

What can I do?

YES, I've caught the vision to pray for education! So how do I begin?

Begin to pray for your school. Ask the Lord for prayer partners. Once the Lord has given you a prayer partner, pray together on a regular basis. Guard against the devil's tactics to break down relationships within the group and within the school. Protect unity. Ephesians 4:3

NOW we have a group - how do we run it?

Begin by praying at home. The decision to pray on the school property must be decided by the Lord. Establish the dates, times and venues for the next 6 months and give a copy to each member of the group. Make a commitment to meet weekly, fortnightly, or monthly.

Advertise as soon as possible i.e. in the school newsletter (with Principal's permission), church paper, parent's meetings, and word of mouth etc. Advertising has a three-fold purpose:

- It will attract other Christians to your group.
- It will alert Christian teachers that you are praying and they will be encouraged.
- Believers from other schools may be prompted to do likewise.

The prayer group is only as strong as the relationships within it, therefore encourage a loving, caring and supportive environment by:

- Sharing and praying for each other's needs.
- Regular contact outside of the scheduled meetings.
- Working at unity within your group.

Pray regarding your partnership with the school.

When the time is right arrange an appointment with the principal and convey the following:

- Your concern for the young people and the pressures they face.
- The formation of your group.
- That you are part of a network indicate of school prayer groups.
- If appropriate your willingness to receive specific prayer points from the principal.

Regularly remind the group of the need for confidentiality. Certain things that are said or prayed should not be shared outside of the prayer meeting.

As the group grows a co-leader needs to be chosen to help and support the leader. To ensure the continuation of the group the leader needs to be mindful of looking for a successor for when he/she leaves the school. Pray for the schools around you.

Suggested format for the prayer group:

Open with prayer... dedicating the time to the Lord.

Begin with praise... Praise and worship is a doorway to God's presence. Psalm 100:4 says "Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues throughout all generations.

Praise can be encouraged by:

- Reading from the book of Psalms.
- Singing with a praise CD.
- Singing live praise led by with guitar or keyboard.
- Individuals declaring out loud the Lord's goodness and faithfulness.

Follow praise with repentance

"In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Ephesians 1:7

After a time of praise have a silent time of REPENTANCE before the Lord allowing the blood of Jesus to cleanse.

As intercessors our relationship with the Lord has to be right. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Psalm 66:18

Establish the Word of God as the standard by preceding the prayer time with a devotional.

Encourage all members to participate by having a roster system for devotions.

Tips for connecting the school to JESUS

Be a host

- Hold morning teas for scripture teachers, staff, new parents etc.
- Hold a Christmas party.
- Host a luncheon or coffee and desert night and consider a guest speaker.

Be an encourager

- Write notes of thanks to classroom teachers.
- Encourage Christians on staff to pray together.

Be a nurturer

- Provide year 12 students with scripture verses e.g. written on bookmarks.
- Pray with Year 12 students if possible.
- Provide a prayer box for students.
- Seek prayer points from the school community.

Be visual with a Christian presence in the school

- Organise a stall at fetes, election day etc. For e.g. colouring in competition and give away gifts with Christian emphasis.
- Coordinate a carol service at the school.
- Advertise Christian camps, concerts, youth groups etc.
- Donate Christian books to the library.

Be accessible

If appropriate invite principal and staff to the prayer meeting. Invite parents, students, local youth group leaders, and scripture teachers to prayer meetings and let them know you are praying for them.