

Half Nights of Prayer

Overview

Half Nights of Prayer (HNP)—extended hours devoted to praying for Kingdom expansion—are very common among Disciple Making Movements worldwide. The benefits of hosting an HNP are numerous. They provide an excellent opportunity to expose and train people on how to pray for their social networks, community, and city. Also, as individuals begin to spend more time in prayer, their capacity to love others and engage in disciple making increases.

In some areas, people meet as often as once a week. Others gather once a month or once every quarter. Initially, praying for four hours seems daunting, but many find Half Nights of Prayer to be exhilarating and fun. After four hours of prayer, people often say, “I can’t believe the time went by so fast,” or “I can’t wait until we can do this again.”

Getting Started

- **Invite** - Since HNPs are a great way to train people in prayer and give them a heart for others, feel free to invite as many as you can host to these gatherings. We have seen how even non-believers have been impacted by experiencing this time of prayer.

Note: You can do HNP with a group of 5 people or 500 people. Generally, if you have a group over 15, you will want to break into smaller groups led by facilitators.

- **Plan**- Utilize a schedule and the best tools for your group. The idea is to mix it up each time so that each gathering is different. You can find all the tools to choose from at: <https://www.movementprayer.org/prayer-tools/>
The following schedule shows how you might want to plan your night.

Half Nights of Prayer Agenda

6:00 pm Start

You will have better results if you start early. Praying 6:00 - 10:00 pm doesn't sound as overwhelming as 8:00 - 12:00 pm or 10:00 pm - 2:00 am.

6:00 - 6:30 pm Food and Stories

Use this time to allow people to catch up with each other and share stories about where they see God working. Sometimes ask everyone to bring a dish to share, and other times ask everyone to pitch in to buy pizzas or other favorite food.

6:30 - 6:35 pm Vision

Since prayer times have many different focuses, casting a vision for what you want to achieve through this time of prayer is essential.

You might say something like: "There are many important things that we can pray for, but the main focus tonight is to pray for Kingdom expansion through the emergence of Disciple Making Movements. We want to see our city, community, and neighborhoods transformed. We want to pray for entire families to have a relationship with their Heavenly Father. We want to ask God to send out more laborers into the harvest."

6:45 - 7:15 pm Prayer Triangle Tool

This Tool promotes group participation and allows individuals to introduce various topics that can be fully supported in prayer by others. It works best with groups of 5-15 people.

7:15 - 7:20 pm Small Break

7:20 - 8:15 pm Sticky Note Prayer Tool

This Tool promotes group participation and allows everyone to pray simple prayers for the locations that God impresses upon their hearts.



8:15 - 9:00 pm **O2 Prayer Tool**

This powerful Tool focuses on praying for the opportunities and against the obstacles confronting individuals and teams who are focusing on specific target areas. Since there is not enough time to pray for everyone, you might want to focus on only two individuals or teams each time you gather. Those receiving prayer are always greatly encouraged and blessed by the prayers of others in the meeting.

9:00 - 9:25 pm **Scripture Prayer Tool**

This Tool orients the group around a passage that focuses on the importance, purpose, and process of disciple making. Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 10:1-11, Colossians 1:9-14

9:25 - 9:30 pm **Small Break**

9:30 - 10:00 pm **Prayer Walking**

End with a short prayer walk in the neighborhood where you are meeting. Ask God to bless each family who lives there and to open their hearts to Him.

Be flexible and have fun. You will often have to adjust the schedule as the night progresses. Feel free to adapt the plan as needed. Remember that one of the main HNP goals is to expose people to different ways of praying and engage them in a fun and joy-filled environment.

Additional Ideas

Rotating among different locations will allow everyone to experience the impact of having an HNP in their neighborhood.

Include Children. Children can engage in many of the activities throughout the night, and they enjoy participating.

Encourage and mentor others to launch their own HNP and contextualize it for the specific group they will be inviting.