

Garden of Prayer Guidelines

“The greatest victories to the church of Christ or the the individual Christian are ...gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the might arm of power.” Patriarch and Prophets, p. 203

The Garden of Prayer is a portion of the church service dedicated to seeking God’s presence and praying for the needs of the congregation and town. It may take different forms in different churches. Pray about how God wants this important segment to happen in your church service so that God will be honored and people will have an opportunity to present their requests to God.

Objectives of the Garden of Prayer

1. To praise and glorify God and exalt Him in our minds and hearts.
2. To confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness.
3. To present our needs and requests before God and claim His promises.
4. To thank Him for meeting our needs.

Preparing to Lead

- Please pray much about what God wants the Garden of Prayer to be.
- If you have a **prayer focus** for the week, find at least one or two promises from the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy that you can claim during your prayer.
- You may want to write out your prayer, or at least write the promises you plan to use.
- Consider especially how you can pray for our town.

The Garden of Prayer

- Garden of Prayer may be from **5-20 minutes** in length. The prayer itself will be shorter.
- Begin by reminding people that this is the garden of prayer and what its purpose is. If you have a special prayer focus, explain that at this time.
- Include other elements such as sharing, bringing requests to the front, etc. before the prayer if appropriate. More on options to include below.
- Pray from your heart. Be sure to include the elements of - 1) praise for who God is, 2) confession of sins, 3) requests for the needs of the community and church family, 4) thanksgiving.
- You may want to close the prayer time by singing a song together like “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord.”

Options for Prayer

- Invite people to share their answers to prayer and prayer requests. Use a mobile microphone to walk to people so they can share. Or ask an AV person to take the mic around.
- Have people bring their written prayer requests to the front to be prayed over.
- Individuals with prayer needs can come forward and kneel at the front for prayer.
- You may want to allow some quiet time during the prayer for people to present their personal request, confession or praises to God.
- If appropriate, invite people that are being especially prayed for to the front. Could also invite pastor/elders/congregation to gather around them in prayer support.
- Include a song as a portion of the prayer. If you do this, make sure to let pianist know.
- Invite a child/youth to join you and ask them to pray for the adults.
- Use a scripture or responsive reading from the hymnal to involve people in prayer.
- Invite members with special needs to raise their hands during prayer.
- Invite member to pray in groups of 2-4 individuals during a portion of the prayer if they would like. (Some are not comfortable with this, so let people know they can pray alone if they prefer.)