

Consultation and Seminar Topics
A Ministry to pastors, congregations and prayer Leaders
Curriculum Options¹
Offered by Alive Ministries: Project Pray
P. Douglas Small

SCHOOLS OF PRAYER

Doug does a number of ‘full-day’ Schools of Prayer. Some of these schools are ‘content’ schools, with a focus on learning. Some are ‘doing prayer’ schools, with a focus on experiencing prayer. And some are for prayer leaders.

Learning Schools

SCHOOLS WITH BOOKS/SUPPORT MATERIALS

- ✚ **The Prayer Closet** – Book and participant handout, Power Point and e-leader’s guide [No workbook or study guide]. 12 chapter/week study that examines the biblical idea of a prayer closet, the teaching of Jesus, the prayer closet as a wedding canopy (Jewish roots), and as rising out of the Garden of Eden. Practical ideas and models for prayer are included.
- ✚ **The Great Exchange** – Book and participant guide given at the seminar with registration; study guide with group-it component included; PowerPoint, 12 video sessions, e-Leader’s Guide. The is an expository exploration of the idea of ‘prayer requests’ and why God offers the privilege. The context of joy and peace, and the essence of the passage, is that of witness. God offers a trade – He will bear our burdens so that we can carry his ‘weighty chabod, His glory.”
- ✚ **Prayer – the Heart of it All** - Book and participant guide given at the seminar with registration; study guide with group-it component included; PowerPoint, 12 video sessions, e-Leader’s Guide. This 12-chapter/week study is a great overview of prayer. It is laced with practical resources. It journeys through establishing a basic understanding of prayer; then addressing personal and family prayer; the church as a house of prayer; intercessory prayer and prayer evangelism; and finally, longing for a ‘great awakening.’

In each of the above cases – the SCHOOL OF PRAYER INTRODUCES a 6/12 Week Study on Prayer – Sunday School, Wednesday Night Study, Preaching/Teaching series, Discipleship Classes, etc.

We want to move beyond EVENTS to engage the congregation in a LEARNING/CHANGE Process.

¹ This is not an exhaustive, but representative list of topics available from Alive Ministries for those who want Doug to speak at a conference on prayer, family life or leadership! Or, for those who are building their own seminar for a weekend experience.

Each sponsoring church gets a complimentary TEACHING KIT. Each participant gets a BOOK and a participant guide, not the STUDY GUIDE – that can be acquired. Additional books and study guides are available to campus churches for 50% off, up to six months following the school

The Schools below have NOT YET been committed to book and learning kit forms, but are still available.

- ✚ **Enriching Your Personal Prayer Life** – Basic principles for building a personal prayer life including prayer as communion, petition and intercession, all wrapped in thanksgiving.
- ✚ **Praying Thru the Tabernacle** – A prayer journey using the model of the tabernacle of Moses and each piece of furniture as a stepping stone into the presence of God.
- ✚ **Intercession and Spiritual Gifts** – A review of the basics of intercession with a focus on the relationship between the motivational gifts of Romans and the manifestation gifts of Corinthians.
- ✚ **Heaven is a Courtroom** – An uncommon view of prayer using a courtroom analogy to teach the process of petition and how to draw upon the resources and provisions left us in the estate of Christ.

Prayer Experience Schools

- ✚ **The Prayer Advance** – A relationship prayer and worship experience with no set schedule, just a time of seeking the face of God upon personal transformation and renewal.
- ✚ **Prayer Missions** – After instruction in the three components of instruction, experience and debriefing, participants are released for prayer walks or prayer missions with a result of new harvest eyes for the community.

Leadership Schools

- ✚ **Prayer Leadership Training Seminar** – Includes the topics of theology of prayer, philosophy of a prayer ministry and the 4-dimensional model of building a leadership team.
- ✚ **Transforming Your Church into a House of Prayer** – A seminar for the Prayer Leadership Team of a local church. Can involve a number of congregational prayer leadership teams. It is difficult to complete in a day, impossible in half-a-day. It is best in a 3-day, 2-night leadership retreat context. It is a school in which round-table discussions and task-teams are ideally employed.
- ✚ **Leading Relationship Prayer Experiences** – An in-depth training event designed to teach those who have attended a prayer summit to lead an event in their church.

PRAYER TOPICS

Theology and Philosophy for Prayer Ministry: So you have decided to place a greater emphasis on prayer in your congregation. What does that mean? More opportunities for prayer requests? An additional prayer service? How does a church develop a balanced prayer ministry? Is there a difference between merely adding new prayer activities and creating a culture of prayer? This session provides the philosophical underpinning for a sound and balanced approach to prayer.

The Leaders, the Church, the City: Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, to do it, and to teach it. Doug traces the movement of revival from the heart of Ezra – to a city-wide awakening. And then examines what a ‘praying church’ – one structured to foster and sustain renewal – looks like. He ends with a focus on the lost next door. Meant to be a quick introduction to the idea of the church as a ‘house of prayer’, the focus is on the individual as the nexus of revival, and on prayer in the church as missional. One of the most requested messages on prayer.

Prayer Requests: *Finding the Fault Lines of the Heart under Needs* – One of the overlooked factors in “presenting our needs” to God is the way pressing needs affect our witness. There is an inter-relationship between these two that is often completely neglected. Doug explores the petitionary dimension of prayer in this teaching session. He offers practical insight for processing our prayer needs. Great teaching resource.

Organizing and Directing Intercessors: No prayer process is complete without the specific identification of and mobilization of intercessors. In this session, Doug talks about the role of the intercessors, the five key steps to take with intercessors – identify, train, team, deploy and debrief). He provides practical help in caring for intercessors.

Entertaining God: Abraham sat in the tent door and saw three men – angels all. He raced to them and pleaded that he be allowed to host them by providing dinner for them. In those moments, God finally broke the barrenness of Sarah. He confirmed generational blessing. He intimated that to Abraham – and perhaps to us – he would whisper secrets. God does nothing unless he first reveals it to his servants, the prophets. In the final movement of the chapter, Abraham is pleading for the salvation of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Prayer is the means by which God wakes up intercessors for cities facing impending judgment. “God governs,” Wesley said, “by the prayers of His people!”

The Critical Strategic Uncomfortable Middle: This is the heart of intercession. It is the place Jesus came to secure. It is the cross. It is the point between heaven and earth, between God and lost men, between light and darkness. To this place, we have been called. We, however, prefer the end – the place of blessing with no further obligation. God wants us in the middle. A powerful message. A unique understanding of the role and power of intercession.

The All-Church Prayer Meeting: How do you hold an effective prayer gathering? Doug offers suggestions for conducting an all-church prayer gathering. In addition, he

provides information about prayer groups and their effectiveness. Prayer styles and the implications of content are explored. Models are examined.

The Power of Prayer Missions/Prayer Walks: Far too many people see prayer walking and prayer missions as gimmicky. Is it more? How do we read a city? How do we sense and see more than the obvious? More than the physical condition and characteristics visible only to our eyes? How do we sense the spiritual climate in which we live, often unconsciously? And, more practically, is it possible that the low level of motivation in our churches toward mission can will only come alive when we stand in the middle of the city and prayer? And when we do – does God act in different ways? What power and effect does such prayer have?

The Seven Elements of a Solemn Assembly: Gleaning from eight specially called solemn assemblies in the Old Testament, Doug notes the common elements and places them into a catalytic blueprint for spiritual awakening. The session is one-part principle and one-part prayer. It is a template that pastors may choose to use with their own congregations.

The II Chronicles 7:14 Prayer Experience: Many people are familiar with the prayer themes of II Chronicles 7:14. Doug calls it the ‘wild-card’ for national renewal. When neither king (executive branch), priest (representative branch) or judge (judicial branch) of government is willing to call the nation to repentance, only a grass-roots, bubble-up prayer effort, grounded in humility and repentance can change us. This prayer experience is part teaching and part litany, structured with unstructured moments.

Common Mistakes in Prayer Ministry: Doug shares his perspective on the most common mistakes congregations make when they begin a prayer ministry! Examples of the things he covers in this session include – a shallow theology of prayer, prayer as a added program among others, a leaderless movement, short-term thinking, failures with intercessors, failing to turn prayer outward. This is a stretching workshop – not for the faint hearted.

Spending An Hour with God: Here is a simple workshop based on principles of intimacy from the Song of Solomon – an intoxicating passion, a place for intimacy with God, a daily rendezvous, time in the Word, unhurried seasons in prayer. Laced into the principles are practical suggestions for spending an hour with God in prayer daily. Motivational. Inspirational.

Uncovering Prayer’s DNA: Prayer is simple – like the human cell. Prayer is complex – like the human cell. It’s contradictory. It’s easy! In this riveting experience, Doug unwraps what he calls prayer’s core – communion with God, petition, and intercession, all wrapped in thanksgiving. He provides some basic models for prayer. In the end, the participant is given an idea along with tools to begin the process of creating a more effective personal prayer life.

Making the Church a House of Prayer: There are three kinds of churches – those that pray in crisis, those with a prayer ministry, and those who seek to bring prayer to the heart of all they do! This workshop focuses on the basics of being a house of prayer – a 3-5 year process. Here the goal is not to add prayer options, but to change the very culture of the church to a praying church.

The Congregational Prayer Group Ministry: In this two-part workshop, Doug takes a church into the nuts and bolts of the prayer group ministry. He says every church should have a “church-wide” prayer service. And out of that, should emerge smaller focused prayer groups, each taking smaller and more specific prayer needs and causes. He talks about the dangers and dividends of prayer groups. Why do some prayer groups succeed and others fail? What does a prayer group do? How do they function effectively? At the heart of prayer groups are always intercessors. Most churches have never identified their intercessors, trained or teamed them, directed or debriefed them. Here are some practical ideas about mobilizing intercessors and lacing them into the heart of the prayer ministry itself. A really powerful set of workshops.

Praying Scripture: A simple session drawn from the larger seminar, “Enriching Your Personal Prayer Life!” Beginning with a reflective listening experience out of Scripture, Doug moves forward by identifying Psalms of Order, Disorder and a New Order. He suggests that we must learn to discern our seasons. An illuminating workshop.

The Great Commitment, the Great commandment and the Great Commission: We often detach the Great Commission and see it as a stand-alone matter. Doug argues that the Great Commission is non-negotiable, and yet impossible to fulfill apart from the Great Commandment. That commandment is at the heart of the Great Commission. And yet that cannot be fulfilled without the Great Commitment – prayer! This is a three-fold cord – prayer, care and sharing the gospel. The mission will fail unless we intertwine all three.

Reading the City: How do you read a city? What are the characteristics of a city under spiritual assault? Living in a Christian nation which is turning pagan, we have to learn to read the signs of the spiritual siege. And we have to learn the principles that work against such a spiritual siege and promise breakthrough. This workshop is often given as preparation for the prayer mission seminar – or in cases where a group of people are preparing to undergo extensive prayer walking.

CITY MOVEMENTS

The Power of Unity in a City: How many churches are there in your city? The answer is the same in every city. The answer is – one. There is one church, one true church, in the city. The only division allowable is geographic. There may be many congregations, but there is only one church. The greatest hindrance to a great awakening may be our division. How do we come together. How can we work through

our differences. Doug offers models for understanding, not only the church *ecclesia* (gathered), but also the church *disapora* (scattered).

Casting Vision for a City-Wide Movement: *“Intimacy with Christ (individually) and a visitation of God upon His people are conjoined – both aim ultimately at a fresh touch of God in heaven-sent revival resulting in widespread evangelization and a change in society!”* The present effort of the church is characterized by *competitive models* which only destabilize the Church and result in the movement of members from one church to another. Ministers are pastoring congregations but *no one is pastoring the city*. Jesus wept over a divided city – *over sheep without a shepherd*. The churches of a community must find a way to come together for the sake of the crumbling culture! *Prayer is the simplest, yet the most powerfully unifying experience that we can share!* In prayer, God catalyzes our unity – and begins the process of learning what it means to be “the Church of the City.”

If you want a city-wide revival ... you must have a city-wide Church! (Joe Aldrich)

PASTORS/LEADERS

Perimeters of Control: A hard-hitting presentation about the moral and spiritual condition of today’s pastors – the compromise, the moral failure rates. Such realities are combined with a visual and powerful plea to establish “perimeters of control.” Practical advice is offered as well along with Biblical insight. A riveting presentation.

The Stages of Ministry: Borrowing concepts adapted from Robert Clinton, Doug lays out the call the ministry as a lifetime, not a task. So many pastors see their ministry as a series of appointments and pastorates and not a life of service. The difference may explain the 90% ministerial career drop-out rate. The failure to see life and ministry as a building experience with the great pay-off in the seasoned years causes many to opt-out early for a different career. A compelling look at the stages a minister goes through in kingdom service.

The Servant Heart: There has been a great deal of attention to “servant leadership.” This session is somewhat unique. It examines the four key Greek words for servant, and then their relationship one with another – the relationship to the organization, to authority, to the work itself and then the spirit of the work – characterized by “*doulos*”. The bond-servant heart is to be at the heart of ministry. Sadly, the work is often placed at the center – teaching, preaching, singing, serving. When a person’s work is thwarted, crisis develops. A true servant serves Christ, in the church, under authority doing some task – a task which is never as important as the spirit in which that task must be completed.

Critical Assumptions in Launching a Church-Wide Prayer Ministry: Prayer must not be treated as a “have to” exercise! Any lasting revival is birthed in prayer and sustained in prayer. Pastors and leaders must guard the perimeters of their heart for the

sake of the Church and cause of God in and through the Church. Balance in personal prayer is critical. Intercessors must be engaged especially to pray for the lost, for the unsaved. And yet, neither prayer or witnessing are enough to connect with the world around you. Mobilizing prayer throughout the city! Keep your witness positive. Keep prayer groups focused! Be persistent. Don't give up!

FAMILY LIFE

Affair –Proofing Your Marriage: Doug looks at the four Greek words for love and relates them to different love needs necessary to sustain a healthy marriage. He suggests that marriage is another “womb” in which we are now doing our most vital development – growing to be like Christ. A lack of love creates a need state and the resulting deprivation sometimes leads to meet those needs outside the marriage, thus double-bonding (adultery) or unchecked, toxic attitudes accumulate that send the marriage in the direction of divorce (a miscarriage). A practical and eye-opening session on balanced love and affair proofing a marriage.

The Power of a Father's Faithfulness: A ground-breaking generational study shows the simple power of a father's faithfulness in church attendance, and how that is replicated in the next generation. Small says, “This is politically incorrect. It shows the disproportionate influence of the father's faith compared to that of the mother.” The Swiss study follows the church attendance habits of children whose fathers were faithful church attenders, those who attended irregularly or not all, and that in light of the mother's church attendance pattern. The father's influence in generation faith pattern imprinting is huge.

The Marriage Life Cycle: Reviewing data from more than 10,000 marriages, Doug looks at the seven stages of family life. He also introduces the five stages of marriage. In both models, he notes that marriage happiness levels have a tendency to droop in the mid-years of marriage. Many couples give up hope then, and sadly forfeit the rich years of marriage in the mature years. “You can never heal a marriage that you are in the process of backing out of,” he says. The session is engaging, humorous at times, and in the end compelling. This is the first session in the Enriching the Christian Marriage Seminar.

Forgiveness – Its liberating power: There are five principles in Matthew 18 for dealing with conflict. This simple but forceful look at the “Jesus-way” to resolve conflict ends with a discussion on forgiveness! The five principles are – first, a capacity for change. Jesus calls it conversion! Second, posturing with openness. Third, choosing to see things differently, do things differently. Fourth, the value of the one! Fifth, learning the really important – hearing, not being heard.

Anger: Anger rises out of unmet needs. Its three major causes are fear, hurt or frustration. Fear is possible only in the absence of faith. And faith withers when we disconnect from a sense of God's loving presence. Frustration is our attempt to control

the uncontrollable, to do what only God can do. Hurt is healed by God – debt collecting offers little healing. When anger is unresolved, it degenerates to hostility, then to hate, and finally to a murderous spirit. Doug draws from the struggle between Cain and Abel to suggest resolution. A powerful workshop when combined with the talk on forgiveness.

Principles for Raising Kids the Bible Way: This is a verse-by-verse study of Ephesians 6:1-4. As Doug unwraps the principles of “nurture and admonition” he ties them to a generation University study on parenting – and then to the very nature of Father God Himself. The University study looked for four characteristics in children – a positive self-image, a disposition that responds positively to authority, integration of the faith and values of their parents, and resistance to social differentiation! Four parenting styles are described – authoritative, permissive, neglectful and authoritarian. The most effective of these styles balance higher levels of love and limits. The least effective offered little love or obscured love in excessive limits.

Submission in a Partnership Marriage: Submission is dirty word in a free-wheeling culture – but it describes the relationship of Christ to the Father, and of the Church to Christ. Doug helps parse the old fashioned terms in favor of a Biblical marriage, yet one that embraces equality of value and mutuality in function. A fascinating study – one the liberal members of the your congregation will talk about for a long time! Tasteful. Humorous. Engaging. Convincing. Surprises for all.

Freedom and Unity: In our culture, unity – especially in marriage – is set against the loss of freedom. Doug disagrees, saying the true opposite of unity is fragmentation, and the opposite of freedom is force. In the Bible, particularly in the Trinity, freedom and unity are eternally conjoined. A mind-bending session that seeks to look at marriage in a fresh way. The session ends with 20 practical ideas to enrich family life.

Biblical Relating Styles: God made each of us in unique ways – as dominate, compliant to standards and values, as fun-loving party people, as steady and consistent. Called the DiSC, these four personality types are characterized by the likes of Paul, Moses, Peter and Abraham. Some are initiators, others responders. Some are task oriented, others gravitate to people. Tension develops between us because we don't understand the relating style of marriage partners, children or work associates. A fascinating workshop. This can also be adapted for church leaders and pastoral staff members.

Five Divorce Myths: In the early 1970's, American embraced easy divorces. Now, some forty years later, we are seeing the impact. With fresh data, Doug addresses five common divorce myths. This session is hard-hitting! It may be uncomfortable for some – but presented in a redemptive and preventive manner. The bottom-line in this workshop is a push toward commitment. The studies indicate that bad marriages not only can be saved, but can become quite satisfying. What is necessary in the tough seasons when divorce might be an option, is unrelenting commitment to the marriage.

These sessions may be used to construct a seminar for your area. Each presentation is approximately one hour more or less. Build your seminar by choosing the titles you want addressed. Plan your time accordingly.

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