

IMPACT 2020/21

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A TOWN BUILT ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NEITHER DO PEOPLE LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BOWL. INSTEAD THEY PUT IT ON A STAND, AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE. IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.”

Concert of Prayer

Welcome to Concert of Prayer! We are excited to introduce this longstanding highlight of Impact to you for use in your own youth group setting.

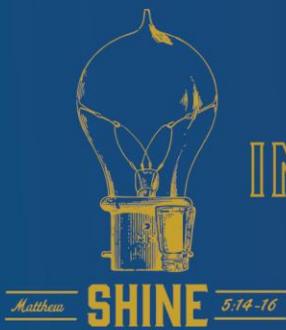
A Concert of Prayer is a call for God’s people to come together and to pray. Music is used to facilitate a posture of prayer and to guide the flow of the service. This experience leads people in corporate prayer and creates opportunity to understand the impact and power of prayer.

We have prepared the following sample – follow it completely or use it as a starting point to create your own unique experience. We have structured this concert around ACTS prayer (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication). For each section, we have provided a short devotional and a posture of prayer. Our aim is to help students engage and offer physical postures for our prayer practices. We recommend doing the provided devotional inviting students into a time of reflection, using the songs suggested for the reflection time.

We encourage you to incorporate your youth band, church band, or worship leader for the music portions. We have provided a playlist for your use as well, available on Spotify and on YouTube.

Concert of Prayer Outline

- I. Opening/Welcome
 - a. Song “Come as You Are”
- II. Adoration - Devotional
 - a. Song “Great Are You Lord”
 - b. Song “Lead Me to The Cross”
- III. Confession - Devotional
 - a. Song “Here’s My Heart”
 - b. Song “Washed”
- IV. Thanksgiving - Devotional
 - a. Song “Goodness of God”
 - b. Song “Egypt”
- V. Supplication - Devotional
 - a. Song “Available”



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OPENING/WELCOME

Song: "Come As You Are" Crowder

ADORATION – Psalm 145

Prayer Posture: out loud by yourself

Adoration is the act of adoring God in His fullness. Jesus taught us to pray, "Father, hallowed be your name" (Luke 11:2), recognizing God's character of being holy, majestic, all-powerful, sovereign over all things, and the source of true wisdom and love. Psalm 145 demonstrates this well as David acknowledges and praises God for who He is, not just what He can do for us. I invite you to pray out-loud to yourself, acknowledging God in His amazing, awe-inspiring glory.

Song: "Great Are You Lord" All Sons & Daughters

Song: "Lead Me to The Cross" Hillsong UNITED

(Information gathered from <https://today.reframemedia.com/devotions/praise-honor-adoration>)

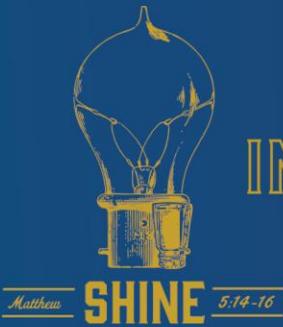
CONFESSION – Psalm 32

Prayer Posture: silent prayer with open hands

Confession is something that we often find intimidating. We can feel ashamed of our sin, afraid to step into the presence of our perfect God when we're seemly so broken. And what will God do when we confess? Surely He is waiting to chastise us the moment we confess.

I know that this was a viewpoint of myself for a very long time – that God was this authoritarian dictator waiting to beat me into submission. But that is not the God we serve. We serve a God who knows that we can't do life on our own – we fall short, even when we know the Truth, which is why we need confession. Psalm 32 does a great job at expressing this. We won't go through the whole psalm today, but I encourage you to read the whole psalm when you have the chance.

1. (Read verses 3-4) When sin stays hidden, it festers and grows into something that destroys our spirits and bodies. It does nothing but harm us, and David expresses that in these verses.
2. (Read verse 5) But when we confess – when we acknowledge that we can't do this life on our own, God is quick to forgive. And not just forgive a few things here and there – everything! What amazing grace! This does not mean we use grace as an excuse to sin. Confession is the



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acknowledgment of sin while also committing ourselves in our best efforts to walk without sin. Yes, we will fall short, but that is why we need confession. It is a sincere and continual practice, not a get out of jail free card.

3. Even more wonderfully, God doesn't leave us to fend for ourselves after we confess, because again, He knows that we fall short. (read verses 6-9) As mentioned before, we cannot do this alone. God will guide us and watch over us.

Confession is God inviting us into partnership in our lives, and us recognizing that we cannot go through life on our own strength and that we stray when we walk without Him. We do not serve a God who is waiting to punish us – Jesus took what should have been our punishment when he died on the cross because he loves us that much. God is waiting with open arms of love for us to acknowledge what He already knows – that we are sinners in need of the grace and guidance from a loving Father. Which is why confession needs to be a daily occurrence, a daily reminder that God walks with us and guides us along His right paths. There is freedom in confession, and love that relases guilt.

I now invite you into a time of silent prayer between you and God not out of fear or intimidation, but in the confidence in God's love and care for you. Pray with your hands open, palms face up, as a posture of confession. Confession can also be done between you and someone you trust, like a youth leader, and if you feel the need to do so after this time of silent prayer I strongly encourage you to do so.

Song "*Here's My Heart*" Crowder

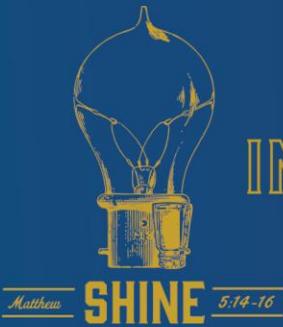
Song "*Washed*" UPPERRROOM, Brett Bell

THANKSGIVING

Prayer Posture: in partners or groups of 3

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-20

An important question for us to wrestle with, is why the act of thanksgiving is so imperative for the Christian life. After all, as we see in the passage above, this idea of thanksgiving is key to what God's will is for those who are in Christ Jesus. Author and pastor John Mark Comer says, "thanksgiving is a posture before it's a practice". First, we posture ourselves before the living God in knowledge and trust that the God of goodness and mercy is with you and will never leave nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:16). To this we respond with gratitude which helps us to shift our focus on Him, who is able to use all



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things for his glory (Romans 8:28). As we actively engage in thanksgiving, we become a people of greater joy and peace.

In Philippians 4:6 -7 we read "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

In all situations, whether we find ourselves joyful, anxious, confused, lonely, hopeful or anything in between we are commanded to present our requests to God with thanksgiving. As we engage in this prayerful act of thanksgiving, even if our situations may not change, we have access to the transcendent peace that can only come from God.

So ask yourself, what is it I am thankful for?

Song: "Goodness of God" Bethel Music, Jenn Johnson

Song: "Egypt" Cory Asbury

SUPPLICATION – Psalm 5:8

Prayer Posture: Kneeling

Supplication means to "plead humbly" when requesting something from God. There are many prayers of supplication throughout the Bible, including supplication for mercy in Psalm 4:1, deliverance in Psalm 7:1, healing in James 5:13-16, etc. Supplication is something we are encouraged to by Jesus in Matthew 6:9-13 when he instructs us to pray for our daily bread, and in Luke 18:1-8 Jesus tells us not to give up praying for what we need. The best way to approach supplication is to ask God in all sincerity as children talking to their kind-hearted Father but finishing with "Your will be done" (Matthew 26:39), in complete submission to God's plan.

For this final section we will focus on supplication for leading and guiding in our lives. (read Psalm 5:8 here). If you are comfortable, I invite you kneel as you pray as a physical stance of supplication.

(Information gathered from <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-the-definition-of-supplication-biblical-meaning-and-significance.html>)

Song: "Available" Elevation Worship