

# Host a Gathering

**We are looking for individuals and communities interested in leading one of the 7 city-wide prayer gatherings. And we're here to help you organize all of the details—from choosing a location, determining the format, sourcing equipment, organizing volunteers, creating resources, and communicating to everyone involved.**

## **Who is Pray MHK**

The initial team leading Pray MHK consists of members from The Forge house church who are part of 24-7 Prayer—an international, ecumenical movement of prayer, mission, and justice—working to resource people from non-denominational house churches to the highest levels of the Catholic church and everything in between. You might be familiar with some people from 24-7 Prayer like Brian Heasley, Christine Cain, Hannah Heather, John Mark Comer, Pete Greig, Tim Mackey, Tyler Staton, and Jill Weber. Central to the movement is the idea that “we move at the speed of relationship.” We believe that through building genuine friendships across communities and ideological lines, we will learn so much from one another and will start to see the fruit of 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Ephesians 4:1-6 in our city.

## The Vision

Our desire is to see every person in the city of Manhattan, Kansas personally encounter the living and loving Jesus in the intimate place of prayer. One small piece of this is a week of city-wide, non-stop, day-and-night prayer this Fall. The week will begin at 7:00 pm on September 8, 2024 and will conclude at 8:00 pm on September 14, 2024. We're calling this Pray 24.

## The Details

There are two components to Pray 24:

**Gatherings** — A prayer event each evening of Pray 24 at 7:00 pm hosted by a different community.

**Prayer Stations** — One-hour time slots that people will sign up to pray individually, with friends, or as a family

To help provide some guidance and keep things creative, consider the following types of prayer to serve as themes for each day of Pray 24: adoration, contemplation, petition, intercession, listening, confession, reconciliation.

## The Action Steps

If your community is interested in hosting one of the **Gatherings**, here are the steps to take.

### Step 1 — Pray

Before you begin, take a moment to pray. Slow down, take a couple of the deepest breaths you've taken all day, and welcome Jesus. Ask him to guide your thoughts and feelings. Choose to be present to him, even as you read through this information.

A prayer you can pray as you consider joining Pray 24: Jesus, there's no point in doing any of this if you're not the one leading it. Would you show me where you're going and what you're doing so that we can come alongside that? Would you protect me from making this about ourselves? And would you help us to remove every barrier holding people back from experiencing your presence? Amen.

### Step 2 — Pick a day, pick a theme

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Is there a particular practice of prayer that has been integral to our faith community? (i.e. gratitude, breath prayer, prayer walking, musical prayer, praying the Psalms, etc.)?
2. Is there a particular practice that jumps off the list of themes at us as a type of prayer we're particularly passionate about?
3. Is there a way that we might be able to lead a group of 5-50 people in a shared practice of prayer?

### Step 3 — Choose a location

Where would you like to host your **Gathering**? Consider the following:

1. Would you like to meet at your church/community's gathering place or in public?
  - a. Some public places might be a local park (if you're considering a shelter, see #3), a business, a designated walking route or trail, etc.
2. Inside or outside?
  - a. If inside, who do you need to get permission from in order to have access?
  - b. If outside, have an indoor backup plan in case the weather doesn't cooperate.
3. Is there a reservation fee?
  - a. It would be great if your community can cover the cost. If you're struggling to come up with the funds, please let Pray MHK know so that we can talk about covering any gaps.
4. How many people can this space accommodate?
  - a. If space is limited, do you need to have people RSVP? If so, let us know. We have a system for that.
5. Would you like to have a virtual live-stream of your event for people that can't join in person or so that people can watch later? If so, let us know. We have a system for that.

Once you have these details determined, sign up by filling out [this Google Form](#).

### Step 4 — Focus on the format

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. If someone has never engaged with prayer in this way before, what do they need to know?
  - a. Is there history, testimony, demonstration, or other information that would be helpful?
  - b. Is there a way I can communicate this clearly and simply, especially if there are people who aren't native English speakers in the audience?
2. Are there any resources or equipment that I need to help people pray (a handout, bibles, candles, art supplies, etc.)?

Once you've answered those questions, consider what spending an hour in this prayer activity might look like:

1. Provide an introduction
  - a. Share who you are and where you find belonging (that could be your church, student ministry, etc.)
2. Share about the practice
  - a. How did you become introduced to it?
  - b. What's the history of it?
  - c. How has it allowed you to encounter God's presence?
  - d. Have you ever struggled with it?
  - e. Have you ever had especially sweet moments through it?
  - f. How do you actually participate in the practice?
3. Encourage people to participate in the practice
  - a. Is this an individual practice?
  - b. Do they need to break into pairs or small groups?
    - i. With someone they know? With someone they don't know?
  - c. Communicate when people will start the practice and give them a wind-down reminder (that could be 5 minutes, 2 minutes, etc.)
  - d. Consider providing multiple prayer activities or prompts throughout the hour
4. Wrap up
  - a. Pray a concluding prayer over our time and encourage people to sign up for a one-hour **Prayer Station** over the coming days if they haven't already done so. **Prayer Station** sign ups will be available as soon as August 4, 2024.

### Step 5 — Recruit volunteers

Think about 3-4 trusted people who you want to share this experience with. How can you invite them to participate and what are some of the tasks you need assistance with? How might things look if you viewed these tasks and invitation to relationship rather than things to get done?

### Step 6 — Create resources

You have an awesome idea to help people encounter Jesus in prayer. Now's the time to put pen to paper and crank out some resources. If you need assistance with anything—from printing to money for supplies or anything else—don't hesitate to reach out. Contact information is at the very end of this document.

### Step 7 — Try it out

Carve out an hour and consider having some friends or family members try out the activity. What worked well? What didn't work? Was there anything missing? Anything extra? Make note of these things as you prepare for your **Gathering**.

### Step 8 — Spread the word

We have announcement slides, social media posts, flyers, and email templates all mocked up and ready for you. We're ready to help plug in the right information for your **Gathering** so that you can share it with everyone you know. Thank you, Jesus!

## **FAQs**

**Q.** I have a prayer activity that would be awesome for a **Gathering**, but it doesn't fit with one of themes. Is that okay?

**A.** If there has been an activity that has helped you and your community be with Jesus, we'd love to figure out how to incorporate that into a **Gathering**. Let's discuss it together and see if we can make it work.

**Q.** I want to lead a **Gathering**, but I can't attend every evening. Is that okay?

**A.** Of course! We'd love to have you participate as you are available and there is no obligation to attend any of the other **Gatherings**.

**Q.** I need help figuring out how to put a format together that would work for a group. Can you help me with that?

**A.** We would love to! Just call, text, or email Caleb.

Any other questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to Caleb.

Blessings to you!

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