

Just Pray: Prayer Requests Revisited by Kim George

I want to share with you a radical idea: **STOP doing prayer requests.**

Let me explain: I am all for prayer. I want people in our small groups to feel comfortable taking their requests directly to God. I also think it is valuable for people to hear others praying for them.

The problem though, is that prayer requests take up a lot of time. We want to explain, we want to counsel. The reality is that the Lord knows our needs and He has said we can take all our requests directly to Him:

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Heb 4:16).

So what is the answer if you don't share prayer requests? **Just PRAY!**

- Devote 15 to 20 minutes in your small group just for prayer.
- Remind everyone to pray about those accountability question results: where they are struggling, where they need victory, etc.
- Bring the requests directly to God. Have members pray for the person before them and then for themselves, until they've gone around the whole circle. This will mean the first person will pray twice.
- Have each person take notes and/or assign one person to be the "scribe" and email the requests out to the group (a great way to "give away" part of the group). If someone in the group has questions, they can ask after the prayer time or call or email during the week.

If you try to follow the plan above by taking your group's prayer requests directly to God first, you will be amazed at how the group's prayer time will be richer and more fruitful.