

An Hour in Prayer: Hebrews 12:28-29



Here is a suggested format for leading a group in an hour of prayer, based around Hebrews 12:28-29, and the idea of God being a Consuming Fire.

Reverence, Awe and Thanks (00-20 mins)

We begin by worshipping God, becoming aware of His presence, and preparing our hearts for prayer.

- 00-10 Read **Hebrews 12:28-29**: ‘Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”’

In **pairs or small groups** spend 10 minutes discussing:

- What is awesome about God?
- What reasons do we have to revere Him?
- What reasons do we have to be thankful to Him?

- 10-20 In **pairs or small groups**, spend 10 minutes praying prayers of worship, expressing your awe and wonder towards God; and also prayers of thanks for who God is and what He has done in your life.

Consuming Fire (20-35 mins)

Having worshipped God and become aware of His presence, we now invite Him to refine and purify us.

- 20-30 In **pairs or small groups**, spend 10 minutes reading the following verses and discussing the questions below:

‘Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple... he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord’ (Malachi 3:1-4)

‘The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people... Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.’ (Titus 2:11-14)

- How do you feel about God being a refining, or cleansing fire?
- How have you experienced His cleansing in the past?
- Do you find it easy to surrender to Him and allow Him to refine you?

- 30-35 As **individuals**, spend 5 minutes reflecting on the idea of God being a refining fire. Ask Him to bring to mind any areas in your life where you need to confess, and receive His cleansing. When you’re ready, pray the prayer below:

Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you died for me, to forgive and redeem me and give me the gift of eternal life. I surrender to you, Refiner’s Fire, and ask you to cleanse and purify me from all that is wrong. I receive your forgiveness, and ask that you would fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit, Empowering me to serve you faithfully, and live to bring you glory.

Amen

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An Unshakeable Kingdom (35-60 mins)

In this world, which can feel fragile and tumultuous, God's Kingdom cannot be shaken. So finally, we pray for His Kingdom to come in the lives of those around us, in our city, and in our world. And we ask Him to empower us to work for the cultural, social, and spiritual renewal of our city.

35-40 In **pairs or small groups**, spend 5 minutes praying for God's unshakeable Kingdom to come in the lives of people we know. Topics for prayer could include:

- Family, friends, neighbours or colleagues who do not know Jesus.
- People you know who are suffering or in need of physical healing
- For people to find faith in our Sunday services
- For people to find faith on our Alpha or STEPS courses

40-45 In **pairs or small groups**, spend 5 minutes praying for God's unshakeable Kingdom to come in our city. Topics for prayer could include:

- The area where you live, study, or work
- Those who are suffering in our city
- The safety and security of our city
- Our leaders, government, and people with influence
- The flourishing of culture, including the arts, business, education, media, non-profit, science and technology
- Peace, unity and civility among different groups of people

45-50 In **groups**, spend 5 minutes praying for God's unshakeable Kingdom to come in our world as a whole. Topics for prayer could include:

- Current news events
- World leaders and international relations
- The global church, including Christians facing persecution
- People who are suffering because of war, conflict, and displacement
- People suffering as a result of natural disasters
- Those living in captivity, slavery or extreme poverty
- The environment

50-60 In **pairs**, share how you need more of God's power in your life, to help you bring God's unshakeable Kingdom. For example: more of the Holy Spirit, courage to share your faith, gifts of the Spirit, faith to pray for healing, etc. Then pray for each other, making sure to listen to God and share anything you think He may be saying.

If you see particular answers to your prayers, or sense God speaking to you for the church, we would love to hear from you. Email: prayer@christchurchlondon.org