

An Hour in Prayer: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15



Here is a suggested format for leading a group in an hour of prayer. It is fast paced, broken into 5-minute sections, and the hour will go by in no time. You may want to give people an overview of how it will run before you start. Everyone will need a Bible and a pen and paper.

First 15 minutes: Praise

Begin by worshipping God, becoming aware of His presence, and preparing your heart for prayer.

00-05 Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. As **individuals**, reflect on these verses and write a list of ways God has been generous to you. Include things inspired by this passage, things He has blessed you with, and things He has done in your life.

05-10 In **pairs or small groups**, spend 5 minutes thanking God for the things you have listed. You may want to begin by sharing some examples, before praying.

10-15 As **individuals** spend 5 minutes being honest with God about anything in your heart that you need to confess. Thank Him for His forgiveness, and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit and prepare you for this time of prayer.

Second 15 minutes: Purpose

Having thanked God for His generosity, now begin to pray for God to bless our church, and empower us to work for the cultural, social and spiritual renewal of the city.

15-20 In **groups**, spend 5 minutes praying for Christ Church London as a whole, and in particular for the service of which you are a part. Topics for prayer could include:

- Sunday Services
- Future Services
- The presence of the Spirit
- Leaders
- Connect Groups
- Serving Teams
- Families
- Social Action projects
- People finding faith
- Alpha Courses

20-25 In **groups**, spend 5 minutes praying for the city as a whole and the particular part of the city you are in. Topics for prayer could include:

- The areas where you live, study or work
- Neighbours, friends and colleagues
- Specific needs of your area
- Particular demographics or people groups
- Leaders and people with influence
- Those who are suffering in our city
- Recent news events
- The safety and security of the city
- Unity among Christians and churches
- The flourishing of culture: including the arts, business, education, government, media, non-profit, science and technology.

25-30 In **pairs**, spend 5 minutes praying for one another, that God would equip us to share the good news about Jesus effectively with those who don't yet know him.

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Third 15 minutes: Provision

Having prayed for our church and our city, now ask God to provide everything we need to be a blessing.

- 30-35 Get into **pairs**. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 and 10. Pray these promises for each other, asking that God would bless us abundantly, and give us everything we need to serve Him well.
- 35-40 In **pairs or small groups**, read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 and pray these verses for our church. Ask God to bless the church with all the resources we need, and for that blessing to overflow into the city, so that many people come to know and worship God.
- 40-45 In **pairs or small groups**, read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 and ask God to help our whole church grow in practicing faith and generosity.

Fourth 15 minutes: Power

End by asking God for the power we need to follow Him faithfully, and work for the cultural, social and spiritual renewal of our city.

- 45-50 Pray out loud the prayer below. Then as **individuals** spend 5 minutes in silence, listening to see if God brings anything in particular to mind. Write down what you think He may be saying to you.

**Lord God,
I know I can achieve nothing in my own strength,
But much in the strength of your Spirit.
Would you reveal to me now:
Works you have prepared for me to do,
Steps of faith you want me to take,
People to whom you want me to speak,
Gifts you given, which I have neglected,
And areas where I am vulnerable to the enemy.
I am ready and willing to hear your voice.
Amen**

- 50-55 Get into **pairs**. One person should share some of the areas where they need God's power – as many as you feel comfortable with, and for no more than 2 minutes. The other person should then pray for God to fill them with the Holy Spirit.
- 55-60 Staying in your **pairs**, switch round. The second person should share the areas where they need God's power, and the first person pray for them.

As you meet, if you see particular answers to your prayers, or sense God speaking to you for the church, we would love to hear from you. Email: prayer@christchurchlondon.org