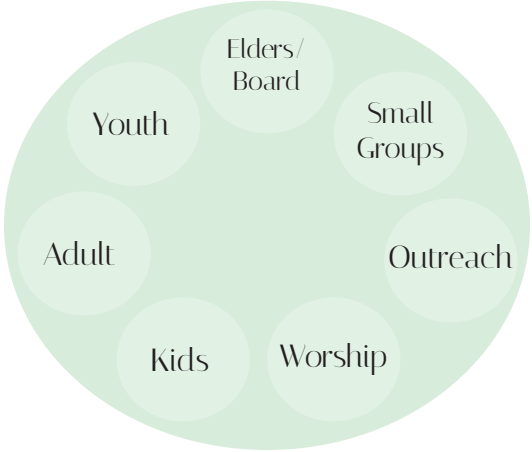
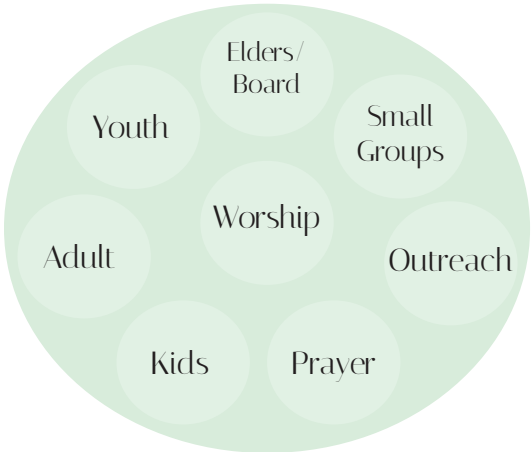


Analyze Prayer Level



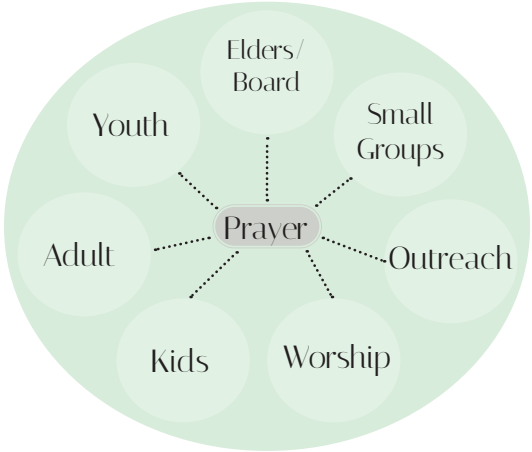
Prayer
A

Prayer Light Church



B

Prayer Ministry Church



C

House of Prayer Church



Identifying Barriers to the Presence of God

The following questions will help you and your church leaders identify corporate sins that hinder the presence of God in your church. Once hindrances are identified, you will want to develop strategies for making them targets for prayer.

1. What are our sins of omission? Ask the Lord to help you discern any areas of disobedience in your church. Ask, “What are our failures?” “What should we be doing that we are not doing?”

2. What are the sins of church leadership? How well do staff meetings/board meetings run? Is it smooth or difficult to make progress? Ask the Holy Spirit why. Are there sin issues in the lives of leaders that have not been addressed or repented of?

4. What sins of our denomination are affecting our church? Do denominational pride or isolationism characterize your denomination or church?

What traditions are you holding on to that no longer bring life to the services?

Do we avoid talking about these and other issues that need change?

5. What are our historic sins? Answering the following questions will be helpful in identifying sins of the past:

Were the organizing leaders under authority?

Did your church have a healthy planting? Was it birthed by default or division?

For what reason did the founding pastor and subsequent pastors leave the church? Were there misunderstandings, power struggles, or moral discrepancies?

Has your church ever had a church split? If so what happened?

6. What are the top three barriers that keep us from being a praying church? Can we identify specific hindrances?

7. What areas of our church are under attack from the enemy? Look to see where the enemy is attacking your church for the things you are doing right—the areas of your church’s strengths. Also look to see where the enemy is attacking the weak areas—where the walls are down. Ask yourself, “Where does the enemy come in time and time again?”



Church Discovery Guide

Prayer



Prayer Transformation Ministries

*Unleashing the Transforming
Power of Prayer!*

810 South 7th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Phone: (612) 278-1717
Fax: (612) 278-1711

Email:
PTM@prayertransformation.com

Website:
prayertransformation.com

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Church Discovery Guide

Prayer

This *Church Discovery Guide* is most effective when completed by a group of church leaders in a leadership retreat or similar context of extended time spent together. Within that context, it is crucial that prayer calls forth the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal what needs to be known in order to chart the future growth of prayer in the church.

Discovering our history

- What was the role of prayer when our church was founded?
- How did prayer change over the years?

A local church can never understand its relationship to God or its mission in the world unless it understands prayer.

My experience reveals that congregational effectiveness in worship, building community, and outreach is directly proportional to the health of its prayer life.

—John Quam

- Who was responsible for prayer during different periods in the past?
- What lessons can we learn from the church's history in relationship to prayer?

Analyzing our present

- What role does prayer play in the corporate church life?

- How is prayer referred to in the official documents of the church?
- How is prayer reinforced for individual, personal growth?
- How is prayer reinforced for strengthening families?
- How is prayer taught to children and youth?
- How does prayer play a part of leadership meetings and decision-making?
- How does prayer play a part in evangelism and missions?
- How does prayer play a part in building interpersonal relationships and community?
- What kinds of resources and training are available to the church?
- Who are the people who are gifted in the area of prayer and are currently serving in this area?

Identifying the target

- What Scripture passages tell us about prayer and the early church?

- If we could have the ideal situation, how would prayer fit into the following:
 1. Leadership meetings

 2. Worship services

 3. Families

 4. Personal devotional life

 5. Youth and children's programs

 6. Missions

 7. Evangelism

 8. Small Groups

 9. Relationship with other Christian churches in our community

 10. Church and personal crises

Removing the barriers

Most people want more prayer in their own lives, in their families and in their church. What are the barriers that keep us from praying more? How do some of the following issues relate to our church? What are some solutions we can work on?

- **Lack of biblical knowledge about prayer**

Solution:

- **Lack of opportunity in scheduled events**

Solution:

- **Our lives are too busy.**

Solution:

- **Unconfessed sin**

Solution:

- **Other**

Solution:

Building a House of Prayer

When Jesus stated that His house should be a “House of Prayer,” He was affirming a very basic reality about our relationship with God. He was declaring that intimacy with the Father was the core of all our interaction with God, and that prayer is our communications channel that informs us, encourages us, empowers us, directs us, protects us—and at the same time expresses our love for all God has done for us.

Prayer Timeline:

What can we do in the first 3 months?

- 6 months
- 12 months
- 2 years
- 5 years



Understanding Your Congregation's Interest Levels

