

## Lesson 1: Opening Prayer

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** (Help people discover these points – if the principles are not emerging in group discussion, ask questions to bring these out – do not “lecture” to them.)

- **Opening Prayer** – Ask God to lead and protect. Bind evil in Jesus’ name.

- 1) **Pray.** Open with prayer. Spend time in small group prayer as appropriate during the session.
- 2) **Review** the Basic Principles and accompanying gestures and **discuss** how understanding and applying these is going.

### Basic Principles

- **Live in your heritage** – Reclaim it if you’ve been robbed. 1 Peter 1:3-9
- **Come to Jesus** – Bring Him your stuck places. Ps 62:5-8
- **3-way prayer** – The facilitator does most of the verbal prayer. The person being prayed for focuses on listening to God and responding. Others intercede quietly. Matt 18:18-20
- **Hearing God** – God speaks directly to the person being prayed for at their point of need. Spend time silently listening for His voice. John 10:27
- **Test and give thanks** – Give thanks frequently during the prayer time. Test that all the person hears is consistent with Scripture. 1 Thess 5:16-21
- **Follow Jesus** above all. Let Him lead the process. John 8:12, 31-32
- **Confidentiality** – Share only your own story, not someone else’s. Rom 1:28-32, Prov 20:19

- 3) **Review** the previous lesson.

#### ➤ Individually

- Write down or otherwise note your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.

#### ➤ Small Groups: If your large group is more than 7 people you may want to split into small groups.

- Review the previous lesson’s **memory verse(s)**.
- Share with one another your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson, then discuss and **agree on** your group’s top 3 principles.
- **Pray** together. Ask that each person learn and apply Wholeness Prayer principles.

#### ➤ Large group

- Share your group’s **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.
- Write responses (in words or pictures) on a whiteboard or flipchart, combining similar responses.

- 4) **Discovery Bible Study (DBS): Matt 18:18-20, Ps 143:10 and Prov 18:10 (Opening Prayer – Ask God to lead and protect. Bind evil in Jesus’ name.)**

Ask 2-3 people to read the verses out loud, from varying translations when possible. Alternatively, listen to the verses being read aloud on an audio device 2-3 times. Then ask someone to retell the passage, as completely as possible, in their own words. Ask the group to contribute anything missed. Fill in gaps as needed.

Pray as a group and ask God to speak through His word. Spend time listening silently. Then discuss the following questions. Help everyone participate. If you have more than 6-7 people, first split into small groups.

- What do these passages teach us about God?
- What do these passages teach us about followers of Jesus?
- Looking at these passages and the Basic Principles, what do you think would be good to include in an opening prayer, when praying for someone who's struggling spiritually or emotionally? (ask God to lead and protect, bind evil in Jesus' name)
- How do you think beginning with an opening prayer might be helpful, when beginning a longer time of prayer and reflection?
- How are you already applying the principles in these passages? How would you like to grow in applying these principles? (Encourage people to consider possible applications, then choose one or two clear, specific and realistic personal applications.)
- What does God want you to do to apply these principles?
- Who will you tell?
- Who will you share this lesson with?
- What key principles will your group share with the large group?

### 5) Follow-up Activities.

- **Share** key principles, drawings and motions with the large group. Ask each small group to share one key principle. Write these (in words or pictures) on a large paper or whiteboard. Continue until you have all the main points in the lesson.
- **Gesture:** Decide together on a gesture or hand motion for this lesson. Then ask all participants to stand up and do the gesture together. Then practice together all the gestures in order for the basic principles covered so far in this module.
- **Pray** as a group for someone in your group who is struggling with an issue. Begin with an opening prayer, incorporating the elements above.
- **Clarify** the next meeting time and any pre-work to be completed beforehand.
- **Pre-work** for next lesson:
  - **Memorize:** Prov 18:10 (And review previous verses.)
  - **Pray:** Read and meditate on Luke 17:11-19, John 8:31 and Luke 10:17-19.
  - **Share:** Share with others what you are learning.
  - **Practice:** Pray for someone who's struggling in some way. Begin with an opening prayer, asking God to lead and protect, and binding evil in Jesus' name.

### 6) Pray a closing prayer. Commit to pray for one another between training times.

*Note: You may also want to incorporate a time of sharing and prayer – for blessings and challenges.*