

EMPATHIC INTERCESSORY PRAYER

1. Light a candle as a reminder to the group that God is present in a very tangible way. God wants to move profoundly and intimately amongst us. God empowers us to embody His love on behalf of others. The Spirit intercedes as we intercede on behalf of others. We are God's hands. We are God's mouthpiece. Through us God extends shalom.
2. Review the Covenantal Posture of Empathic Prayer
3. With hands extended, pray a prayer of invitation and anticipation. *Spirit, come. We receive all that you have for us. Our hands are open. Our ears are listening. Our hearts are ready. Spirit, come.*
4. Invite anyone in deep need for prayer to share their story. (3 minutes)
 - If no one volunteers readily, find out whose birthday is the closest and have them either pass to the next person, or answer the following question: What has been a great challenge, sadness, or difficulty you have experienced in the past few months?
5. Listeners will engage in the spirit of the covenantal posture. Listeners will thank the sharer for the gift of their story and ask clarifying questions if need be. (1~2 minutes)
6. Group will then open in prayer and intercede on the sharer's behalf using Bible Verses for Encouragement to guide their words. (4 minutes)
7. The sharer will close with a simple prayer. *"Dear Father, I receive all that you have for me. Thank you for these prayers. May it be so. In Jesus' name, amen."*
8. There will only be time for one story during our workshop. You will be directed back into the main gathering room to debrief. Normally, in a group of four, a session will last about an hour.

Covenantal Posture for Empathic Prayer

1. I will remember that I am not here to fix anyone's problems.
2. I will refrain from preaching or giving advice.
3. I will ask clarifying questions to seek understanding while respecting people's privacy.
4. I will depend on God to help me truly see the person sharing – to see as God sees them.
5. I will seek to pray Scripture through the lens of their story.
6. I will keep these gifts of stories confidential and pray for them as God brings them to mind in the days to come.

BIBLE VERSES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

1. **Psalm 23: 5-6**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

2. **Deuteronomy 31:6**

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

3. **Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. **Lamentations 3:22-23**

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

5. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

6. **Ephesians 3:20**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

7. **John 4:18**

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

8. **Romans 8:31**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

9. **Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

10. **Isaiah 41:10**

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

11. **Isaiah 40:31**

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

12. **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, knowing that in the LORD your labor is not in vain.

13. **Proverbs 3:3-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.