

4 Talks: Pray

Talk things through with God whenever you can



A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- ▶ Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- ▶ Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- ▶ Start by stating: "Most people like to 'talk things through' with a friend."
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- ▶ Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
1 Kings 3:5-14 (story)
Nehemiah 1:4-11 (story)
Commentary:
1 Kings 3:5-14 — King Solomon has a conversation with God (through a dream). In this interaction we see a dialogue — sort of "talking things through." It shows how prayer can be viewed as a conversation with God.
Nehemiah 1:4-11 — This represents a more typical prayer experience, where Nehemiah doesn't hear God speak audibly. Yet, it also shows how Nehemiah "talks things through" with God, pleading his case on a particular concern.

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: "Talk things through with God whenever you can." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
Why don't we tend to talk things through with God?
What is one action you can take this week to do that more?
- ▶ Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- ▶ Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- ▶ Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- ▶ Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- 1 Kings 3:5-14**
 1. What do you think Solomon's example teaches us about talking with God?
 2. How does this compare or contrast with what you normally think about prayer?

Nehemiah 1:4-11

1. What can we learn from Nehemiah in terms of sharing our concerns with the Lord?
2. How does this compare with the discussion we had earlier about talking things through with a friend?

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print [Pray Mini Journal](#).

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.