

## Suggestions for planning an all night prayer night

What a wonderful opportunity to draw near to God and serve others: Overnight prayer. God works through our commitment to what we are convinced with our hearts is necessary but is rarely shown by our actions.

The following are a few suggestions for conducting an overnight prayer night.

Firstly, select a theme. Will you be praying for city revival? Missionaries? The church? What will the date and time be? Where will it be? Inform people one month before and sign people up. Let them know that you expect commitment to be there and that the prayer time will start on time. Select a person to be responsible for every given hour of the prayer time to come up with a creative way to spend one hour in prayer. If your time goes from 8pm till 7am you will sign up 11 people or make adjustments if you have less. Make sure they know what the theme of the prayer night is going to be. The prayer hours can be very creative but should focus around the theme. This is not a time for the fellowship of talking. You can get that any other time of the week. This is a time to fellowship in prayer. After signing people up for each hour make a schedule for who will take which hours. Plan on putting those you think would do better at staying awake for those hours which are more difficult- 4,5,6 am. Have the people pray especially the week of the overnight prayer time that God would prepare their hearts for the special overnight time as well as work mightily through their prayers that night.

Select a place with prayer ambiance. A place that is comfortable and with lights but not too bright. A warm light (yellow lamp light) can aid to bringing more of a spirit of warmth in the group as well as openness and honesty in prayer because it makes people feel comfortable (be sure to have other lights on as well because you don't want to make everyone fall asleep). So also the use of plants, flowers, candles, praise acoustic music on a tape, etc. These are certainly NOT necessary, but ambiance does create a mood. If the theme of your prayer night is to pray for the church then select a place in the church. That way you could make one of the hours a prayer walk through the church (esp. at 4 or 5am when everyone is tired).

During the actual prayer time let there be 5 or 10 minute breaks between each hour. Let that be a time to munch on wake up foods, stretch and just take a mental break. Have plenty of goodies unless you are also using that time for fasting.

Let there be less self-consciousness and more God-consciousness in prayer. If someone wants to stand and worship or raise their hands let them. God is the one we are praying to, not others.

## Suggestions for a prayer hour:

### I. Worship and Thanksgiving

- A. Listen to or sing praise songs
- B. Prepare with a list of names of God (describe the name from the dictionary and where the verse is)
- C. Prepare with a dictionary list of attributes of God ( use the dictionary's description of meaning)
- D. Worship through the Psalms. Remember who you are praying to. Take time to study the awesomeness of God. Our faith rests on who He is so focus on that.

### II. Confession

Be creative! Work through a piece of scripture and confess sins- personal, as a church, as a city, as a people, as a country, missionaries of the past etc. Research some of the sins of the State or city (bitterness , lack of forgiveness, hatred, prejudice, war, oppression of another people group etc.)

Remember the theme of the night as well when confessing sins.

### III. Different Styles of Prayer

- A. Pray Korean style (all together at once out loud but quietly)
- B. Sentence prayers of worship
- C. Listening prayer- Come with a heart to listen to God speak. What would He have us pray- what are His answers according to His word, circumstances, desires etc.

### IV. Intercession

- A. List prayer requests- before you pray come up with 3 reasons scripturally why God should answer each of those requests. Also 3 reasons given from God's character why He would answer those prayers. AND 3 ways how it would glorify God to answer those requests. This is a wonderful faith builder !!
- B. Pray for specific people and their ministry.