

Leader's Guide: Relationship Mark [™] - The Prayer Marker

Purpose:

This leader's guide is designed to help you facilitate a group study on the concept of prayer as a relational marker with God. It will help participants understand how different types of prayer deepen their relationship with God and how each prayer moment becomes a spiritual landmark in their journey of faith.

Session Overview:

Each session focuses on a specific type of prayer (praise, confession, thanksgiving, intercession) and how it serves as a relational marker. Encourage personal reflection, group discussion, and practical application.

Session 1: Introduction – Prayer as a Relationship Marker

Key Point:

Prayer is not just communication; it is communion. It builds intimacy with God and marks our spiritual journey.

Scripture Focus:

Psalm 145:18 – 'The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.'

Leader Tips:

- Open with prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide the session.
- Share the idea of prayer as trail markers in a relationship with God.
- Encourage participants to share how their prayer life reflects their relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

- How has your view of prayer changed over time?
- Can you recall a time when prayer marked a turning point in your life?
- What does it mean to you that the Lord is near to those who call on Him in truth?

Session 2: Praise as a Celebratory Marker

Key Point:

Praise invites God's presence and reminds us of His greatness, shifting our hearts from need to adoration.

Scripture Focus:

Psalm 100:4, Psalm 34:1, Psalm 22:3

Leader Tips:

- Begin with a time of praise (song, spoken worship, or gratitude).
- Explain how praise builds a dwelling place for God in our hearts.

Discussion Questions:

- How does praise change the atmosphere of your heart?
- When have you felt God's presence during praise?
- How can you make praise a more regular part of your day?

Application:

Encourage participants to start their prayers with praise this week and journal the impact.

Session 3: Confession as a Humbling Marker

Key Point:

Confession clears the ground for renewed intimacy, allowing us to experience mercy and restoration.

Scripture Focus:

1 John 1:9, Psalm 51:17, James 4:10

Leader Tips:

- Create a safe space for honesty and vulnerability.
- Emphasize that confession is about trust in God's mercy, not shame.

Discussion Questions:

- What happens in your spirit when you confess honestly before God?
- How has humility deepened your trust in His character?
- When have you experienced God lifting you after confession?

Application:

Invite participants to spend time in personal confession during the week and reflect on the experience.

Session 4: Thanksgiving as a Gratitude Marker

Key Point:

Gratitude helps us remember God's faithfulness and keeps our hearts connected to Him.

Scripture Focus:

1 Thessalonians 5:18, Colossians 4:2

Leader Tips:

- Begin the session by having each person share something they're thankful for.
- Highlight how thanksgiving turns reflection into worship.

Discussion Questions:

- How does practicing gratitude help you stay connected to God?
- In what ways has remembering God's faithfulness strengthened your trust?
- When has thanksgiving shifted your focus from the gift to the Giver?

Application:

Challenge participants to keep a gratitude journal for one week and discuss the impact in the next session.

Session 5: Intercession as a Compassionate Marker

Key Point:

Intercession aligns us with God's heart for others and builds compassion and trust in His timing.

Scripture Focus:

1 Timothy 2:1, Ezekiel 22:30

Leader Tips:

- Lead a time of intercessory prayer for others.
- Emphasize the role of standing in the gap and trusting God's mercy.

Discussion Questions:

- How does intercession shift your focus from yourself to others?
- How has praying for others grown your compassion?
- What does it mean to you to stand in the gap for someone?

Application:

Assign each participant a prayer partner or someone to intercede for during the week.

Session 6: Prayer as Journey and Relationship

Key Point:

Prayer is a lifelong journey of companionship with God, marked by moments of trust, surrender, and revelation.

Scripture Focus:

Psalm 145:18, Genesis 4:26, 1 Samuel 1:10–20, Psalm 34:4

Leader Tips:

- Invite participants to reflect on their personal prayer journey.
- Use the trail marker analogy to help them visualize their growth.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some significant prayer markers in your life?
- How has your relationship with God changed through prayer?
- What does it mean to walk with God in prayer?

Application:

Encourage participants to create a visual or written timeline of their prayer journey, marking key moments of spiritual growth.

Session 7: Application and Commitment – Making Prayer a Memory-Maker

Key Point:

Prayer is a living sign of your relationship with God. Recording and reflecting on prayer moments strengthen your faith.

Leader Tips:

- Provide journals or prayer cards for participants.
- Lead a time of testimony sharing, where participants reflect on what they've learned.

Discussion Questions:

- What prayer moments do you want to remember?
- How will you continue to mark your journey with prayer?
- How can you help others grow in relational prayer?

Application:

Challenge participants to commit to a regular prayer rhythm and to continue marking their journey through journaling or shared testimonies.

Closing Encouragement:

Remind the group that prayer is more than words — it is the foundation of a deepening friendship with God. Each prayer is a sacred mark of trust, love, and transformation. Encourage them to keep walking and keep marking the journey with God.

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