

GROWING IN THE FIVE COMMITMENTS OF A CAMPUS MISSIONARY

G5

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As a campus missionary, God has called you to be a light in the darkness, to bring hope to the hopeless, and to share the message of Jesus with others at your school. But now what? How will you accomplish these tasks? What will you say? Do you have a plan of action?

G5 will help answer these and many more questions. *G5* takes the five commitments of a campus missionary (**pray, live, tell, serve, give**) and breaks down the elements to reality—your reality.

When you get into *G5*, you will **grow** in each of the five commitments. Each chapter is divided into “Coaching” and “Methods” sections. In “Coaching” you will learn principles and strategies to fulfill each of the five commitments. In “Methods” you will discover resources and tools to aid you as you “take on” your mission field—the school campus. Every chapter ends with a “Focus” section that will challenge you to think about what you read and help you personally apply what you learn.

You can effectively use this resource in many ways. Some ideas include:

1. Get your youth leader to walk with you through this book every other week during the school year. Tackle it chapter by chapter in your meeting time.
2. Ask your youth leader if an adult mentor (campus missionary coach) can establish a Sunday school class to use this resource as its curriculum.
3. Study it with another campus missionary so you can quiz each other on things like, “What are the three elements of the Five-Friend Focus?” or “What is yearbook praying?”
4. You and God can journey through it together—just the two of you.

Whether you work through *G5* individually or in a group, make sure you practice the group action points you discover in this resource with others. These are just a few ideas to get you started. The possibilities are endless.

That is what makes *G5* so valuable.

The campus missionary journey and *G5* will add fullness to your life. Like Paul, we “pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a **full** understanding of every good thing we have in Christ” (Philemon 6, emphasis added). Now you have a tool in your hand to help you be real, active, and effective as a campus missionary.

Are you ready? Let's get started!





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Q5

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’” (Matthew 6:9–13).

Coaching

Prayer seems simple and yet complex at the same time. It’s an easy thing to do, yet most people find it difficult to practice consistently. It can take only a few seconds or it can last for hours. Sometimes, we make prayer harder and more complicated than it actually is.

What is prayer? Communication with God. That’s it! Every day, you communicate with other people. You talk, you listen, you talk some more, and you listen some more. That’s communication—interacting with another person. Just as you interact with others, God wants you to interact with Him. God wants you to communicate and interact with Him through a personal relationship.

How can you effectively do this? Before we answer this question, think about this: along the way, someone has probably told you, “God loves you and has a plan for your life.” You may have heard it so many times you’re numb to it. It’s often treated like the “yadda yadda” at the end of a sentence; but you need to understand the power of those words. Think of something you did that you’re not proud of. (You **know** it was wrong.) Once you’ve thought of it, write it down below:

“Everything done right, yet without prayer will fail!”

—Carl Wilson

Now, think of something you did that brought honor to God. You know it was right and it pleased God. Write that down below:

Spend a few minutes to consider those two things. One of them screams like an ugly skeleton from your past while the other sings of a great success. In which of these two situations did God love you more?

If you chose either situation, you are wrong. God loved you the same in both situations. Does God not care how you live? Absolutely not! He cares very much about how you live and desires for you to live according to His truth. Our response to God does not change how much He loves us.

***“Come near to God
and he will come
near to you...”***

(James 4:8).

What does this have to do with prayer? Sometimes we don't spend time with God because we feel guilty, ashamed, or unworthy. When you love someone and he or she loves you, that love is unchanging despite what you do. When it comes to a relationship with God, it's a love relationship; it doesn't change based on your behavior. God desires for you to spend time communicating with Him because He loves you.

So, how do you communicate with God and develop this relationship? Sometimes it helps to have some tips. One of the most effective tools for communicating with God is a pattern for prayer. It's simple, easy, and practical! Anybody can use it, and anybody can understand it. Here's how it works.

A Pattern for Effective P.R.A.Y.E.R.

Praise

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name (Matthew 6:9). Begin your prayer time by praising God for who He is and what He has done in your life. Jesus began His prayer in Matthew 6:9 by recognizing who God is

Prayer Tips:

1. *Pray out loud.* It's hard to fall asleep or get distracted.
2. *Pace and pray.* Try walking while you pray.
3. *Find a time and a place to pray.* Prayer becomes a deeper habit in your life when you have a specific time and place for prayer that works for you.

and praising His name. Beginning with praise takes your mind off your problems and puts it on God and His goodness. If you treat prayer like a “grocery list” of your needs, then it becomes a vending machine. (Insert money, out pops candy bar.) Prayer is much more than getting something from God. It's getting to know God. Praise is a great way to get to know Him.

Repent

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors (Matthew 6:12). Ask God to search your heart and show you what you need to change. Confess your errors and repent. “Confess” means “to agree with the truth.” In other words, you agree with the fact that you've sinned.

Once you confess your sin (agree that you have done wrong), you must repent. To “repent” means “to turn around and go a new direction.” It's not enough to know you've blown it; you must commit to go a new direction with the help of the Holy Spirit. By continually allowing the Lord to search your heart, motives, actions, attitudes, etc., you allow Him to mold you into the person He wants you to be. We see the benefit of repentance in Acts 3:19, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

“The Christian is a Holy rebel loose in the world with access to the throne of God. Satan never knows from where the danger will come.”

—A.W. Tozer

Ask

Give us today our daily bread (Matthew 6:11). This is the part of prayer in which most of us don't have a problem. We all can think of things to ask God for or ask Him to do. The exciting news is that God *wants* us to ask. It's not shameful. Every time you ask God to save one of your friends at school, you ask for something great. Not only does God *want* us to ask, but He is *delighted* that we would ask at all. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). Jesus instructed us to ask.

Yield to the voice of God

Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say (Isaiah 28:23). Up to this point, you've done most of the talking. If prayer is really communication, then it's important to let Him talk to you. How does God speak to you? Often, God will speak through His Word or through His Holy Spirit as a quiet voice inside you. During this "yielding," simply invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you and stop talking long enough to let Him do just that. It may take a few minutes to quiet yourself and to really "tune in" to what God wants to say. It may mean opening your Bible and allowing Him to speak to you through His Word. Once God does speak to you, remember: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:15). Obedience to the voice of God makes us stronger.

Engage in spiritual warfare

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world (2 Corinthians 10:4). The enemy is real, and he desires to destroy the lives of your friends who desperately need Christ. The good news is that you have authority in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our Commander-in-Chief, and we have victory through Him. Your job is to exercise the authority Christ has given you and to pull down strongholds of the enemy in the name of Jesus. "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3–5). Read Ephesians 6:10–18. This passage of Scripture encourages you to put on the armor of God so you can stand up in victory and authority when the enemy attacks.

Receive from the Lord

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer (Matthew 21:22). The final step in prayer is to simply receive (by faith) answers to prayers, direction for the day, wisdom from God, and anything else with which the Lord desires to bless you. You've asked; now receive by faith. When Jesus prayed, He believed God would hear Him and answer Him completely. Jesus had faith in God because He knew God's character. God's desire is to answer prayer. We don't have to pray in vain. Pray and believe God will answer.

Sometimes prayer is neglected because of the guilt we feel for not having an hour to spend in prayer, or because we think we couldn't fill an hour with conversation with Him. It is perfectly acceptable to begin by setting aside five, ten, or even fifteen minutes for prayer. Start small, but be consistent.

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”

—*Samuel Chadwick*

If you keep a calendar or use a PDA, mark it daily as an appointment. Don't let anything deter you from this time. Distractions will come, but stay focused on the goal; you need to spend “alone time” with Jesus. As you grow more comfortable in your prayer life, you may want to lengthen it. That's great! Remember, Jesus wants to spend time with *you*.

Focus

1. Which of the six prayer steps do you enjoy the most? Why?

2. Which of the six prayer steps is hardest for you? Why?

Methods

Take a few minutes to develop the following prayer lists to help guide your prayer time. This will help you pray as you communicate with the Lord.

Top Ten Things for Which I Praise God

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Personal Prayer Requests

Date Answered

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ |
| 8. _____ | _____ |
| 9. _____ | _____ |
| 10. _____ | _____ |

Family Prayer Requests

Date Answered

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Students Needing Christ

Date Answered

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I am committed to seeing

(name)

become a follower of Jesus.

So he or she can see Jesus in me, I will...

pray daily,

live in the Spirit and in the Word,

tell others about Jesus,

serve, and

give generously.

School Prayer List

School Name

Date Entered

Principal(s)/Vice Principal(s)

Date Entered

Teachers and Coaches

Date Entered

Campus Ministries/Clubs

Date Entered

Action Points

1. Complete your prayer lists.
2. Determine a time and a place for regular prayer.
3. Implement the P.R.A.Y.E.R. plan in your prayer time.