



"I will no longer call you servants but friends." Jesus.

Prayer Group Manual

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Welcome to our Group of Friends!

We are so happy to meet folks like you who are hungry and desperate for a spiritual encounter with the living God. We want to get to know you, learn from you, and grow together in community.

I am sure you will agree that we are living unprecedented times in our history: the threat of the Corona Virus, the financial shakeup, uncertainty about the future, fear and anguish in the air. Our world is experiencing a major crisis. These are the times when we need God and we need each other.

An African Proverb reads, "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together."

You don't have to go through this crisis alone. With a strong community of friends, you can share your burdens, grow, and serve with people who genuinely care about you.

We are also interested in growing together in Christ so that we can be equipped to serve our families, our community and cause an impact in our world, especially during these moments of worldwide turmoil and anxiety.

We are a multi-cultural network of business owners, farmers, homemakers, caregivers, landscapers, construction workers, carpenters, loan officers and even some pastors and missionaries with a common passion to follow Jesus in intimate fellowship and obedience. We want to change our world with the power of the Holy Spirit!

Our mission is simple: "To spread an intimate friendship with Jesus Christ throughout the land."

Some key Scriptures that guide our movement are these words from Jesus to his followers:

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." Jn. 15:15

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Mt. 18:20

Beginnings:

Our servant-leaders have been experimenting with discipleship groups for over 40 years of ministry. In the last decade, they were seeking from the Holy Spirit a discipleship plan that could be effective in our fast-paced, highly distracted society. They were after a divine strategy, which the newest follower of Christ could easily implement and replicate. By the grace of God, in the month of July of 2019, the first groups of friends were born in California. Within two months, more than twenty groups were established. New groups are now multiplying weekly in different cities in California, the US and Mexico. We thank God for what He is doing in our midst. He deserves all credit and glory!

These groups are small, intimate and highly flexible. Under the power of the Holy Spirit, they have the potential to spread like wildfire throughout the land in an organic and efficient fashion. These triads can become the nucleus of new house fellowships and congregations. The next two pages will give you valuable information on how to participate effectively in your daily group and advise about how to start one.

You are part of a movement of God for this generation.

God bless you and your family with abundant life!

If you have not registered yet, I invite you to do so by texting the word: friends to 209-294-0059. We will then be able to send you information about the movement.

Please invite others to join our prayer movement by downloading our App from the Google Play Store or the iPhone Apple App Store.

Look for: Amigos de Jesus CC Mente Nueva Marketing

Friends of Jesus & PCF/ Amigos de Jesús

Pastor César & Patty Buitrago

California. Email: Cesarb007@gmail.com

Friends in Prayer

Daily Group Pattern: 30 minutes

The group chooses a reader for the day. We recommend regularly rotating the individual who organizes the call and the reader so that everyone can learn to facilitate. The reader assigns who will open and close with prayer and the order to follow in the prayers. We choose a portion of Scripture, for example: Ephesians 5:1-4. In addition, each member chooses two names of friends or relatives he/she wants to invite to the groups. Each member will pray for them in the last prayer round.

1

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Love: to Jesus Christ

A friend starts a one-minute conversation with Jesus Christ,

- Thanking him for the new day and for each member by name.
- Recognizing **the presence of Jesus Christ** in our midst as He promised: *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Mt.18:20
- Professing **our love and devotion** to Jesus.

2

Biblical Prayers: to the Father

The reader reads aloud the first verse, in our example: Ephesians 5:1 and talks to the Father for a minute **inspired** in that particular verse. The rest remain quiet. One by one, the rest of the members of the group follow, praying a one-minute prayer **inspired by the verse** just read. They do not need to read the verse again. This process repeats itself one verse at a time. Five minutes before the 30 minutes end, the reader signals the group it is time to close in prayer.

3

Prayer for Obedience: in the Holy Spirit

Each friend does a one-minute prayer to the Father, asking Him:

- To fill us and empower us with the Holy Spirit so that we can put into practice the verses we prayed today.
- For the friends we want to invite, by name.
- For our daily groups of friends that they may grow and multiply.

We say goodbye and dismiss the group promptly at 30 minutes.

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Basic Principles

- 1) Christ-Centered Groups: We recognize that the Risen Jesus Christ is among us. He is the leader of each group.
- 2) Biblical: We pray God's word. We cover between three to four verses a day. These groups are not generally to pray for our need, to counsel or to teach.
- 3) Gender specific: men with men and women with women.
- 4) Small: A group starts with two or three friends or family. Maximum number recommended is four. Three is ideal, like Jesus' triads: "Peter, John and James" or the three Marys.
- 5) Daily: At a set time. From Monday through Friday for 30 min
- 6) These groups promote an intimate friendship with Jesus Christ and among the participants.
- 7) Flexible: They meet anytime and can meet with people anywhere.
- 8) Groups meet via phone (3 way calling), WhatsApp, zoom, video chat or in person.
- 9) Commitment and accountability: High level of commitment and mutual accountability. All members are active participants.
- 10) They are easy to start, easy to participate, easy to multiply.
- 11) Heart transformation: Because we are meeting with Jesus in daily spiritual community to hear His word and obey it, these groups allow the Holy Spirit to produce spiritual growth from the inside out. We have noticed remarkable individual and family transformation over time.
- 12) They promote a heart of gratitude towards God and obedience to His word.

How to Start

- These groups are by invitation only and completely voluntary.
- Invite a friend or family to try it for a week.
- After experiencing that week, invite your friend to make a daily commitment at a convenient time for him or her.
- Keep your prayers short so that all the participants may learn to pray.
- Suggest to all participants to have their Bibles open while they pray. We recommend every member to download the You Version Bible App on his or her phone. The New Living Translation (NLT) is a good version to use.
- If someone is driving during the prayer time, please do not assign the driver to be the reader for safety reasons. Have the reader read the verse twice for the sake of the drivers.
- If it is not your turn to pray, out of courtesy to others, please mute your microphone.
- If someone is new and does not wish to pray, have them just listen or read the verse again when their turn comes.
- Please be punctual. Start on time and finish on time.
- If the group grows to four or more, multiply the group after 3 to 4 weeks.
- If someone misses the prayer time, don't judge them. Invite them again.
- Invite everyone in the group to join the movement and registering by texting the word: Friends to: 209-294-0059

Where do we start?

In our prayer groups we have **no other materials but the Bible itself**. We pray verse by verse. Since the majority of our groups get started with Christians, we recommend following this sequence:

- 1) Ephesians: Chapter 5 and 6: The reason is simple; we want believers to live out the practical Christian life, living in the Spirit, especially at home and in the market-place. We also want them to get ready for spiritual warfare.
- 2) Ephesians: The whole book, starting from Chapter 1. It does not matter if we repeat Chapters 5 and 6, we need them. We learn about our identity as believers and how to live the Spirit-filled life.
- 3) Matthew 5, 6, and 7: The Sermon on the Mount. This Sermon contains the key teachings of Jesus and the Central Tenants of Christian Discipleship.
- 4) Philippians: Is the epistle of joy and devotion to Christ in the midst of adverse circumstances.
- 5) Colossians: One of the most Christ-centered books of the Bible.
- 6) James: A practical epistle that calls us to a wise life of faith with good deeds.
- 7) 1 and 2 Peter: How to face suffering, persecution and defection as Christians.
- 8) 1, 2 and 3 John: Letters that emphasize the tests of the real Christian life.

If you are starting with individuals who do not have a close relationship with Jesus Christ we recommend you start with these portions from the gospel of John so that the group can get familiarized with our wonderful Savior and Lord. After you complete these portions you can go to Ephesians and follow the sequence on top.

Sometimes you need to read two verses to get the full idea. Invite the members of the group at least weekly to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

Jn.1:1-18	Jn.3:16-21	Jn.4:13-26	Jn.6:35-40
Jn.7:37-39	Jn.10:7-14	Jn.11:24-27	Jn.13:12-17
Jn.13:33-35	Jn.14:1-9	Jn.14:15-19	Jn.15:1-27
Jn.17:1-26	Jn.19:16-27	Jn.20:1-31	