



TAKE THE LEAD
leaders
need to p
WORKBOOK

NAME:

1

leaders need to pray

Prayer is about recognising that God has what we lack.

Prayer is the primary way we access the power of God.

PRAYER QUOTES

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.”

John Wesley

“God shapes the world by prayer.

The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be.”

E.M. Bounds

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.”

William Cowper

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak.”

Allen E. Vartlett

“I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.”

Charles Spurgeon

“Prayer... is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.”

Chrysostom

“We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth.”

Andrew Murray

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”

Oswald Chambers

“Ten minutes spent in the presence of Christ every day, even two minutes, will make the whole day different.”

Henry Drummond

Highlight or underline the quote you find the most challenging or encouraging.

Read Matthew 6:9-13

What does this prayer tell you about what God wants to do in your life and the lives of those around you?

What do you like about praying by yourself? What don't you like about praying by yourself?

What do you like about praying with others? What don't you like about praying with others?

What stops you from praying more regularly?

Prayer is not a duty, it is a privilege.

People only pray as much as they think they need to. Many think they rarely need to. The wise ones know they really need to.

2

leaders need to prepare

Preparation releases your potential.

Read Matthew 25:1-13.

What was the mistake the foolish bridesmaids made and what can we learn from it regarding whatever tasks we are given?

Procrastination is the enemy of preparation.

Think about your typical week. In the timetable on the next page, put in the activities that are immovable, e.g. school, work, church.

Now add the activities that are movable but that you need to do, e.g. chores, homework.

Now imagine that on Friday you are in charge of running a water balloon fight. You have also been asked to share your testimony at church on Sunday morning. Below is a list of tasks you will need to do to prepare for those two things. Add each task to the timetable.

- » Buy water balloons
- » Write your testimony
- » Set up for water balloon fight, including finding buckets for the balloons, cones or something similar to mark home bases, and filling up the balloons
- » Pray for the upcoming Sunday service

Preparation helps you avoid desperation.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
12noon							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							

Next to each of the statements below circle one of the following numbers:
 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree

<i>I often leave things to the last minute</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>People describe me as organized</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>When given a task, I often just 'wing it'</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I often wish I had spent more time preparing</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I often underestimate how much time it will take to do something</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I think well on my feet</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I am always apologizing for being late</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I over-prepare and stress out about every tiniest detail or potential problem</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>People get frustrated at my lack of preparation</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I easily forget or overlook things I need to bring or do</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I use a diary/planner</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>I struggle to be flexible with what I have prepared</i>	1	2	3	4

Looking at these statements, what changes do you need to make? How will you make them?

3

leaders need to persevere

Leaders see hardship as an opportunity to be faithful rather than a reason to quit.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2, Philippians 3:12-14

These passages give us a key to perseverance - our focus.

What are some practical ways to help us fix our eyes on Jesus?

What things are you finding difficult or frustrating about youth group at the moment?

Often it will be relationships that are at the centre of our difficult times.

This is because leadership is about people, and people are complicated.

We need to stay connected to others who can support and encourage us, and who we can offer support and encouragement to.

What relationships are you glad you have? What do you value about them?

Can you think of a situation where you persevered with someone - someone you were having trouble with and you are glad you didn't give up on?

Perseverance also involves a commitment to growing in different skills and gifts.

Is there something you are confident at now that you were terrible at when you first started?

Can you think of anything that you wish you hadn't given up on?

Persevere... today's trial will give way to tomorrow's triumph.

4

leaders need to play

Youth leaders should instead aim to create an atmosphere of joy, as there's nothing more attractive than a group of happy people.

Good leaders have fun and they help others have fun.

They don't take themselves too seriously and they enjoy what they're doing.

They use the resources they have but they understand that their best resource is their attitude.

Tick which of the following sentences are often true of you:

- I am generally a happy person*
- I find it easy to relax*
- I can take myself too seriously*
- I like to see people having fun*
- I often sit back and observe games rather than participating in them*
- I am aware of people on the fringes and seek to draw them into the fun*
- I think people could describe me as a 'smiley' person*
- I don't mind looking silly if it helps others have a good time*
- I am more concerned that rules are being followed than that people are enjoying themselves*
- When there is 'free time' in the youth programme I often get something fun happening*
- Feeling self-conscious often keeps me from doing something I would enjoy doing*

What do you enjoy doing apart from youth group? How do you think doing these things might help you be a better leader?

Being serious about leadership doesn't mean you have to be a 'serious' leader

bible reading guide

We have prepared four short bible studies for each of the 'p's. You might use these during your teaching sessions or you could read these in your own time.

1. pray

JOHN 17:1-26

Jesus prayed this just before he was arrested.

What do you like about this prayer?

What does this prayer show you about the character of Jesus?

Is there anything in this prayer that you could include in your prayers for your youth group? Spend some time praying for your youth group now.

PSALM 43

This Psalm is the prayer of someone who is obviously going through a hard time.

Does this Psalm encourage you in any way?

Use it to tell God about any hard times you're going through.

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they might know the love of Christ. His love is so great that you need power to understand it!

Pray this prayer for yourself and for others today.

LUKE 18:1-8

In this parable the widow's persistence is used to challenge us to persevere in prayer. While God knows what we need before we even ask, sometimes we will need to pray continually and with persistence before we see the things we're praying for! (This is linked to the topic in Week 3 which is 'Leaders Need to Persevere').

Try setting yourself a prayer challenge for this year: pick one person or one thing that you're going to pray for consistently for as long as it takes to see something happen.

2. prepare

LUKE 14:28-30

Jesus spoke this parable to challenge people to consider the cost of becoming his disciple.

What can we learn from this in regards to the task we might be required to do as leaders?

ESTHER 3:13-4:17

This passage is a description of Esther preparing to meet with the King of Persia. To visit the King unannounced had the penalty of death, so Esther's decision was very courageous. But Esther knew that she needed to be prepared, which is why she set aside time for fasting. She knew that unless she had time, both to prepare herself and to dedicate the situation to God, she had no chance.

Sometimes we find leadership easy, and sometimes leadership requires us to be courageous and do difficult things. But regardless of the situation it is always important to set aside time for preparation and for God. Ask God to help you manage your time well, so that you can feel prepared and so that you can dedicate what you do to God.

JOSHUA 3:5

Joshua was given the task of taking the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. In this verse he tells the people to consecrate themselves because of what God was about to do. Consecration was a spiritual preparation: getting rid of what is not pleasing to God and dedicating them afresh to God. As Christian leaders it's a good idea to consecrate ourselves before we go to youth group.

What would that look like for you? If possible try fitting in half an hour before youth group to go for a walk and spend some time with God. This will help you to prepare you spiritually.

PROVERBS 21:31

In this verse we see that even if we prepare well, ultimately we need to trust in the Lord.

Spend some time praying that God would take your preparation and add his grace and power.

3. persevere

JAMES 1:12

Perserverance can be difficult, however this verse gives us a promise for when we have “stood the test”.

What reason does this verse give us for not giving up when times get tough?

GALATIANS 6:9-10

Sometimes serving others can feel like hard work. We don't always see the fruit of our efforts straight away. People may take us for granted. But here Paul encourages us to continue doing good to all people.

Ask God to give you grace and encouragement this week.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

This verse promises that God will always persevere with us. What he's started in us he will bring to completion.

Bring those things in your life that you know God has been persevering in trying to teach you and change to be more like Jesus.

Thank him for the way he's never given up on you and ask him to continue to bring change and breakthrough.

EPHESIANS 6:1-18

This passage reveals that sometimes our struggles are against unseen enemies. Paul gives us a list of things that act like spiritual armour for us in this struggle so that we can persevere till the end.

Occasionally when we are struggling we need extra help from God. Make a list of all the different items of armour that Paul mentions. Pray through the list, asking God to help you to put on each item. You may want to stick this list on your wall so that, if you are ever struggling, you can return to it and pray through it again with God.

4. play

ISAIAH 61:3

This is a prophecy about what Jesus would do. We see that he came to give us joy and gladness.

Ask God to fill you and your youth group with joy!

GENESIS 2:2

God rested from his work, and this later became the foundation for his command to keep the Sabbath holy.

What does rest look like for you?

What would help you rest well?

MATTHEW 18:3

If there's one thing children know how to do, it's play.

Do something fun today and consciously invite the Holy Spirit to join you. Try and be aware of his presence with you throughout.

ECCLESIASTES 3:13

When we have been working hard it is important to remember to set aside time for fun! But when we are enjoying ourselves remember that this is God's gift to you and be sure to thank him.

Spend some time thanking God for the things you enjoy in life.