

5. Structure the prayer meeting around “Praying the Lord’s Prayer” and explain this to people.
  - a. Begin by praying “Our Father in heaven” and encourage people to be still as they marvel at the wonder of being invited to freely approach their Heavenly Father. (Leave a pause)
  - b. Follow this by praying “Hallowed be your name” and encourage people to speak out words of praise to their Heavenly Father.
  - c. You may choose to print out some of the names of God eg Jehovah-Jireh (“The Lord Will Provide”), Jehovah – Rapha (“The Lord Who Heals”), Jehovah – M’kaddesh (“The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy”) etc and use these to lead into praise.
  - d. Follow this by praying, “Your kingdom come, your will be done....” and move into praying for the needs of the church, the local area (Parish), the country, the world etc.
  - e. You may want to continue the prayer meeting by praying through the rest of the Lords’ prayer. If so pray: “Give us this day.....” and invite the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh.....giving them all that they need to follow and serve the Lord.
  - f. Pray: “Forgive us our sins.....” After a time of silence where people listen to God, invite them to share any sins that the Lord has shown them that the church as a whole is committing. Together pray a prayer of Confession.
  - g. Pray: “As we forgive those who sin against us.....” Ask the Lord to show people if there is anyone in their fellowship who they need to forgive. Encourage people to choose to forgive them.
  - h. Pray: “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil....” Invite people to pray for one another in pairs that the Lord would help them to stay on His safe path.
  - i. Finally Pray: “For the kingdom.....” and end with a worship song.

# Praying Together Resources

(PTR003)

## Opening Worship Ideas for a Prayer Meeting No.3

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## Opening Worship Ideas

The following are worship ideas to begin a church prayer meeting.

Choose one or more of these ideas which might be helpful in your setting.

1. As people arrive, give them a simple prayer to pray to get them used to hearing the sound of their own voice! Encourage people to leave a pause between each prayer. Examples of prayers you could use are below:
  - a. Lord we humble ourselves before you – we need and long for you here
  - b. Our souls thirst for you – come and satisfy us with your love
  - c. Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us
  - d. Lord teach us to pray
  - e. O Lord have mercy on us – cleanse us from our sins
  - f. Not our will be done but your will be done
  - g. May our lives bring honour and glory to your name
  - h. Father God we trust you – fulfil your purposes here etc
2. Project a picture of Rublev's icon and invite people to focus on it.
  - a. Lead them in a simple reflection on the character of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
  - b. Invite people to reflect on the amazing fact that they are invited into relationship with the Godhead through the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the cross.
  - c. Finish the reflection by reading James 4:8 *"Come near to God and he will come near to you."*

3. Invite people to come into the Lord's presence with a song.
  - a. Use the simple song, *"Come into his presence singing, Alleluia"* and encourage people to add their own verses eg *"Come into his presence singing, Jesus is Lord / God is so good / We love you Lord"* and so on. (Tip: Give people a minute to think of their own verse)
4. Place a cross in the centre of the Prayer group. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 then lead into a simple meditation something like the following:
  - a. We are encouraged by the author to the Hebrews to throw off everything that hinders us from walking with Jesus. So in a moment of silence ask yourself the question: *"Is anything hindering me in my Christian walk?"* Ask the Lord to help you throw it off.
  - b. We are also encouraged to throw off the sin that so easily entangles and that can become like invisible chains around us. (*Hand out pieces of paper-chain that you have prepared before the meeting*). As you hold your chain ask the Lord to show you any sins that are tying you up. Let's pray the shortened form of the Jesus prayer together three times as we repent of our sins:  
**"Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me" (x3)**  
Come and lay your chains at the foot of the cross and receive His forgiveness.
  - c. Finally we are encouraged by the author to the Hebrews to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. Let's fix our eyes upon Jesus now as we listen to or sing the song, *"Turn your eyes upon Jesus."* (There are all sorts of versions of this old hymn for you to choose from)