

Serving Guide: Prayer



The way prayers are led publicly in church has an impact on the nature and shape of Church attendees prayer lives. For this reason it is very important for prayer at church services to be exemplary models of praying. A good model of praying includes far more than just asking God for stuff... it should also include words of adoration about God for His greatness, confession to God for our misgivings and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness because of Jesus. With this in mind, a good model for leading public prayers at WEC is the **A.C.T.S** model:

A = Adoration

This is a prayer where we express our love for God, giving him praise and honor for who he is. **It is critical to always include an adoration prayer in each of our Sunday services because it expresses the heartbeat of our church family – which is the magnification of God's name.** The importance of magnifying God's name needs to be at the forefront of everyone's vision week in and week out and so it is important to pray Adoration prayers each week. Another reason why it is so critical to always include adoration prayers is because Australian culture is very poor at communicating affection to people, let alone to God. Our people do need help to be regularly praying adoration prayers in their lives. A good way to write an adoration prayer is to complete the following sentence: **Heavenly Father, we love you because...**

C = Confession

This is where we pray in a way that honestly admits our sin to our God and explicitly seeks his forgiveness. When you prepare confession prayers be careful to include the language of “**we**” not “**I**”. As the prayer leader, you are leading the congregation in prayer and so it is important to use corporate language to reflect this. Another key aspect to consider when praying prayers of confession is to avoid language that makes excuses. Many prayers of confession are littered with excuses to God as to why we behaved the way we did. We want to avoid such excuse making at WEC and instead have a clear confession of our sins without any self justifications or minimizations. As God clearly does offer full forgiveness to his people, it is important to give people an assurance of the forgiveness of their sins in Christ as part of this prayer. A good way to write a confession prayer is to complete the following sentence: **Heavenly Father, we are sorry because...**

T = Thanksgiving

Verbalize to God what it is you're so grateful for in your life and in the world around you. We are more well practiced at praying thank you prayers, but that does not make it any less important. A good way to write a thanksgiving prayer is to complete the following sentence: **Heavenly Father, we thank you for...**

S = Supplication

These are request prayers, where we pray for the needs of others and ourselves. While there are many things to rightly request God about, the focus of our request prayers changes each Sunday reflecting our “M” purpose areas of Mission, Membership, Maturity, Ministry. A good way to write a supplication prayer is to complete the following sentence: **Heavenly Father, we ask that....**

To help you do this – here is a guideline of things we should regularly be praying for in church. **Please add current events or prayer points from the Church family as necessary.**

1 st Sunday of the month	2 nd Sunday of the month	3 rd Sunday of the month	4 th Sunday of the month	5 th Sunday of the month [when there is one]
<p>1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication [MISSION]:</p> <p>In the supplication prayers focus in on Mission</p> <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our own efforts at evangelism, including 'Jesus-Seriously!?' • Pray for Scripture in schools – both the students and the teachers • AFES – student Ministry at Wagga <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIEC – Singleton evangelical Church (Scott & Wendy Mackenzie) • Pray for the Blairs as they work in student ministry in Sydney through Pioneers • Pray for the Newths in their work with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Arnhem 	<p>1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication [MATURITY]:</p> <p>In the supplication prayers focus in on MATURITY</p> <p>Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we all would take careful responsibility in our own lives to grow in maturity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline in our own prayer and Bible reading habits <p>Bible study groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For leaders to teach and care for the groups as well as they can • For attenders to grow in their walk with God, and for their regular attendance <p>Church wide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for any maturity event that is coming up • Pray for church leaders to lead in godly, wise ways 	<p>1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication [MINISTRY]:</p> <p>In the supplication prayers focus in on MINISTRY</p> <p>Hearts of people serving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people were serve out of a love for God rather than out of a sense of mere duty • That people would grow in sacrificial service and work together with others in our church family to serve our great God <p>Prayer for some specific Ministry teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids ministry • Music ministry • Sound • Set up, pack up • Youth group • Computer • Morning tea <p><i>(Speak to Director of</i></p>	<p>1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication [MEMBERSHIP]:</p> <p>In the supplication prayers focus in on MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>New comers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask that God would bring many new people to WEC. Pray that they would connect quickly with WEC and find WEC a place where they grow in Christ <p>Regulars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for our regular church family members who are in great need – grieving people, sick people, out of work people, pregnant people etc. • Pray for the ongoing closeness of our church family life together. That we would express our love for each other in real and genuine heartfelt ways. <p><i>(Speak to Tim Flint for any</i></p>	<p>1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication [ADMINISTRATION/GOVERNANCE]:</p> <p>In the supplication prayers focus in on ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>WEC Admin & Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration committee, who look after the legal and financial responsibilities of the church • Pastoral Staff team, as they seek to set and lead our church family with godly vision <p>Thank God for generosity of peoples giving, and pray for continued faithfulness in giving out of generous hearts.</p> <p>Those in leadership in different</p>

<p>Land.</p> <p>International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Local Leader International (LLI) and the students we support at Madras Theological College and Union College Theological College in Lebanon. <p><i>(Speak to Dave Shannon or a member from the Mission Team for specific updates for any of our Mission partners)</i></p>	<p>for growth</p> <p><i>(Speak to Dave Shannon for any specific prayers in relation to Maturity vision, plans, goals etc.)</i></p>	<p><i>Magnification or Pastoral staff for any specific prayers in relation to Ministry vision, plans, goals etc)</i></p>	<p><i>specific prayers in relation to Membership vision, plans, goals etc)</i></p>	<p>capacities across our country:</p> <p>Prayer for those in authority (politicians – federal, state and local)</p> <p><i>(Speak to Tim Flint or Nicole Russell for any specific prayers in relation to specific Administration/Governance)</i></p>
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