talk about God’s character, such as Psalm 62 or Isaiah 55:8-11.

**Ask questions** of the group about the Scripture, such as:

- What characteristics of God do you see in these Scriptures?
- Which characteristic is most meaningful to you today?

**Respond in Prayer**—Spend time praising God for who He is.

## Holy Spirit-Guided Prayer

**Read Scriptures** that talk about the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives, such as John 14:26, Romans 8:26, or Galatians 5:22-25.

**Ask questions** of the group about the Scripture, such as:

- What are some of the things these verses tell us that the Holy Spirit does in the lives of believers?
- Considering these truths, how might the Holy Spirit guide us in our prayer gatherings?
- How could the Spirit's help as described in Romans 8:26 free us to pray boldly?

**Respond in Prayer**—Possible responses could include:

- Thanking God for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.
- Asking the Holy Spirit to comfort and teach us.
- Indicating our willingness to be yielded to the Holy Spirit's reminders.

## Purposeful Prayer

**Read Scriptures** that demonstrate how to pray with purpose, such as Colossians 4:2-4, Matthew 9:36-38, or Ephesians 1:15-19.

**Ask questions** of the group about the Scripture, such as:

- How are we encouraged to pray for those who don't know Jesus?
- How are we encouraged to pray for other believers?
- How was Paul purposeful in prayer according to Ephesians 1:16?

**Respond in Prayer**—Spend time praying for the believers and unbelievers God has put in your life.

### Personal Spiritual Growth

If you would like to use this prayer format to strengthen your personal devotion time with God, here are a few suggestions:

#### God Centered

As you read the Bible, list the characteristics of God you see in the passages. Refer to this list to guide your praise and prayers.

#### Holy Spirit-Guided

Bring to mind the Holy Spirit's presence with you and ask Him to help you pray. Quiet your mind and spend some time in silence. As the Lord brings thoughts to your mind, pray and/or journal in response.

#### Purposeful

Think about the people you've interacted with in the last 24 hours. Pray Ephesians 1:16-19 for them. It might sound something like this.

"Lord, please open a door for me to share Jesus Christ with Mary soon."

### Taking it to the Streets

The heartbeat of Stonecroft Ministries is to let the spiritual life God gives each of us overflow in blessing to others. If you'd like to use this prayer format to help you be God's ambassador in your community, here are a few suggestions:

- Get friends together to pray using the Vision for Prayer format.
- Get to know your waitress and ask, "How can I pray for you today?"
- Drive through your neighborhood and pray for the individuals and families to know God's character.
- Write a note to someone and share a verse of Scripture that encouraged you that day.
- Text message a brief prayer to someone.
- Get your kids or grandkids to join you! Use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures of Bible stories on your driveway.