

# The Four Roles of the Community Group Leader

## 1. Prayer

- This is an intercessory role that is separate from the group's prayer time. We should be praying for those we are shepherding daily. It is the power behind our leadership in the group. This means we must remember their prayer requests and actually pray for them. Not only are we to be praying for the members of our group, but also that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct our own leadership. This reminds us as leaders to look to God rather than self for strength.



*1 Thes 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Praying effectively and pastorally for your group:**

- Pray for each member by name every week. You may want to rotate who you are praying for in your quiet time, or devote a time on a day other than when you meet to pray for those in your group. In addition to any specific requests, pray for their spiritual walk, growth, and fruit.

*Phil 1:9-10 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*

- Pray for your group time before you meet. Our prayer lives as leaders will be contagious to those that come. Pray that God will work through the time together, guide your mind in the discussion, and reveal any needs to you that members may have.
- Remember prayer requests and follow-up with your members. It ministers to them when you can ask about a request the next week or on Sunday. Writing these requests down also allows you to pray for them during the week. I encourage you to keep a prayer list to remember and also to notice answered prayer and celebrate God's faithfulness. The best time to update your prayer list for the group is right after everyone leaves while it is still fresh in your mind!
- You may find out the most important prayer requests in a different conversation than the prayer request time. The time before and after community group is extremely valuable! Be listening.
- After everyone goes home, stop with your spouse and thank God for the evening. Pray that each will apply God's Word.

*Eph 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers*

- Pray for your ability to lead and depend on God.

**The value of your prayer role:**

- Prayer is the most important thing you can do for effectiveness and to develop your ability to shepherd. James 5:16 says that the prayer of a righteous person has great power! Through prayer, you can help change lives.

*James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

- Prayer develops your ministry heart towards those you are shepherding.
- Prayer reminds us that we are under-shepherds of the Great Shepherd and that this is His church.
- Prayer reminds us of our dependence on God and combats pride in our lives.