

SECTION 4

How to Pray for Those Who Need Jesus

Goal: *To ask God to become involved in our sharing Jesus before and while we try (see Romans 10:1).*

I

Why do evangelistic efforts frequently produce so few souls saved?

1. Many Christians are witnessing, going as missionaries, preaching and faithfully inviting unbelievers to accept Jesus—yet are puzzled at their lack of results. Why?
2. One answer is that they failed to involve God sufficiently through prayer in their soul-winning efforts.
 - a. Prayer brings the omnipotent God of the universe into the struggle of rescuing souls from Satan's kingdom and transferring them into Jesus' kingdom.
 - b. God works in unsaved hearts in proportion to our praying.

II

Why do we need pre-evangelism praying?

1. Before we start to share Jesus with an unbeliever, there is much prayer that is necessary.
 - a. Much precious gospel seed, time, energy and finances are wasted because we have not prayed sufficiently in asking God to go before us and prepare hearts.
 - b. We must precede the sowing of the gospel seed with *intense* pre-evangelism praying.
 - c. This is imperative whether sharing Jesus personally by witnessing, preaching, radio or television broadcasts or any other method of reaching people for Jesus.

2. Since evangelism is setting people free from Satan’s kingdom, there are two specific prayers we need to pray in this struggle:
 - a. **Jesus’ parable of the seed eaten by Satan explains one prayer we should pray.**
 - 1) In His parable of the four kinds of soil, Jesus taught that when sown seed (the Word) falls beside the road, the birds immediately eat it up.
 - 2) Jesus’ explanation of the parable to His followers was:

“The seed is the Word of God. And those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the Word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved” (Luke 8:11,12).
 - 3) So, before sowing our gospel seed, we need to ask God to go before our seed to soften and prepare the hearts of the ones who will hear—so that the seed can take root and the devil will not be able to snatch it away before they can be saved.
 - b. **Satan blinding the minds of unbelievers hinders prayers.**
 - 1) Since with blinded eyes, people cannot even see the light of the gospel we are sharing, we must pray for God to remove the blinders before they can accept Jesus.

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:3,4).

III
Why is prayer *while* reaching a person for Jesus also imperative?

1. We must not depend upon our memorized methods or clever presentations, but on the power of God since He alone can save.
2. An intensified supernatural struggle may go on *while* we actually are leading someone to Jesus, so we must depend on God and not ourselves.
 - a. If there is a struggle to accept Jesus while people are trying to, ask God in prayer to remove Satan’s blinders and any hold Satan may have on them.
 - b. Then overcome Satan through the blood of Jesus—in the name of Jesus. Tell Satan he knows Jesus is the victor and knows he cannot stand against the name and blood of Jesus.
 - c. Knowing that you are praying God’s will that they be saved (2 Peter 3:9), ask God to do His saving work in them.

IV
**What weapons has God given us for
this battle?**

1. Since this struggle against Satan is strictly spiritual, weapons of human intellect and power never can bring victory.
2. We need supernatural weapons in this spiritual struggle.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses” (2 Corinthians 10:3,4).

3. What weapons has God provided for us to use?
 - a. *Prayer* (James 5:16b).
 - b. *The Word of God*, the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17b).
 - 1) Base all evangelism praying on the Word of God.
 - 2) Use the Scripture to counterattack Satan as Jesus did in His temptation (Matthew 4:4,7,10).

V
What is our authority in evangelism praying?

1. Jesus provided two new dimensions of authority for us when He came to earth, died and rose again.
 - a. **The authority of the name of Jesus.**

*“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full”
(John 16:24).*

- 1) Jesus’ name is important because it is all He is, including His authority.

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11, emphasis added).

- 2) People can be saved only in Jesus' name—not in the name of our organization, church or denomination.

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

b. **The authority of the blood of Jesus.**

- 1) It is the blood of Jesus that provided salvation for those we are trying to win to Jesus.

“In Him [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Ephesians 1:7; see also Revelation 1:5; Romans 5:9).

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold...but with precious blood...the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

- 2) The new song sung to Jesus the Lamb in heaven was about the people we are trying to reach who were purchased with *Jesus' blood*.

“Worthy are Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

- 3) Jesus' blood is our authority over Satan.

“And they overcame him [the great dragon called the devil and Satan] because of the blood of the Lamb...” (Revelation 12:11; see also 12:9).

2. In His Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said He was sending us to the whole world *because* all authority was given to Him.

VI
What prayer methods can we use for evangelism praying?

1. For bringing Jesus to those around you, the following prayer methods are used successfully around the world.
 - a. ***TRIPLET PRAYING is the powerful method of pre-evangelism praying we are urging all people to use.***
 - 1) Organize your Triplet by joining with two other Christian believers, each choosing three non-Christians for whom all of you will pray to find Jesus as Savior and Lord (total of nine unsaved).
 - 2) Get together every week for at least 15 minutes to pray for the salvation of your nine.
 - 3) See “PRAYER TRIPLET Questions and Answers” for complete rules for Triplet praying (page 41).
 - b. *In addition to your Triplet meeting, another very effective method of praying for people who need Jesus is PRAYER WALKING.*
 - 1) Love all your neighbors by praying as you walk past their houses.
 - 2) Show Christ’s love by seeking to know their needs and praying for their requests.
 - 3) Share Jesus with your neighborhood, and also schools and workplaces.
 - 4) See Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, by Mary Lance Sisk. Ordering information, see page 58.
 - c. *Prayer groups other than or in addition to your Triplet, including church and organization prayer meetings, are effective ways to pray for those who need Jesus.*
 - d. *Faithfully praying in your own personal daily prayer time also is a powerful method of pre-evangelism praying.*
 - e. *Avail yourself of any other method of praying for those around you who need Jesus.*
 - f. *As God leads, fast as you pray.*
2. **Prayer for those around the world who have never heard of Jesus.**
 - a. Pray asking God to lay on your heart a nation or group of people where the name of Jesus never—or rarely—is heard.

- b. Pray faithfully and fervently in your weekly Triplet meeting for those people to find Christ.
 - 1) Each week pray about current information from the radio, TV and Christian publications that would influence the furthering of the gospel there.
 - 2) Get prayer needs from any church or mission with contacts in your special unreached people group.
- c. Pray with your church, denomination or other organization committed to praying for and winning to Jesus those who never have heard of Him.
- d. Pray, asking God to send Christians to tell others about Jesus—being willing to let God use you to answer your prayers.

“Beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).

For You to Pray

1. Ask the Father to lay His burden for specific people still without Jesus on your heart, especially those for whom you will pray in your Triplet.
2. Ask God to lead you to your two other Triplet members.
3. Ask God to show you the specific country or people group He wants to be your prayer burden.
4. Promise God you will faithfully obey His commands to pray to win these people to Jesus.

For You to Do

1. Find and sign up your other two members for your prayer Triplet (see Prayer Triplet Card at the end of this Study Guide).
2. Find your specific country or people group where Jesus’ name is not known.
3. Organize your prayer Triplet (see “Prayer Triplet Questions and Answers” on pages 41-42).
4. *Pray faithfully.*

PRAYER TRIPLET Questions and Answers

What is a prayer Triplet?

A group of three Christians committed to praying together regularly for those without Jesus.

For whom should we pray?

1. Each person in your Triplet chooses three people who do not know Christ as personal Savior and Lord, making a total of nine for whom all of you are praying.
2. Select a country or people group that is unreached with the gospel of Jesus. (Get this from your own denomination, organization, another organization praying for the world or use the one God has laid on your own heart.)

How do I choose my two Triplet partners?

Ask God in prayer to show you two Christian friends, relatives or church members He wants in your Triplet. They should live, work or worship close enough to you to allow your actually getting together weekly to pray. Look for others who are burdened for the lost also.

How often should we pray?

Once a week.

How long should we pray at our weekly Triplet meetings?

At least 15 minutes—or as long as God burdens you to pray.

What do we pray?

1. Limit your praying to the salvation of your chosen nine and your unreached country or people group. (Other important prayer requests should be covered in other prayer meetings, not here.)
2. Pray for each other through the week as you each seek to interact with your own chosen three to show them Jesus' love in action.

*What should we **not** do in a Triplet prayer meeting?*

Don't spend time chatting or having food or beverages. It is not a social gathering with prayer at the end, but a deep, disciplined time to pray for those needing Jesus.

When to pray?

Any time you can meet conveniently with your Triplet partners— such as before or after another meeting, lunch hour, etc.

Where to pray?

Anywhere—such as church, home, workplace, school, automobile, etc.

How long do we sign up for?

1. Decide in advance how many months you will promise to pray together.
2. Renew your commitment at the end of that time.

What will God expect of how I live?

Remember that God's Word says that your godly lifestyle will determine whether or not God will answer your prayers. Live 1 John 3:22 that tells us:

“Whatever we ask [of God] we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.”

If one for whom we are praying accepts Jesus, then what?

1. If possible, incorporate him or her into your church, Bible study and/or fellowship, making sure he or she is discipled in his or her walk with Jesus.
2. Don't stop praying for him or her.
3. Encourage and help that new Christian to get into a Triplet to pray for those who don't know Christ yet. Channel his or her new zeal for Jesus into reaching friends and family who are without Jesus.
4. Add another person who doesn't know Christ to your prayer list to give you nine again for your Triplet praying.

How should we cooperate with other Triplet pray-ers?

1. If possible, organize your Triplet program in your church, denomination, organization or community.
2. Select a chairperson to keep track of who is praying in Triplets.
3. If possible, mount a large wall map of your community. Insert a colored pin where each Triplet is praying—with a goal of covering your whole area with evangelism praying.
4. Report all decisions for Jesus to the chairperson.
5. Come together regularly, once a month if possible, to praise God and pray for your Triplet program and each other.

End of TRIPLET Questions and Answers.

