

Getting the word out about your ministry

A Prayer Breakfast is a great way to get the word out about your new ministry.

Prayer Breakfast Ideas

Holding a Prayer Breakfast is a creative ways to engage the body of Christ in prayer together. Here are some Prayer Breakfast ideas you can adapt and make your own.

How to Do This Prayer Idea

1. Use a Prayer Breakfast to add variety to the ways you actively engage others in prayer

Today we need prayer more than ever. We need it in our lives and we need it in the church if our lives and the church are to stay vital and focused on God's agenda.

As a Prayer Leader at my church, one of the visions of our ministry is to find ways to engage the body of Christ in prayer. Holding an occasional Prayer Vigil every now and then is really not enough to send the message to the body that prayer is a vital part of the life of the believer and not only do we need to nourish our personal prayer lives but we must keep prayer vital in the church. Our mission is to become a culture of prayer in the house of God.

2. Co-host a prayer breakfast with another church ministry.

There are many creative ways to engage the body of Christ in prayer together. One of those ways is to work with other ministries. No one needs a lot of extra events on the calendars! Some of the larger ministries hold annual events as well as our annual church events that are outside of the events other ministries hold. Also, church ministries work within a budget and so these events are already budgeted for so the expense that the Prayer Ministry has to put forth is minimal to none.

This year alone we have already held two Prayer Breakfast events by partnering with other ministries. The first Prayer Breakfast was an annual event that our church celebrates every year and so partnered with the planning committee for Black History Month and planned several events throughout the month of February kicking off the month with a Prayer Breakfast.

3. Keep prayer as the focus.

The main thing in planning a Prayer Breakfast is to make sure prayer is the focus of the event. What I mean by that is, most prayer breakfast's only get to the food and fellowship and leave no time for prayer. The agenda must be carefully planned out so that prayer will not be on a tray on the menu that never got to be served up!

4. Start with an opening prayer.

You can plan for a guest speaker to come in or you can use your Prayer Ministry members to facilitate the Prayer Breakfast or both. First on the agenda should be an opening prayer followed up with welcoming your guest.

5. Provide an opportunity for people who will be praying together to get to know each other in a meaningful way.

When it comes to prayer, people are on different levels so it is important that people get to know who they are sitting with. An icebreaker to get them talking and sharing is a good tool that truly works well. For the sake of time make the icebreaker something simple just to get people talking and sharing at their table. Allot about 10 minutes for this fellowship exercise. A simple icebreaker idea used at one of our prayer breakfast was using a prayer scripture verse and asking each person at the table to give their name and then talk briefly about what that scripture means to them.

6. Encourage fellowship.

The next step is to give your guests an opportunity to eat and fellowship together. Allow at least 30-45 minutes for food and fellowship because it takes time for people to stand in line and get their food and then take it back to their seat and eat without rushing.

7. Provide prayer resources.

During the time of fellowship is also a great time to have a door prize give away using prizes related to prayer: Prayer journals, prayer books, prayer bags, and whatever you would like to giveaway that will remind people of the event and especially the experience that had with God.

8. Allow time for the guest speaker.

If you have a guest speaker, having someone sing a solo after the food and fellowship, and after the introduction of the speaker is always a great way to get everyone's focus back. Allow the guest

speaker at least 20 minutes to speak. In the content of a Prayer Breakfast you should keep things moving so that you don't lose the focus from prayer.

9. Facilitate the prayer time.

If you decide not to have a guest speaker then follow the steps above with a song after the food and fellowship and then have the person who will be facilitating the prayer focus come to give instructions. There should be a prayer focus for every Prayer Breakfast.

We recently partnered with our Sister's-in-Christ Ministry and held a Prayer Breakfast for Women's Day. We placed on each table was a prayer focus card with the name of a woman from the Bible (Naomi, Ruth, Esther, Deborah, Hannah, Peninnah, etc.) and each biblical woman had a scripture verse about her. The groups were asked to discuss the woman's character, good and bad and reflect on ourselves and the challenges we face and the challenges we have overcome and how we overcame. Give about 15 minutes for discussion. Once the discussion time is up, allow about 10 to 15 minutes for the women to pray for one another and ask God to help them develop characters that resemble the love of Christ and to take away the things about us that are not like Christ.

10. Share testimonies

Before ending the breakfast, you may allow for a few voluntary testimonies about the groups sharing or how the experience of the Prayer Breakfast helped them in their current situations or prayer life. Make sure testimonies are brief so that people do not take up a lot of time in what they want to share. Hold them accountable.

11. End in group prayer.

Lastly, have everyone circle up together and have one of your prayer leaders close the event with a prayer covering. You may also want to place a basket in the center of the circle and as persons come to circle up for prayer they may drop those requests in the basket. Make sure the Prayer Leader gets those request so they can pray over the request when they meet for regular prayer.

My Personal Tips and Experiences

Here are some additional tips and ideas:

Saturday mornings work best for a Prayer Breakfast and the time frame should be no more than two and a half hours. Make sure you stay within a allotted time for the Prayer Breakfast. People have other things planned for Saturday's and usually get a little anxious if the breakfast goes on much longer. You will lose people because they will have to get up and leave if you make it too long. A good time frame is 9:00 to 11:30.

Make sure you get the information out to the congregation and community. If you have a Communications Ministry use them to design posters listing time and place of event as well as any cost associated with the event. Ministries Chairs get announcements in the bulletin about a month in advance of the event. Ask your Pastor's to make special announcements about the event and if you have an area in your church where you can set up a display table with sign-up sheets and information about the breakfast do that as well. All of these tools work together for a successful Prayer Breakfast.

Prayer plants make a beautiful center piece for your tables and are inexpensive. You can place prayer plants in the center of each table and at the end of the breakfast you can give them away. What we did at one of our Prayer Breakfasts is give them away to the last person who closed the prayer at each table. They are wonderful gifts and many people don't know they exist. They also serve as reminders of the event.

Provide each table with index cards or something that they can write their personal prayer request on at the beginning of the breakfast. Give instructions about the prayer basket that they will be dropped in at the end of the event and prayed over generally at the event and later by a prayer team.

Form volunteer teams when you partner with other ministries. Between the two ministries, responsibilities are assigned. This way no one person or ministry is responsible for food, decorations or publicity. We are blessed to have a Hospitality Ministry so all we have to do is let them know in advance the date of the event and they work with us on the menu. After a certain date, they request a headcount so they know how much food to prepare. This is why getting the posters and announcements out about the event at least a month in advance is necessary.