

# Prayer and Compassion Ministry

## Teaching Guide

**Purpose:** To encourage compassion ministry leaders to build their lives and their ministries on a foundation of prayer.

### Key Scriptures:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- James 5:16b
- Colossians 1:9
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1
- Colossians 4:2 – 3
- Mark 11:24
- Ephesians 3:20 – 21

### Preparation:

1. Read Key Scriptures.
2. Make needed copies of the *Listening Guide* (available at [www.compassioncoalition.org](http://www.compassioncoalition.org)).
3. Secure needed number of pens or pencils for participants use in completing the *Listening Guide* and taking notes.
4. Prepare scripture verse strips needed in I.A.
5. Secure nametags for all participants. Do not assume everyone knows everyone. Also secure markers to use with the nametags.
6. Secure a copy of the **Prayer and Compassion Ministry** video.
7. Arrange for the necessary equipment to show the video.
8. Setup the training room for small groups of 4-5 participants. Round tables or chairs arranged in a circle will work best.

### Teaching Plan:

#### I. Introduction (large group)

- A. Please read (or ask several class members) several different Bible versions of 2 Chronicles 7:14. *[Note: To conserve time, we recommend you place Scripture verses on small strips of paper and hand out to selected students. See Appendix A]*

- B. Discuss the following phrases in 2 Chronicles 7:14. *[Note: Optional. Use, if time allows.]*
1. "...which are called by My name..." What does this mean to you?
  2. "...humble themselves, and pray..." What does this mean to you?
  3. "...seek my face..." What does this mean to you?
  4. "...turn from their wicked ways..." What does this mean to you?
  5. "...will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." What does this mean for both your community and you?

## II. Prayer and Compassion Ministry Video (large group)

*[Note: Distribute copies of the Listening Guide (available at [www.compassioncoalition.org](http://www.compassioncoalition.org)) and encourage participants to take notes as they view the video. See Appendix B for the Listening Guide Responses.]*

Show the *Prayer and Compassion Ministry* video.

## III. Discussion of Four Steps (small groups)

*[Note: Following are the key points mentioned in the video. If you have limited time, we recommend you discuss the one or two most pertinent questions below (or write your own) pertaining to each key point. Each step below requires group discussion to most fully develop and appreciate the step.]*

- A. Discuss Step One: Individual Prayer. (James 5:16b)
1. What is the focus of your individual prayer time?
  2. What has worked for you in maintaining a consistent prayer time?
  3. Give an example of when your prayer time has been very meaningful.
- B. Discuss Step Two: Personal Prayer Time (Colossians 1:9).
1. How could a personal prayer team be beneficial to you?
  2. Who are some people you would like to serve on your personal prayer team?
  3. Give an example of how a personal prayer team could be a support to you.
- C. Discuss Step Three: Ministry Prayer Team (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
1. What ministries are you involved in that should have a prayer team?
  2. Who would be good people for your ministry prayer team?
  3. Give an example of how a prayer team could benefit your ministry?

- D. Discuss Step Four: Prayer within the Ministry (Colossians 4:2 – 3).
1. How can you incorporate meaningful prayer into your ministry?
  2. How can prayer make a difference in your ministry?
  3. Give an example of how prayer could benefit those to whom you minister?
- E. Discuss In Summary (Mark 11:24).
1. When in your daily routine do you have opportunities for dialogue with God? (e.g. driving to and from work, lunch)
  2. What can you do to improve your dialogue with God?
  3. Give an example of what you might dialogue with God about during your daily routine.

#### **IV. Closing (small groups)**

Conclude the class session with small group prayer by practicing (1) hearing from God, (2) reflecting on what you hear, and then (3) speaking to God. *[Note: Ask participants to leave quietly after their small group prayer time. Encourage participants to use this approach in their individual prayer times in the future.]*

#### **Follow-up (optional future meeting):**

If possible, schedule a time for the group to come back together in a week or two to discuss and evaluate the progress on the above commitment. *[Note: Encourage participants to use this approach in their individual prayer times.]*

#### **Recommended Resources:**

- The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life by Charles Spurgeon. 1993. Emerald Books.
- How to Worship Jesus Christ by Joseph S. Carroll. 1984. Moody Press.
- The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer. 1990. Baker Books.
- Prayer by O.Hallesby. 1994. Augsburg Publishing House.

## **Appendix A**

### **2 Chronicles 7:14**

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (KJV)

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (NKJV)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (NIV)

And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (NASB)

And my people, my God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I'll be there ready for you: I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. (MSG)

If they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again. (GNB)

## Appendix B

### Listening Guide Responses

#### **Introduction** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

- a) “Prayer is the very beat of the compassionate heart... To pray for others means to make them part of ourselves.” Nouwen, McNeill, Morrison, *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*
- b) “At the heart of prayer is the focus on God. If it’s not you’re missing it. And if you focus on Him that focus will conduct you into His presence. And if you live in His presence, you’re going to work hard, but have a lot of fun.” David Moore, Pastor, Hope Christian Fellowship

#### **Step One: Individual Prayer** (James 5:16b)

- a) Intercessory prayer is wonderful prayer.
- b) In my daily walk, I can pray all day.
- c) I get to see the joy of God answering those prayers.

#### **Step Two: Personal Prayer Team** (Colossians 1:9)

- a) Before I added a personal prayer team to my life, I felt a lack of power and a sense of ineffectiveness in my personal prayer life.
- b) I know the Holy Spirit is working because of their influence, support, and encouragement.
- c) It’s like God comes down and wraps His arms around me on a daily basis.

### **Step Three: Ministry Prayer Team** (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

- a) The prayer team prays for more volunteers.
- b) Don't get started in the ministry God has called you to without enlisting the prayer team first.
- c) God will open doors beyond belief.

### **Step Four: Prayer within the Ministry** (Colossians 4:2-3)

- a) We learned very early how vital it was to pray for the people who were coming to our food pantry.
- b) We pray for those who work in our food pantry that they will feel the presence and power of the Lord in this place.
- c) They not only left with bread for their body, but bread for their soul.

### **In Summary** (Mark 11:24)

- a) Prayer is that on-going dialogue, like the waterfall that you have seen in this video.
- b) We hear first from Him, we reflect, and then we speak back to Him.
- c) Prayer is everything we need at the heart of our lives.

### **Conclusion** (Ephesians 3:20-21)



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The **Prayer and Compassion Ministry** video is available in DVD, VHS, and audio CD formats. Videos may be ordered from the Compassion Coalition office located in Knoxville, Tennessee.

(865) 251-1591 [resources@compassioncoalition.org](mailto:resources@compassioncoalition.org)

This Teaching Guide and the companion Listening Guide may be downloaded from the Compassion Coalition website [www.compassioncoalition.org](http://www.compassioncoalition.org).