

Psalm 111:2-9

2 Corinthians 1:3

- c. Do you think it is important to praise God as you enter into a time of prayer? Explain your answer.

- 3. a. For what does Paul thank God in each of the following passages?
Romans 1:8

Philippians 1:3-6

Ephesians~1:15-16

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

- b. Why would these prayers serve as good models as you begin to pray together for a CBSI class?

- 4. As Nehemiah comes into God's presence, he is led to a time of confession.
 - a. What does he confess?

- b. How do the following passages add to your understanding about the importance of confession?
Psalm 51:1-4

Psalm 32:1-5

Psalm 66:18

- 5. a. In the final verses of chapter 1, what two things did Nehemiah ask of God and how does he view the relationship between God and himself?
- b. How would this kind of relationship impact your life in general as well as any areas of leadership you might have whether at home, at church or in your community?

Prayer and Community Bible Study International

Prayer is central to the ministry of Community Bible Study International. Since this is God's work, we rely on Him to provide everything we need - leaders, members, materials and above all, spiritual growth for class members and for those in leadership. We serve Him and therefore we spend quality time in prayer both as individuals and as a group.

Many CBSI classes arise out of prayer groups seeking God's will and leading. The leadership of every CBSI class spends time together weekly in prayer - praising God for who He is and thanking Him for what He is doing; confessing their sins (either silently or aloud); and submitting specific requests and petitions to Him for His provision for their class and personal needs. We would suggest that your prayer group include these four aspects of prayer as you meet together for the next 8 weeks. Later if a class emerges, this is also a good model for the leaders' time of prayer.

1. Praise
2. Thanksgiving
3. Confession
4. Petition

We suggest a conversational style of prayer in which everyone who is led prays about each specific item as it is introduced, in everyday language, with short sentence prayers. In this way, everyone can participate without being intimidated by the more formal and elaborate prayers of the more experienced people. If this form of prayer is new to your group, feel free to ask your Area Director about resources to help you become accustomed to it.

Prayer Suggestions

1. Take time as you move to prayer to praise God for His character - if you wish, use some of the Psalms from question 2.b.
2. Thank God for each other and for what you can see Him doing in your community and for your group already.
3. Spend time (either silently or aloud) confessing the sin in the life of your community and family as well as your own personal sin, which might hinder your relationship with God and His work in this ministry.
4. Present your petitions, as God leads, for His direction and provision for this ministry in your community.

Notes