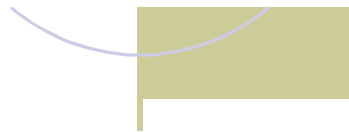


Prayer Transformation Ministries



Church Discovery Guide

Exploring the prayer movement in your church



*Unleashing the
Transforming
Power
of Prayer!*

Church Discovery Guide

Exploring the prayer movement in your church

This *Church Discovery Guide* is most effective when completed by a group of church leaders in a leadership retreat or similar context of extended time spent together. Within that context, it is crucial that prayer calls forth the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal what needs to be known in order to chart the future growth of prayer in the church.

Walking through these questions, sharing answers, and then praying together will help clarify your present situation, as well as give insight into future steps.

Discovering our history

- What was the role of prayer in the founding of the church?
Give examples:

- How has the place of prayer changed over the years? Has it increased or decreased?

- Are there areas of your history that need to be “revisited”?
 - In what ways do you see prayer was a strength in the foundation of your church. *Pray and give thanks for those indicators.*
 - In the early life of your church, were there ways that prayer was intentionally incorporated? Do you see the effects of that today?
 - Are there strengths that you can rejoice over and give thanks to God?
 - Are there weaknesses that you need to admit, and then seek God’s forgiveness and grace?

Prayer: Stop now and pray, asking for God’s heart and perspective on your church history. Pray about “redigging the wells” of the prayer movement in your church. If prayer played a role in the foundation of the church, pray that God will refresh that vision. If you need to repent of the loss of a vision for prayer, or for never really having one—bring that before the Lord as well.

Mission and Vision

- Is there evidence that prayer is a vital part of your church mission or vision statement? List specifics to indicate that.
- Is your statement phrased in such a way that it is intentional, and not just assumed?
- Is it clear and understandable in a first reading?
- Is prayer listed as a core value of your church?
- Is the value of prayer elevated and communicated in other ways?
- If not, how can prayer be communicated more intentionally and effectively?

Prayer: Stop now and pray, asking God for direction in how to raise the value of prayer in your church's mission, vision, or core values.

Leadership

- Is your church leadership unreservedly committed to prayer?
- In what ways is the church leadership continuing to evidence growth in prayer?
- In what ways does the leadership give clear and frequent reference to the value of prayer?
- Is “a growing prayer life” a stated requirement for church leadership?
- Are there opportunities for leadership corporate prayer times?
- Do all leadership teams know how to pray and listen together? (Elders, deacons, small group leaders, teachers, ministry team leaders, etc.)

The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the LORD; so they do not prosper and all their flock is scattered. (Jeremiah 10:21)

- In what ways does your leadership model prayer for your congregation?

Prayer: Stop now and pray for God's blessing on your church leadership.

Church Life:

- In what ways is prayer incorporated into the worship services of your church?
- How is a commitment to prayer evidenced in the area of evangelism and outreach?
- Is there intentional and consistent prayer training for children and students?
- Are current prayer resources available in your church library or resource center?
- Does your church have designated prayer room that is reserved exclusively for prayer? If not, is there a designated place for prayer that is known to the congregation?
- Are regular prayer classes and training opportunities offered for adults?
- In what way is a commitment to prayer communicated through church brochures and publications?
- In what ways are families trained, strengthened, and encouraged in prayer?
- List ways that people in your church have opportunity to be prayed for or share their prayer concerns.
- Does your church have some form of altar prayer ministry or prayer after worship services?
- Is there growing evidence in your people of prayer as a lifestyle? In what ways?
- How is prayer incorporated into every gathering or small group setting? Is it intentional, and have leaders been trained to do so?

- In what ways does your church pray with and for other churches in your community?

Prayer: Stop and pray now, thanking God for how He is at work currently in the life of your church.

Listening Together for God's Heart

God's plan for your church to become a house of prayer will most likely differ from other churches. Now that you've analyzed where your church is at, take enough time to ask God what your church should look like in each of these areas.

Prayer: Pray about how God would have you intentionally incorporate prayer into the life of your church. Ask God to take your church to a new level of becoming a "house of prayer."

When Jesus stated that His house should be a "house of prayer" (Matthew 21:13) He was affirming a very basic reality about our relationship with God. He was declaring that intimacy with the Father was the core of all our interaction with God, and that prayer is our communications channel that informs us, encourages us, empowers us, directs us, protects us—and at the same time expresses our love for all God has done for us.

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