

Three Tips for Praying for Your Group Members

I have a friend back in San Diego named Kenny. Kenny has been a pastor in San Diego for the past thirty years. He is well-known in the community; and even as he is well-known, he is one of the most genuine, down-to-earth people I know. I treasure Kenny's friendship.

One of the things he does for his friends is pray for them. And, he lets them know that he's praying for them. I would receive text messages on certain Sundays from Kenny; he was praying for me as I would prepare to preach and to pastor on that Sunday. Naturally, I couldn't let that slip by unnoticed; I would respond and let him know that I was praying for him as well.

Even when we moved to Michigan, I would get texts from Kenny. He was still praying for me, even though I wasn't pastoring, even though I was in limbo. I can't tell you how much those texts from Kenny meant to me!

Thinking about your small group members...

Are you praying for them regularly?

Do they **know** that you're praying for them?

What do you think it means to them (or would mean to them) that their small group leader was actively praying for them?

If you are already praying for your people regularly, praise God! Keep it up.

If you find it a struggle to regularly pray for them—or to let them know that you're praying for them—here are three tips that might help:

1. **Pray on a specific day of the month for a specific member**—Have 15 members in your small group? Pray for one member on the 1st, pray for the second one on the 2nd; and so on. That way, you develop a bit of a rhythm for praying for each person in your group each month.
2. **Pray specifically**—While it is great to have specific needs to pray for, you don't have to have such a list to pray for your people. There are a lot of common issues to pray for! Pray for healthy marriages; pray for their kids; pray for their families; pray for their work or school; pray for their heart to know Jesus and to make Jesus known in their world.
3. **Let them know**—Send them a text or a message. Email them. Call them. Even drop a postcard in the mail, letting them know that you're praying for them! Ask them if there is anything specific they would like you to pray for. That kind of communication can open the door to all sorts of caring ministry!

Praying for those in your small group will work to align your heart with the Lord's over what He is doing with those people. Letting those people know that you're praying for them will work to align your heart with theirs. Give it a try.