



WORKSHOPS – A3.1 TITLE : MAINTAINING VIBRANT PRAYER GROUPS	SPEAKER : Deacon CHRISTOF HEMBERGER
LANGUAGE : ENGLISH – Video (En / Pt)	COUNTRY : GERMANY

ELEMENTS OF A PRAYER MEETING

What is the purpose of your prayer meeting?

You need to have the vision clear in order to reach your goals!

Two goals for two aim groups:

- Spiritual home for members (source for life, spiritual food, koinonia)
- Place for new people to meet God (evangelisation, discipleship)

Two dimensions: „Catholic“ & „Charismatic“

- Personal relationship to the living God
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit, life in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Receiving and using the gifts
- Praise & worship
- Love for the Word of God & Sacraments
- Evangelisation and Mission
- Heart for the whole body of Christ

The structure of a prayer meeting

- Welcome
- Time of praise & worship
- Bible study / teaching / preaching
- Time of sharing experiences
- Time of prayer
- Official end

How to welcome people / how to make people become insiders?

Koinonia in a prayer group

- friendships / relationships
- trust and openness
- learning aspect
- encouragement and strength
- commitment



Encourage participants to:

- Share about their lives, questions, experiences
- Pray for each other (at prayer meeting, at home)
- Give testimonies about God's deeds in their lives
- Spend time together outside the group
- Use their gifts and charisms
- Invite and welcome new people

How to start a group?

- Don't wait – just start it!
- Know your vision and goals! Share them with those you shall join in!
- Be flexible in the beginning : open for changes

How to reach new people ?

- Do we want to reach new people?
 - Do we want to change?
 - Is our vision clear? Do we live according to our vision?
 - Is the new member subject or object?
-
- Pray for new people!
 - Search for and invest into relationships to people who do not know God!
 - Run life in the spirit Seminars regularly
 - Run open evenings events etc.
 - Invest into PR
 - Build relationships to „multiplications“
 - Know the needs of new people (welcome explanations...)
 - Split the group

How to deal with difficult people?

- Do not let the „dominating“ person rule the group
- Help the weak / shy/ quiet person join in
- Restrain the clown / story-teller
- Don't give too much attention to the maudlin
- Explain the rules to those who disturb
- Set boundaries to those who need more than a prayer group can give!

Tasks of a prayer group's leader

- The vision's watchman
 - Know the vision
 - Share the vision
 - Recheck the vision regularly
 - Live the vision
- Prepare, moderate and lead the prayer meeting
 - Delegate parts of the meeting if wanted / needed
- Be an example to the others
 - Guardini: „a leader is an example through his words, deeds and his being“
- Pastoral duty (encouraging, giving correction, etc.)
- Establishing a team of staff
- Establishing a next generation of leaders

The use of the charisms in a prayer group

- Gifts of inspiration / revelation:
 - Wisdom, prophecy, knowledge, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues...
 - Gifts of power:
 - Faith, healing, signs of wonders ...
 - Gifts of ministry:
 - Leadership, servant ship, hospitality, organization...
 - Charisms are:
 - Not a medal for merits of holiness
 - Grace, Gifts
 - For the sake of building the kingdom of God
 - Give space for the charisms in your prayer group (live them naturally)
 - Seek to find out the charisms of the individuals
 - Teach and train the gifts and their use
 - Ask for charisms
 - Foster a mature use of the gifts
-
- Keep time for silence to listen to God
 - Always discern prophecies and impressions (for everyone? For now? How to react?)
 - Singing / praying in tongues helps to be open for other charisms
 - Do not say: „The Lord says this...!“ rather say: „I feel the Lord is saying that...“
 - JUST LIVE THEM!!!