

# Making evangelism a way of life

## Reunion Advent prayer guide.

- 3 minutes of prayer in the morning before you get into your day.
  - 1 minute for thanksgiving
  - 1 minute for praise
  - 1 minute for worship
- Mid day and evening prayer
  - 1 minute at noon
  - 1 minute around 18:00

- **THANKSGIVING.**

Thanksgiving draws us away from being negative, critical (even of ourselves), whinging, complaining or stuck.

- Hold something like a stone or simply open your hands from closed to open and as I do this I think about what is the thing or person who is most present to me other than God (*the thing or person most present will be the presence that shapes you, your reactions, your engagement*).
- Now that you are aware of the thing most present to you, set it down and begin to say thank you that you can lay it down at the cross.
- Thank Jesus that it matters to Him and thank Him that He is reliable with whatever you are giving to Him.
- Thank Him that He receives everything.
- Thank Him for being generous, thank Him for being eager to be with you right now.
- Thank Him using the bible 'He who began a good work will complete it' or I thank him for His 'fresh love, for His compassion and that they are new this morning'.
- Thank Him that He hears you, thank Him for listening to you.
- Thank Him that you don't need to carry \_\_\_\_\_ into your day.
- Thank Him for the freedom and that He knows you, He knows your mood and your need and nothing puts him off moving towards you to be present to you.

- **PRAISE**

Psalm 22v3 paints the picture of God inhabiting praise, dwelling among the praises of His people.

- Physically turn around and begin to praise, I usually start each sentence with I praise you... simply to keep me focused.
- I may hold my hands to my chest (for some people symbolism helps them focus).
- I praise the Holy Spirit for making His home in me.
- I praise Him that my room is full of His presence, that he is already present in the day ahead of me, waiting on me.
- I use bible verse, perhaps ones I've been reading...
- I may praise Him that I am a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.
- I praise Him that He will never leave me nor forsake me.

- **WORSHIP**

If you find symbolism or an action helpful, you could get on your knees, stretch out your hands and bow your head. In praise I am aware of God who becomes present to me. In worship this is flipped, I am now becoming aware that instead of Him coming to me, I am actually coming into His presence. In thanksgiving issues, needs or people are often where my energy or focus is. In praise that has shifted and is in transition but really it is still likely that I am most aware of me. In worship God is the centre, I am becoming most aware of Him. For this minute I am no longer focusing or thinking about what I left with him in my time of thanksgiving. In worship I am moving away from whatever I'm aware of in me (good or bad) and becoming aware of what is in Him.

- I often describe this part of prayer as knowing that when I enter the presence of God all other things that have been present to me have no choice but to change. Some things are forced away from or into silence in his presence. Some things become still in His presence. All things start to transform in His presence, most especially me.
- I may describe his presence. How I see it, how it feels, describe its impact.
- I allow affection in me to word things I see in His character or interventions I have seen him do.
- If I haven't been doing this practice for a while, this is the minute I find hardest to fill. However when I'm more habitual its the one I end up running over in or I enjoy saying nothing in but simply appreciate I've nothing much to say other than to enjoy His presence.

## **OVERVIEW**

### **THANKSGIVING**

Moves us to a posture of letting go and readiness to receive. It readies us to change.

### **PRAISE**

Causes our thinking to be at rest. We get more in line with how things are and who God is.

### **WORSHIP**

Flicks the light to on in our spirit. Our soul lights us. We are ready to connect and have something to give that is more likely to be overflow than residue!

## **Praying for the others.**

During the last 8 weeks you have been encouraged to take notes during your meet-up. It helps us remember what others say and what we said! In theory, you will also have written the names, places or connection points that the others have said. If not go back to them and ask them.

We will use Colossians 4v3-4 as our model. Even in prison Paul is asking for prayer (not to get out but to make the most of his location), he asks for some things in particular. We will use these for our 1 minute prayer. They are.

- Lord open a door (open up an opportunity)
  - **OPPORTUNITY**
  - We are asking for a natural opportunity for us to have a faith/Jesus conversation with another person.

- This means that conversations are not forced, there is no manipulation, it is not contrived, It is not pressured.
- It might be something going on in their or your life, or in the world at large that allows you to naturally reference your faith or speak about Jesus impact in that context in your life.
- Lord open their heart (that they be open to the opportunity and to the conversation)
  - **OPENNESS**
  - Lord you have got me ready to talk to them, would you get them ready to hear what I say and be open to it. That is basically what we are asking for. It also means we need to stay sensitive as any conversation is happening.
  - We are asking God to do some things in their hearts or minds or spirit (God knows what this is better than us AND knows the timescale) that would prepare them for the conversations we have with them.
- Lord open my mouth (that I can see the opportunity and openness BOTH present AND I speak).
  - **SPEAK UP**
  - The first two are largely God's work and in part ours. This one is surprising mainly ours to do though technically it is God speaking through us. We often try to do the first two in the hope that we don't have to speak but that somehow God will speak. This will burn us out and frustrate us. Saint Paul seems ready and relaxed all at the same time. Part of that is knowing what is Gods responsibility and what is ours and not to switch them.
  - Sometimes opportunity comes but the person isn't open (or the reverse). When we see and hear both are aligned then we speak.
  - In asking God to open our mouth we are asking God to give us courage.
  - That we would have the right words.
  - That God would give us the right approach.
  - That a space/time/sense of timeliness would open up around the words spoken.
  - That it would be God's Spirit speaking to their spirit as I speak (even if I don't know what God is speaking into them).

## Example.

Easily in 1 minute...

Lord open a door and open the hearts of John, Amy, Ian, Ujjal and Caoimhe. Lord open the mouth of Neville to speak to them (*I thought I might as well stick myself in there*). Amen.

If I wasn't yet aware of people but knew the place where I felt God had for me to speak (*for Saint Paul this was the prison he was in*) then I'd ask the others in my meet-up to pray...

Lord open a door and open the hearts in Parson Cross (where I live). Lord open the mouth of Neville (*Yes, me again*) to speak there. Amen.