

VineyardPRAYER

Here at New Life Vineyard our vision has always been to help people personally experience the transforming presence of God. Prayer in all its various forms is a critical catalyst for this personal experience.

Through the centuries, followers of Jesus have practiced a wide variety of prayer styles and spiritual disciplines. Depending on your personal faith journey you may already be familiar with some of these. Other types of prayer practiced within the Christian Church may be entirely unknown to you. Regardless of the approach you use, prayer will bring you closer to God, allowing you to experience more of His love and glory.

The purpose of this handout is to briefly describe a wide variety of the prayer styles that are practiced, taught, and promoted here at New Life Vineyard (NLV).

PRAYER OF SALVATION

In our services we often share the good news of God's love and give you an opportunity to respond by becoming a follower of Jesus. What we term the *Prayer of Salvation* is simply a verbalized response to what the Bible teaches in Romans 10:9-10 "*If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*" If you wish to so respond, we encourage you to talk with any prayer ministry team member standing in the rear wings of the sanctuary. After the prayer you will be given a packet of information to help you begin your journey as a follower of Jesus.

PRAYER IN YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

We encourage everyone here at NLV to set aside regular time in his or her life for Bible reading and prayer. In doing these things we are simply imitating Jesus who Himself regularly withdrew to quiet places to spend time with His heavenly Father. An important part of prayer in your personal devotions is learning to discern God's voice as He speaks to you. He will speak through Bible passages as you read and think about them. He will also speak into your thoughts in response to your requests for His guidance and help. Talk to any of our church staff or prayer team members for suggestions to enhance your personal prayer life.

PERSONAL PRAYER WITH COMMUNION

Every Sunday you will find the communion element trays on tables located in the rear wings of the sanctuary. We encourage you to take communion individually, either before or after each Sunday service. As you do so we also encourage you to include quiet prayers of worship and praise, as well as lifting up your personal needs to God.

INFORMAL PRAYER IN THE HALLS

As you catch up with old friends and meet new ones here on Sundays, personal needs and struggles are often shared. We encourage everyone to be ready to do more than just listen! Why not suggest, "*Can I pray with you about that right now?!"* and take 30 seconds to ask God to meet the needs being expressed.

PRAYER WITHIN CONNECT GROUPS

An important part of every NLV Connect Group meeting time is an opportunity to share personal needs and receive prayer for those needs. We encourage you to practice the spiritual discipline of personal transparency by sharing your needs within your Connect Group and allowing them to pray with and for you. Needs shared will remain confidential. Connect Groups are also an excellent place to learn practical approaches to praying for the needs of others.

PASTORAL PRAYER

As a pastoral staff we frequently pray for people who drop by or make an appointment. We also pray for people via the phone, text messaging and e-mail. Our pastoral staff is here to pray with you anytime you need it.

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAYS

Several times each year we offer communion combined with a brief time of prayer and blessing for you and your family. These Sundays are an important source of spiritual encouragement.

POST-SERMON PRAYER MINISTRY

After every service you can receive prayer for any need in your life, for example emotional strengthening, physical healing, and/or financial blessing. Approach one of the people wearing yellow "*Prayer Team Member*" badges that are stationed in the rear of the sanctuary on either side. Although the prayer times are short (typically 5 minutes or less), they will nevertheless be a source of genuine blessing in your life.

REFRESHING WIND / INNERGLOW WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Our periodic extended worship events *Refreshing Wind* (evenings) and *InnerGlow* (between the Sunday morning services) are also excellent times to bring your personal needs to God in prayer. Praying quietly in such an atmosphere of worship will be a very powerful experience! You can also ask others present to join you in prayer for any need in your life.

SOAKING PRAYER

Soaking Prayer as practiced here at NLV consists of a quiet time of being in God's presence, unhurried worship of Him and calm meditation upon His merciful love. It is enhanced by an environment with comfortable seating, subdued lighting, and a meditative style of worship music. As an antidote to the effects of our fast-paced culture, Soaking Prayer refreshes us, renews our strength and reestablishes peace in our souls. Room 10 in our church building has been set up to facilitate Soaking Prayer. It is always open the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of every month; you can also request to use it at other times as you have need.

PRAYER AND HEALING MINISTRY

If you'd like to receive private prayer for any need in your life, we invite you to drop in on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of every month, from 7 - 9 pm. A small team of trained men and women will join with you in praying for God's immediate intervention on your behalf. Every prayer request will be treated as confidential. No reservation is needed.

FINDING FREEDOM PRAYER MINISTRY

Finding Freedom Ministry is dedicated to helping people find emotional and spiritual freedom using the application of biblical principles and prayer. While not a substitute for professional counseling, it provides a safe and confidential environment in which to receive prayer for pressing issues such as relational problems, fear, doubt, anxiety, or depression. Ministry sessions are 90 minutes long and are held the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7pm. Schedule a session by calling the church office at 832-7472.

Send your prayer request to prayer@midlandvineyard.com and our team will pray over them.