

Instructions for THE PRAYER TOOL - A Spiritual Discipline of Preventive Grace

How do we farm our neighborhood and facilitate a harvest of new disciples? The Prayer Tool is one method.

I. Preliminary Steps in Using the Prayer Tool. (JUMP Groups or Neil Cole's *Life Transformation Groups*)

The first step in disciple making is this: BE ONE. Only mature Christians can make disciples!

It's necessary to practice what we preach. Therefore:

Step 1. Begin by renewing your commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Centering Prayer.)

Step 2. Begin reading the New Testament systematically. (Participate in a class.)

Step 3. Choose a partner and begin asking your *focus questions* on a weekly basis. (Serve on a Team)

Step 4. PRAY DAILY. Choose one person to pray for daily for one year (Month By Month Option).

Jesus chose his disciples ... he called them by name ... you will need to choose yours. The purpose of your prayer is that they would encounter Jesus Christ, find forgiveness and become followers of Jesus Christ. (You are praying that they become a disciple, not that they would join or support your institutional church.)

Step 5. SEE WEEKLY. Choose someone whom you will see weekly to ask how they are.

Choose someone with whom you have a kinship and common interests. (If you do not see them weekly they are probably not in your personal network. You will have little influence in their lives.)

Don't worry about content - what you say. Just have a conversation. *Conversations change lives.*

Understand the Diffusion of Innovations communication reality: 84% of people can only be reached through conversations in the context of a positive peer relationship.

Step 6. INVITE MONTHLY. Choose someone you would be willing to invite monthly to something, spending time together and building a relationship. *What events (other than worship) inside the church would make a good choice to deepen a relationship? What events could your church begin to offer? What events outside the church would make a good choice to deepen a relationship?*

Step 7. Do not invite them to worship! Worship alone does not build relationships that make disciples; worship really isn't a social event. Invite them to a small group or fellowship event instead of worship. If someone begins to participate in the small groups of a Discipleship System, it is inevitable that they will eventually attend worship. Worship does not make disciples.

Step 8. Compatibility. Choose someone with whom you would be willing to be spiritual partners. It is pointless to populate your list with people you would not willingly eat with, have in your home or participate with in a weekly discipleship accountability group. (Such as a JUMP Group!)

Step 9. When they are interested in moving to the next corner in the Four Cornered Room, help them.

Until then, continue to practice the Prayer Tool and maintain a healthy spiritual relationship. The Great Commission calls us not only to make disciples but to teach them toward spiritual maturity. This cannot be delegated; if they become disciples, they are your responsibility. **Watch for readiness to make a transition to the next corner.**

Step 10. Keep in touch with them on an ongoing basis. Don't abandon the children on the doorsteps of the church! Baby Christians should never be orphans!

Step 11. EVALUATE ANNUALLY each name on your prayer list after 12 months of prayer and conversation (Luke 13:9). *Have they borne fruit and become disciples? Is it the will of the Lord Jesus that you continue to pray and network with them? Or is it the will of the Lord Jesus that you release them and choose another name?*