

# CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER

## Lesson Plan

### INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

- The Bible teaches us to pray.
- Our experience with prayer ranges from silent to boisterous, from spontaneous to liturgical. Prayer should be both private and corporate (public). Either without the other is like day without night. They complement each other.
- Much public prayer, especially spontaneous public prayer, sets a poor example for new believers, using stilted language, a “holy voice”, and vague requests.
- Obviously Conversational Prayer is not the only way to pray. It is presented here because it is the experience of several national MCFs and other groups is that using conversational prayer produces an increased consciousness of God's presence, resulting in greater group vitality and unity. It is also very helpful in teaching people how to pray.
- Most of these principles are applicable to individual prayer as well as small group prayer.

**OBJECTIVE:** By the end of this presentation, each of you should be able to do the following:

- A. Define conversational prayer in your own words.
- B. State the 4 Basic Guidelines.
- C. State the Duties of the Leader.

### PRESENTATION (10 minutes)

- A. Definition. Conversational Prayer is:
  1. Talking with (not just to) God (the entire Trinity). (Matthew 18:19-20)
  2. Talking as a small group, 3-6 optimum, often an Inductive Bible Study group.
  3. Talking in an informal, conversational style using normal conversational patterns, tone of voice, and vocabulary. Say “I” when you mean yourself, “we” when you mean the group.
- B. Basic Guidelines. **These are not rigid rules.**
  1. Stick to the subject. Pray back and forth on a SINGLE subject, one person or situation at a time, in agreement (Matthew 18-19- 20) until the subject is completed. Participants introduce new subjects as the Holy Spirit prompts. Pray “faith sized”, or believable, requests.
  2. Everybody participates who so desires, but no one is forced to participate.
  3. No one monopolizes. Keep prayers brief, just a sentence or short paragraph. Pray as often as you like, but give AT LEAST one other person a turn before praying again. Silences are OK.
  4. Be aware and respond in three areas:
    - a. Aware of God who is present with us.
      - *Adoration:* who He IS.
      - *Thanksgiving:* what He DOES.
      - *Attention:* what He SAYS.
    - b. Aware of Ourselves in God's presence.
      - *Confession:* what I have DONE or FAILED TO DO.
      - *Petition:* what I NEED.

- c. Aware of others from God's point of view.
  - *Intercession*: What THEY need.
- C. Duties of the Leader.
  1. Prepare for the prayer time. This is primarily administrative. Find an informal, undisturbed setting. Set a time. Invite participants. Collect prayer requests as appropriate, etc.
  2. Start and stop on time.
  3. Enforce the Guidelines as necessary

***NOTE: The leader is only a facilitator. The Holy Spirit illumines and guides the group.***

**SUMMARY** (5 minutes)

- A. CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER produces an increased consciousness of God's presence, resulting in greater vitality and unity in a Military Christian Fellowship. It is also very helpful in teaching people how to pray.
- B. DEFINITION. Conversational prayer is talking with God as a small group in an informal, conversational style.
- C. The BASIC GUIDELINES are:
  1. Stick to the subject.
  2. Everyone participates.
  3. No one monopolizes
  4. Be aware and respond in three areas:
    - a. God: adoration, thanksgiving, attention.
    - b. Ourselves: confession, petition.
    - c. Others: intercession.
- D. The duties of the LEADER are:
  1. Prepare for the prayer time.
  2. Start and stop on time.
  3. Enforce the Basic Guidelines.

***INSTRUCTIONS TO TEACHER:*** This Lesson Plan is for a period of 20 minutes, and is intended to be followed by a time of conversational prayer in small groups. It can be modified as desired. The underlined portions are the answers for the blanks on the Work Sheet

# CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER

## Work Sheet

### Companion to the Inductive Bible Study

#### INTRODUCTION

CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER produces an increased consciousness of God's presence, resulting in greater vitality and unity in a Military Christian Fellowship. It is also very helpful in teaching people how to pray. Most of the principles are applicable to individual prayer as well as small group prayer.

**OBJECTIVE:** By the end of this presentation, each of you should be able to do the following:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

#### PRESENTATION

A. Definition: Conversational Prayer is:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Basic Guidelines

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Duties of the Leader

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The leader is only a facilitator. The Holy Spirit illumines and guides the group.

## **SUMMARY**

- A. Conversational prayer produces an increased consciousness of God's presence, resulting in greater vitality and unity in a Military Christian Fellowship. It is also very helpful in teaching people how to pray. Most of the principles are applicable to individual prayer as well as small group prayer.
- B. Conversational Prayer is talking with God as a small group in an informal, conversational style.
- C. The Basic Guidelines are:
  - 1. Stick to the subject.
  - 2. Everyone participates.
  - 3. No one monopolizes.
  - 4. Be aware and respond in three areas:
    - a. God – adoration, thanksgiving, attention
    - b. Ourselves – confession, petition.
    - c. Others – intercession.
- D. The leader prepares for prayer time, starts and stops on time, and enforces the Basic Guidelines.