

Welcome to leading in prayer seminar



Anglican
Church of Noosa
Loving and serving you because of Jesus

The big picture of worship

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 1

...and Sunday is part of that

We gather in a focussed way as a subset of our whole-of-life-worship to sing God's praises, hear God's word, feed at God's table, pray and encourage one another.

Every part of what we do **together**, ought to inspire us keep on worshipping moment by moment during the week.

When we come together...

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:46

Petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

The first qualification for leading in prayer

Must be that you are a person who prays....

Because it's all about relationship...

... not religious duty or performance...

What was so moving about Ken Bytheway's prayers

... they were real – he was real... his relationship was real!

The difference between praying in a prayer meeting and leading prayer in worship

Informal vs formal

Unplanned vs planned

No other purpose other than praying vs many purposes

(eg inspiring prayer, teaching people to pray, modelling prayer)

Leading a small group vs leading a large group

Can prepared prayers be real?

Pros and cons

Dangers of prepared prayers?

- can seem 'stiff', too formal
- can be heart-less
- danger of over-familiarity, ritual

Danger of unprepared prayers?

- too long
- repetitive
- lack of structure and direction

NOTE- the Holy Spirit – well able to work through you as you prepare

What we are up against in leading prayers?

Our own unworthiness and sinfulness

Prayerlessness

Lack of understanding – in the congregation

How long is this going to take?

What's for lunch?

I'm so worried about my husband/bank balance/medical issues

Length

Around 500 words

Use short phrases and short sentences

All things look to you, O Lord,
to give them their food in due season:
look in mercy on your people,
and hear our prayer for those whose lives and livelihood
are threatened by flood.

In your mercy save both man and beast.

Guide and bless the labours of your people,
that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth
and give you thanks with grateful hearts.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Planning your prayers

- Something from the sermon?
- The world this week – from the news
- Advancement of the gospel – our patch and beyond
- Life of our church
- The week's mission focus
- Our growth in the Lord Jesus – the week ahead
- Sick and struggling

Avoid

- Preaching
- Making a point
- Hobbyhorses
- Generalisations
- Informing God about what he already knows
- Addressing God in the third person
(talk TO him, not ABOUT him)
- Waffle

Work hard at

- brevity
- clarity
- rhythm
- getting to the point
- Being blunt
- Gospel focus
- End point – the hallowing of God’s name, the doing of his will, the coming of his kingdom

Infuse all prayers with...

- thankfulness
- Sense of awe in regard to God, Jesus and the gospel
- Joy
- Earnestness
- Urgency
- Echoes of Scripture

Echoes of Scripture – for example #1:

Father that you that you who began a good work in us,
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus*
so we pray that you will be at work in us by your Spirit
that we might rid our lives of

- hypocrisy
- evil thoughts
- revenge
- malice
- envy

and fill them constantly with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness
and self control. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Philippians 1:6

Echoes of Scripture – for example #2:

Lord, you urge that prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – especially for those in authority.

So please be with Ms Gillard and Mr Abbott, with all our parliamentarians and councillors, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

We ask this because we know it pleases you and so that in such a peaceful context, there may be more and more opportunity for people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Echoes of Scripture – for example #3:

Father, you want those who are rich in this present world,
not to be arrogant, nor to put our hope in wealth.

By any world standard, we are the rich.

Help us the, to put our hope only in you
who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

May we be good; may we be rich in good deeds,
inspire us to be generous and willing to share,

and so lay up treasure for ourselves

as a firm foundation for the coming age,

taking hold of that life which is truly life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See 1 Timothy 6:12-19

Close

- questions or comments?
- prayer

Leading in prayer seminar

Thank you for coming



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