

A Guide to GCF Chapter Prayer Meetings

We pray as members of the body of Christ and therefore as citizens of his Kingdom. This means we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is heaven (see e.g. Matthew 6:9-10). This includes God's will to be done here at the university and our various academic departments where we live and move, and do our studies, teaching, and research.

Keep this a *Chapter Prayer Meeting*. Some relevant Prayer Prompts:

- **We pray for our friends and colleagues, believers and non-believers alike** that they grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus and what it means to follow him, etc. We pray for GCF to be salt and light in our various academic corners, etc. Pray by name for our non-believing friends and colleagues that they may cross "thresholds" toward faith in Christ as Lord. See missionalchristians.org/jgc.pdf for a single-sheet overview of Jesus, the Gospel, and Evangelism.
- **We pray for GCF activities that are coming up:** large group meetings and small groups, key activities where we can invite our non-believing friends and colleagues to such as various social activities that may be offered (consider these entry ramps into Christian fellowship) and especially to some key events such as the Christmas Party in December. Keep praying especially for friends and colleague by name.
- **We pray also using any prompts from our GCF Four Ministry Commitments** that are centered in the Lord Jesus Christ— *Christian Community; Christian Spiritual Formation; Christian Witness; and Christian Integration of faith, learning, and practice*. Pray for the flourishing of the University and your departments.
- **We pray for one another and our academic progress as we cross various hurdles and challenges** (prelims, major exams, thesis writing and defenses, etc.) and upcoming conferences, job searches, etc.
- **We pray similarly for our brothers and sisters doing their studies at universities in the US and around the world in similar movements of IFES**, the *International Fellowship of Evangelical Students*. See ivesworld.org.
- **And please let us try to leave other prayers, by and large, for elsewhere. Immediate family concerns are definitely appropriate for GCF chapter prayer meeting!** But when we start including prayers beyond this, let's bring those up elsewhere such as with each other and in our small groups.

How to Lead a 30-minute Chapter Prayer Meeting

- Begin and End the Chapter Prayer Meeting on time as the norm; others can join as they arrive. Students can catch up later with each other afterwards such as over lunch.
- The prayer meeting leader will need to step in to keep the movements below on time for the meeting to be within 30 minutes. Discretion and wisdom will be needed, but the prayer meeting leader should not feel bashful about moving us all forward.
- We pray using brief prayers! We may pray more than once, but each time we pray let's aim to be brief and without adding excess background or context for our prayers.

A Suggested Format for the Chapter Prayer Meeting

- Read a Short Passage of Scripture that will focus our attention (prayer leader's choice). (~2-3 minutes)
- Move to Thanksgiving prompted by the Scripture Passage (no doing Bible study here, just prayers of Thanksgiving). (~3-6 minutes)
- Move to Silent Confession and then the Leader closes Silent Confession after about 2 minutes with thanking God for forgiving us using language such as thanking God for the Lord Jesus whose blood cleanses us from all our sins. (See 1 John 1:5-2:2 for other such language) (~2-3 minutes)
- Move into the time for Petition. Students may now briefly mention what they wish prayer for. **Examples:** "I have my prelim paper due next week;" "Please pray for a good conversation over lunch with my lab mate who is not yet a Christian." "Please pray for my mom who needs to see her doctor for a health concern." Etc. **Use the bullet point suggestions on the front as additional prayer prompts.**
Share requests briefly and then move into prayer. (~15 minutes)
- Close by Re-reading the Short Passage of Scripture and then end with something such as "Amen!" (~2-3 minutes)

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