

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING PUBLIC PRAYERS
(see sermon outline on prayer)

1. Public congregational prayer should focus on congregation's needs.
 - a. pray for the sick of the congregation.
 - b. pray for the leadership of the church that it might be strong.
 - c. pray for the growth of the church.
 - d. ask God for open doors of opportunity to teach sinners.
 - e. ask God to help each member grow in grace and knowledge.
 - f. be sure your prayer is appropriate to a congregational setting.

2. Prayer in the assembly should include the following:
 - a. praise to God.
 - b. asking for forgiveness of sins.
 - c. petition for needs.
 - d. thanksgiving for blessings.
 - e. prayer for rulers of our land.

3. The leader is leading the congregation and his prayer is their prayer.
 - a. keep remarks appropriate to the setting. ex: don't include private needs or sins. Its best to take care of these at home privately.
 - b. think about the needs and cares of the assembly.

4. Be sincere in your prayer.

5. Don't worry about lots of flowery language or phrases.

6. Speak loudly and clearly enough for all to hear.

7. Come to the front if possible and "lead" the prayer.

8. Let the congregation know when you are about to start. ex: say, "let us pray . . ." and then immediately begin prayer.

9. Use the most reverent language you know how. You are speaking to God.

10. Keep an active, daily prayer life at home to aid you in praying publicly.

Note:

Leading public prayer during the assembly is just as important as leading any other part of the service. The one who has been asked to lead the prayer should take his job very seriously - even in leading the opening and closing prayers which are typically shorter than the "main" prayer and are sometimes seen as more casual. If possible the leader should think about what he would like to include in his prayer and have this in mind in advance. Use the suggestions above to lead the congregation before the throne of God.