

Lenten Prayer Group Guide

Week 1

Thank you for joining us in our six weeks of consecration prayer! Each week there will be four sections to this guide plus an option to listen to or sing a song. Plan to spend about a quarter of your time on each section, adjusting accordingly whether or not you choose to use the song.

Feel free to print out this guide to give to the people in your group or to email it to them ahead of time so that they have easy access to the scripture passages and the song lyrics.

Also, it is important that you make sure that everyone understands at the beginning of each prayer time that anything said during the time is confidential and should not be shared outside the group without permission.

Praise

We start with praise because it helps us to focus on God's character and tune into His presence with us. Go around your group having each person read a single verse from the psalm and immediately follow their reading with a brief prayer of praise to God. Feel free to go through the psalm multiple times as you have time.

Psalm 139:1-7

¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

Consecration

One definition of consecration is to devote or to set aside someone or something for a particular purpose. Examples of consecration might include choosing to use a tool for only a specific purpose, to devote one's life to a special calling, or, even simply, to set aside an hour to pray.

Please read the following passage.

¹⁵ When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. ¹⁷ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

Mark 11:15-17

Take a couple of minutes to discuss. Who or what is being consecrated in this passage? And how so?

Read the scriptures below, and then take a few minutes to reflect silently on the questions that follow.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

Ephesians 2:20-21

- ◆ What are the "tables" that need to be overturned in your life?
- ◆ What is getting in the way of you being devoted to God as a "house of prayer"?
- ◆ Over the next six weeks is there something God is asking you to stop or to start in order to set yourself apart for God's purposes? A practice you can incorporate into your day? Something to fast from? *Leaders, if needed, please give some more specific examples.*

After this quiet reflection, take some time for confession. Confess to God about your "tables," your obstacles or struggles. And if God prompted you to do something differently these next six weeks, commit to Him that you will do it. *Leaders, we encourage you to take the lead in doing this confession aloud. Know that stepping out in vulnerability encourages others to feel safe doing the same. We can all benefit from experiencing that not one of us is perfect; only God is!*

Thanksgiving

Now, take some time to thank the Lord! First of all, give everyone in the group a chance to thank Him for His grace toward us, for His help, and for His goodness with regards to the struggles you just confessed. Then, as you have time, give thanks for His many blessings to you too!

Asking

Finally, pray together for the strength and courage to overturn the tables in your life which you confessed. Ask God to make us, both as individuals and as a church body, more and more into the house of prayer He wants us to be. Pray that we would be consecrated to Him for His purposes.

Song *(optional)*

Conclude by listening to or singing a song of intent. Click on the song title to hear the song.

[Make Room](#)

[Verse 1]

Here is where I lay it down

Every burden, every crown

This is my surrender; this is my surrender

Here is where I lay it down

Every lie and every doubt

This is my surrender

[Chorus]

And I will make room for You

To do whatever You want to

To do whatever You want to (repeat)

[Bridge]

Shake up the ground of all my tradition

Break down the walls of all my religion

Your way is better

Your way is better

[Verse 2]

Here is where I lay it down

You are all I'm chasing now

This is my surrender; this is my surrender

Here is where I lay it down

You are all I'm chasing now

This is my surrender

This is my surrender

[Revival](#)

[Verse 1]

I've played my harp, I've swung my sword

And in Your name sake, declared my wars

No shining robes, skin for Your clothes

My cross You carried to the darkest low

[Chorus]

I don't want to miss You guarding my position

I don't want to build my kingdom with the only goal to win

God, I want to listen, let You speak into the cycles

Come turn my tables over; not mine, but Your revival

[Verse 2]

Friend of the weak, help for the poor

You see the hurting I have ignored

Teach me to weep, not look away

If Your heart is broken, teach mine to break

[Bridge]

Let justice roll, let mercy move

Who cares if I'm offended, if I'm close to You?

The noisy songs, Father, cut through

I want only the revival that leads to You

Let justice roll, let mercy move

Who cares if I'm offended, if I'm close to You?

The noisy songs, Father, cut through

I want only the revival that gives me You