

## TE6.05 Lead in Prayer in Church

(4.75 hours)

Apprentice:	Trainer:	Completed: / /
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This skill in public ministry goes hand-in-hand with Bible reading. We meet to hear the Word of God and respond in prayer, giving thanks, confessing our sins, begging for mercy at the foot of the cross and praying for God's saving work in the world. It is a ministry of leadership, praying in such a way that the congregation is drawn into the prayer with us and is able to say the Amen (1 Kings 8; Neh 1; Ezra 9-10; 1 Tim 2:1-8).

### Exercise

To lead God's people in prayer in the Church meeting.

### Aims

To learn to lead God's people in prayer.

### Apprentices

1. The ministry is to lead the people in prayer, not just to say our prayers out loud. What will help others in the congregation to pour out their hearts to God in prayer as we lead them?
2. We are also teaching and modelling Christian prayer. So we pray to the Father in the name of the Son. Our prayers should teach and reflect the gospel. We approach God only by the mercy found in Christ's work on our behalf.
3. If we are leading others to pray with us, then use plural pronouns (we, our) not singular (I, me).
4. The content of our prayers should include: thankfulness, praise of God, confessing our sins and unworthiness to approach God who is holy, our petitions.
5. Praying with our minds full of Scripture will help us pray according to God's will. We will be thankful to God for his gracious salvation and bring our requests focused on His purposes, as well as our needs. This will teach the congregation to pray with their Bibles open. Sometimes we might quote or read a short passage as part of the prayer and sometimes allude to Scripture. Avoid Christian jargon that will be alienating to some. For example, pray about 'Jesus' death for our sins', not the 'atonement'.
6. We don't need to inform God of all the details of the church picnic or evangelistic mission as we pray. Sometimes we use prayer to reinforce the announcements.
7. It is best to write our prayers, at least in point form, especially as we are learning to lead in prayer. This helps to structure the prayer with some logical flow. This doesn't help God, but it helps the congregation to follow, agree with our prayers and not lose concentration.
8. The manner of our praying is important. Don't read prayers like an essay. We are leading others in speaking with our Father. The more natural and genuine the better. It is not a performance, but real communication with God. We will become more natural with experience and as our confidence grows. Don't drop into a pious prayer mode; just use your normal voice. Don't speak too quickly.
9. Using the microphone:
  - All your efforts will be wasted if people can't hear you.
  - Take the time to set up the microphone properly.
  - Aim the microphone at your chin and set it about 4-5 inches from your mouth.

- Speak toward the microphone, not above, below or around it.
- Project your voice 'through' the microphone. Don't whisper into it. Give the P.A. operator more volume than he needs. He can always turn you down, but he can't always turn you up.

## Trainers

1. **Model** how to lead the church in prayer. Apprentice observes the Trainer leading the church in prayer.
2. **Observe** the Apprentice leading the church in prayer.
3. **Give feedback** with a view to encouragement and development of skills.