

Prayer Course Leader's Guide

We're so excited that you're planning to run the Prayer Course!

This short guide will give you all the information that you need to run the course in your community or small group:

Who is the Prayer Course for?

The Prayer Course is for anyone who wants to grow in their relationship with God. We've especially designed the course to be used in a small group setting, but it also works in a whole group context.

What do I need to run the Prayer Course?

Everything you need to run the prayer course is available at prayercourse.org. The course consists of 8 different video sessions, with accompanying small group guides.

To run the Prayer Course you'll need:

- **A laptop or television to watch the video content.** The videos are available to download, so that they can be viewed offline. Alternatively, the videos are available on YouTube so can be watched using a smart television, as well as streamed on the Prayer Course website.
- **The Prayer Course small group guides.** These can be downloaded from the Prayer Course website as PDFs, or viewed online on a phone, tablet or laptop.
- **A comfortable environment for your group.** As a group leader, take some time to think about the best place to host the Prayer Course. If your group is quite small, a living room could be great. However, if your group is larger, think about a room in your church, or consider a community space.

The most important thing is to create a comfortable atmosphere where people can share openly.

What does a typical session involve?

Each session of the Prayer Course follows the same format. Each session is designed to be one hour long:

- **Introduction:** We encourage you to open in prayer as you start your time together. This doesn't need to be long or well-rehearsed. Simply invite God to be present and ask the Holy Spirit to guide and speak through your time together.
- **Video:** Each video is a teaching session on the week's theme with Pete Greig and Poppy Williams. The videos are between 20-25 minutes long and each video ends in prayer.
- **Discussion:** Each small group study guide contains discussion questions that directly relate to the content of the video. Don't worry if you don't get through all of the questions; the aim is foster good group discussion rather than covering all of the topics.
- **Do it:** Each session of the course finishes with a practical prayer activity that directly relates to the theme. This is a great way to develop different types of prayer as a group, before going away and practising them in your individual contexts.

Are there any tips for group leaders?

Pete Greig gives 5 practical tips on running the Prayer Course in your context:

1. **Lead by example** – Pray for the members of your group throughout the course.
2. **Create a safe environment** – Make the space warm, friendly and hospitable.
3. **Provoke questions** – Where possible, encourage group members to ask and answer questions; don't feel like you have to answer them all!
4. **Just do it** – Remember to make time to actually pray together each week.
5. **Be led by the Holy Spirit** – If your discussion or session goes in a completely direction, don't worry. Just follow what God's saying and doing!

Remember that you don't have to lead the Prayer Course each week. You might like to delegate the small group guides to different members of your small group to run, or team up with different members in your church community to lead together.

What additional resources are there?

The Prayer Course is supported by a number of resources:

- **How to Pray by Pete Greig**, a companion resource which follows the Prayer Course framework and contains insightful stories, recommended reading and resources, and full notation of all Scripture and resources.
- **The Toolshed**, a library of 30 prayer tools to help you in your day to day walk with God. Each Prayer Course session has corresponding prayer tools that will help you as individuals and communities to go deeper in prayer.

Got questions?

Drop us an email: info@prayercourse.org