

SHARING SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER AT CCM COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Reflecting Christ's Love: Faithful Presence Through Word and Prayer

Be Thoughtful and Welcoming

- Begin the program with a warm and friendly welcome that sets an open, relaxed, and inviting atmosphere. As part of this welcome, intentionally acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit—inviting Him to guide our time together. This not only helps participants feel at ease but also frames the gathering as spiritually grounded, reminding us that we come together in fellowship and faith.
- Briefly explain why you're sharing scripture or prayer, emphasizing that our hope, encouragement, peace, and sense of community are rooted in Jesus Christ. By pointing to Him as the source of our strength and comfort, we keep our message Christ-centred while offering spiritual encouragement to those we're serving.

Keep it Short and Accessible

- Share short scripture passages (one or two verses) that connect well to daily experiences and common community themes:
 - Friendship and belonging
 - Compassion and kindness
 - Strength during challenges
 - Joy and gratitude
- Consider easy-to-understand translations or contemporary paraphrases for clarity and accessibility (e.g., NIV, NLT, The Message).

Use Inclusive Language

- Choose language that respects diverse backgrounds and varying degrees of familiarity with Christianity.
- Avoid overly religious jargon or terminology that may create barriers.
- Frame prayers as invitations rather than assumptions (e.g., "Feel free to join us," or "If you're comfortable, please join me in a prayer or quiet reflection").



Make Connections to Real-Life Themes

- When sharing scripture, briefly relate it to something relevant and meaningful to the community group or theme of the event.
- Example: During Coffee & Conversation, share scriptures that emphasize friendship and encouragement (e.g., Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Prayer as Community-Building

- Offer prayer as a simple, sincere, conversational moment rather than formal or lengthy.
- Pray for practical, relatable community needs such as wellness, safety, friendship, strength during difficult times, or thankfulness for community connections.
- Encourage attendees to share prayer requests or themes they feel comfortable with beforehand.

Engage Others

- When appropriate, invite group members to read a scripture passage or offer a brief prayer or reflection.
- Encouraging community participation fosters ownership, engagement, and a deeper sense of belonging.

Combine Scripture with Music or Creative Activities

- Utilize music, poetry, inspirational quotes, or visual aids that reinforce the message of scripture and prayer themes.
- Activities such as group singing, poetry reading, or guided reflection enhance the experience and encourage participation.

Be Sensitive and Respectful

- Understand the program's attendees may come from various faith backgrounds or none at all. Always offer spiritual moments respectfully, gently, and graciously.
- Provide alternatives for those who prefer silent reflection or who may opt-out quietly without discomfort.

Close with Encouragement and Blessing

- End scripture and prayer moments by affirming community, fellowship, and hope.
- Example blessings:
 - “May we leave encouraged by each other’s company and strengthened by God’s presence.”
 - “May the peace and comfort of God remain with each of us as we go.”

