

LEADING THE WAY

Way of Life - a pattern for Christian Living

Journeying Up
Praying- conversing  with
God



“Tree”. Bridget Macaulay. Used with permission

Participants’ Notes.

Leading the Way is a resource produced by the Diocese of Truro Discipleship Team. It is designed to help individuals, congregations and communities to explore the way of life which will enable them to flourish in Jesus Christ.



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* Other Resources

See the back of the Prayer, a Simple Guide.

The Way of Life resources <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vision-strategy/discipleship/discipleship-groups/way-of-life-resources/>

‘Windows Into’ courses: are available on ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ and ‘Christian Spirituality’
<http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vision-strategy/discipleship/windows-into/>

The Pilgrim series has a 6-session course on the Lord’s prayer: www.pilgrimcourse.org

Examples of daily prayer on websites:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx>
<http://www.sacredspace.ie/>
<http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office/>

Places to go on retreat:

<http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/retreats.html>
<http://www.sheldon.uk.com/>

* **Prayer**

All that has been done in this session will be drawn together in prayer. This prayer can be found on the front of Prayer- a Simple Guide.

Eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ

Is the way, the truth and the life

For all creation;

Grant us grace to walk in his way,

To rejoice in his truth,

And to share in his risen life;

Who lives and reigns with you and

The Holy Spirit,

One God now and forever. Amen

* **Beginning where we are**

Your group leader will light a candle and place it on a table and then lead a prayer, or perhaps use a video to introduce the theme.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,

Ignite in us your holy fire;

Strengthen your children with the gift of faith,

Revive your Church with the breath of love,

and renew the face of the earth,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* **Icebreaker**

* **Introduction**

The leader will read a short précis from 'Prayer - a Simple Guide' - please take the leaflet home and read it further.

* **Bible 'conversation'**

Prayer

Holy Spirit of God;

open our ears and our minds, our hearts and our spirits,

**that we may hear you speaking to us
through these words of Scripture.**

May we be ready to be encouraged and challenged,
guided and changed.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

⇒ Have we ever thought about a prayer walk/pilgrimage
through our community?

Matthew 6.5-15 NIV

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

““Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

EXTRA SPACE FOR NOTES AND REFLECTIONS.

Consider some of the following: Having set times for a ‘drop in’ or ‘quiet time’ provision. What ideas spring to mind? Hold a parish Retreat, invite a speaker, or hold a quiet day to explore prayer more fully. What ideas do you have that might make this different and exciting?

- **Community**

How do we let the community know that prayer is important to us, and that we pray for things going on around us?

(Some churches decide to pray for particular streets in their community, and drop a note through people’s doors letting them know, and inviting prayer requests. Other churches let people know they are being prayed for on the anniversary of a significant event death, marriage, baptism.)

⇒ Is there anything outside our church that invites people to come in and pray here if they so wish?

⇒ Do we ever pray outside our churches, in a public way?

⇒ What events/places might it be appropriate to pray for in this way?

your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Notes

* Questions

• Personal

What has helped me to pray over the years, and what do I find helpful now?

⇒ Do I ensure that I make time to listen to God?
How much? How often? How do I respond?

⇒ Is there something on the 'Simple Guide' leaflet that I think I ought to try out to deepen my prayer life?

- When can I do this?

- Would it help if I had someone else to pray with?

- Who could I ask about this?

⇒ Would I consider attending a quiet day or retreat to have some extended time dedicated to God and myself?

- Could I invite some other people to come with me?

• Congregational.

What are the ways in which, as a church, we seek to help people in their prayer lives?

* What else could we do?

⇒ How might the use of spiritual accompaniment (eg Way Guides) or spiritual direction (via Epiphany House) help people develop and grow in their prayer lives?

⇒ If the church is left open during the day, do we have a place where people can find quiet and make their own prayers?

- How might we make that place special and inviting?