

WORD-SHARE-PRAYER

For personal and small group study

Name _____
Date _____

READ: John 13:34-35 (Love One Another)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' NRSV

REFLECT: This is the wonderful "New Commandment" of Jesus.

What do you believe Jesus means by, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another?"

What happens if we love one another in the manner Jesus commands?

RESPOND: How will you apply this to your life? Think for a moment about two people.

First, someone with whom you have a sound relationship. What one thing will you do in the coming week to love that person even more deeply in the way Jesus means?

Second, think of someone with whom your relationship isn't what you know it could be or should be. What one thing will you do in the coming week to love that person even more deeply in the way Jesus means?

REQUEST: Jot down prayer requests that you and others may have.

Word-Share-Prayer for Ministry Teams

Word-Share-Prayer (Read-Reflect-Respond-Request) is for use with small groups, committees, ministry teams, and boards. The texts are deliberately a bit short so that committees and teams with limited time can still "*be the people of God before doing the work of the people of God.*" For small group meetings, a longer section of text may be used or just more time spent discussing each segment.

For many team and committee meetings, we follow a 7-7-7 format - 7 minutes for individual Bible Study, 7 minutes to share one insight per person and 7 minutes to pray for one another. If we use these sheets for a regular one and one-half hour Bible study, then the biblical passage could be a bit longer and our schedule would be the **Word**-30 minutes, **Share**(*sharing*) of lives (blessings and prayer requests)-45 minutes and **Prayer**-15 minutes.

For a ministry team/committee allow 7-7-7 minutes (plus or minus) format. If the group is larger than 12 to 14, you may find it easier to break into groups of four, at least for the sharing of prayer requests and praying for one another.

1. Give every person 5-7 minutes to work on it in silence (we don't have people do them as "homework" since many will fail to do so).
2. Spend another 7 minutes or so asking people to briefly share one insight. If the group is larger than 14, break into groups of 4 to save time.
3. Ask for one-sentence prayer requests. Spend more time on this if someone in the group is in real distress about something. Otherwise, just a sentence or so per person as we want to lift one another up but haven't the time for more sharing... unless we are willing. Teams are often willing to spend more time in this Bible study portion of the meeting simply because we will work to be more efficient in the rest of the meeting.

Pray for one another out loud by name, giving everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

Hope this is useful for you... praying for you and your congregation to experience the transforming presence of our Lord in new ways.

With joy - Stan