

Circle Outline on the Power of Prayer and Prayer Couples

The purpose of this evening is to remind couples of the power of prayer and to encourage all encountered couples to say YES to the ministry of prayer couple.

Needed: Candle, Prayer cards, Prayer couple Trifolds

TIME: 30 minutes

The Call to Prayer

H or W

1. Remind couples that prayer is one of the tools we learned on the weekend for keeping our relationship a priority.

A. Share how prayer allows us to communicate with God and that it should be a key part of our Sacrament of Marriage.

B. Share what prayer does for your relationship.

C. Reintroduce Couple Prayer

D. End with Matthew 18:20 “When two or three are gathered in my name I am there among them.”

Other Spouse

2. Reinforce the power of Couple Prayer

A. Give a simple explanation of Scripture Dialogue as another way to develop couple prayer

B. Read John 14:12-14

C. Remind couples that Jesus himself told us to ask the Father in His name. He wants us to know that Prayer has Power

Modern Day Apostles

H or W

1. Share on the fact that we are all gifted. Use 1Corinthians 12: 5-7.

A. We are all gifted for the benefit of the community.

B. Remind them of the call to be modern day apostles.

1) Share ways that we do that

2. Challenge them to look for ways they are being called.

Other Spouse

2. Remind them that Prayer is a gift we have all been given

A. Share that becoming a prayer couple is one way to live out the call

B. Invite the couples to write down one or two feeling words that answer the question

HDIF when I learned that a couple was praying just for us as we made our weekend?

C. Ask each person to share one feeling word and then briefly summarize the importance of those feelings.

D. Share the importance of prayer couples not just to the weekend but also to the community.

Responsibilities of a Prayer Couple

H and W

1. Cover some of the prayer couple responsibilities and joys.

2. Challenge the couples to answer the call.

Dialogue 10 & 10: HDIF about accepting the call to be a WWME prayer couple?

Small group sharing: Recall your thoughts & feelings on your weekend when you were told that you had a prayer couple praying specifically for you and for your relationship. DILD

OR.. How do you feel the power of prayer at work in your lives? HDIFAT?

SAMPLE TALK

The call to prayer

CHRIS: On the weekend when we learned the tools for keeping our relationship a priority we heard that the third tool we use in our sacramental life is prayer. Prayer is a way of being more present to God. It's our chance to communicate with God and is just as intertwined in our Sacrament of Marriage as eating and drinking are with life. God accompanies us on our sacramental journey. Prayer provides the strength we need when we're discouraged by our failures in loving each other as we should. I'm able to see what I consider bad situations in a new light when I look through Jesus' eyes. I believe that it is prayer that helps us rise from the ashes of disillusionment. Before our weekend we each had our own prayer lives, but with time prayer has become part of who we are as a couple. It wasn't that hard to make the change from completely separate prayer lives to couple prayer. We started out by praying for each other. In the morning Darla asks me how she can pray for me that day and I do the same. Knowing that I am being lifted to the Father's presence is life-giving. Once that became a habit we began to share prayer time before we went to bed. Sometimes we held hands and prayed in silence or said an Our Father together. Now we pray as a couple for our needs and the needs of friends and family. Matthew 18:20 says "When two or three are gathered in my name I am there among them."

DARLA: Where two or three are gathered... When ever I hear that it reminds me that couple prayer creates a Trinity ...after all we are two and God in our midst makes three. When we pray as a couple, we come before God in unity of hearts and minds. In couple prayer, "My God" is "Our God." We know that for us couple prayer has not only brought us closer to God but also to each other as we become more aware of the graces that God gives us. We also started doing some Scripture dialogues. We would read a scripture passage out loud and then write to the question "How do I feel when I hear this passage?"

This allowed us to share thoughts and feelings on God's word and we found that our dialogue led naturally into a shared prayer.

In John 14:12-14 Jesus says "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it." Jesus says that if we believe in Him we can do great works like him and then he tells us to ask in His name. He wanted us to realize that Prayer has power!

Modern Day Apostles

CHRIS: When Jesus called his disciples he looked for a variety of gifts. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 12: 5-7 he says, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

I believe that this scripture is a reminder that many gifts make a weekend happen. On the weekend everyone is called to be a modern day apostle- Not by the team, but by God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Wow! So how do we do that? We know we all have different gifts and so we all have different ways to live out this call. And it shouldn't be that hard.

We can all start by living the radical lifestyle we heard about on the weekend in a way that makes the power of our sacrament visible to others. This is all about the daily decisions we make to love and be loved.

Once we do that it follows that we should make inviting a part of our lives so that others will make the weekend and hear the Good News about how to live out their Sacrament.

Take a look at the gifts you have been given and then in prayer ask God how you can use those gifts in the WWME movement.

DARLA: One gift we believe each of us has by virtue of our belief in Jesus is the Power of Prayer. Chris and I believe that the work that God does on our weekends happens as a result of that power. We want to invite you to become Prayer couples. This is an incredible way to live out your call to be a modern day apostle.

Right now, we would ask you each to write down one or two feeling words to answer the question, HDIF when I learned that a couple was praying just for us as we made our weekend? (pause) Now we invite you to share one word with the group. It doesn't matter if it has already been said. (Go around the room asking everyone to share one word. Comment briefly/summarize the feeling words you heard.)

Just listening to those words we feel blessed by the gift of the couples who prayed for you. We believe that prayer couples are integral not only to the success of the weekend but also to the growth of our community. When we made our WWME weekend, we all saw 20, 25, or 30 couples sitting there at the weekend with us. What many of us didn't realize until Sunday was that each couple was accompanied spiritually by another couple – their prayer couple. When prayer letters are passed out and read on Sunday of the weekend the impact of knowing that someone prayed for just them has a profound effect on the weekend couples. In fact, when the team tells them about the power of prayer that has been with them throughout the weekend, they see the impact on the faces of the couples even before they receive their letters. If you could see the power that your prayers have on a weekend you would be amazed. It is through the power of your prayers that God gifts each couple with the grace needed to reach out to one another in new ways throughout the weekend.

We know that prayer couples are vital missionaries in our movement. Their prayers coupled with God's grace carry the weekend couples through disillusionment to joy.

Every weekend there is a need for Prayer Couples and those who answer that call change lives. Although being a prayer couple has some responsibilities, it brings incredible joy to those who answer the call.

CHRIS and DARLA:

Some of the prayer couple responsibilities are to:

- Write a prayer support letter to your couple/priest, make sure that the letter is received by the facility couple before the weekend. (You could volunteer to help with bag drag on Friday night so you could meet your couple and put faces to the names you will pray for.)
- Keep your couple/priest in your thoughts & prayers during the weekend. We have a trifold that we will give you to help with that.
- Attend the Sing Out on Sunday afternoon (4 PM), and present the candle that the community has purchased for them. (Remember right before Mass they heard about the WWME community and your presence now is what can make that community real to the Sunday night couple/priest.
- Offer to accompany your couple to the Weekend Reunion. (We have been inviting local community couples to attend the reunions, because you make community come alive)
- Welcome, guide, and mentor your couple into joining community. Remember we do not live in relationship alone. We need the love and support of couples who share our values.

When prayer couples take these responsibilities to heart, their love leads weekend couples into community and we all know that it is community that supports us and helps us to live out our call to be sacrament in the world.

Dialogue 10 & 10: HDo or Did IF about accepting the call to be a WWME prayer couple?

Small group sharing: Recall your thoughts & feelings on your weekend when you were told that you had a prayer couple praying specifically for you and for your relationship.

DFILD

OR..

How do you feel the power of prayer at work in your lives?