

Growing Spiritually as an Elder

Column Prayers



Disciples
 Pray

I learned this prayer form from Myrna Phillips, a pastoral counselor in Salem, Ore., at a leadership retreat in 1980. I have rewritten the words over the years as I've used it, but the concept comes from her.

In this prayer form you take one word from each column reading left to right to form a version of a collect prayer. For example, using the chart attached to this page, a column prayer might be:

“Exciting Savior, your curious worker needs a new idea.”

You can make this chart big and have one copy, or make individual copies and let people create several and then share them together.

If you make a big chart, you can use many colored pens and have people draw circles around each of the words they choose and connect them with lines. This makes a nice rainbow effect. You can make a big one and use it each time you gather. You can also make one VERY big by putting the words on pieces of paper and creating the chart on a large floor or with sidewalk chalk on a large paved area and have people walk their prayers.

This can be a fairly non-threatening way to write prayers.

You can elaborate the list and make your own that fits your group. This could be a lesson on how we understand God, who we believe ourselves to be in relation to God, and what we most desire from God. Enjoy the creative process!



Column Prayer

Name for God

Name for Me

Request

Loving	Creator	Your thankful	Son	Needs	Forgiveness
Wonderful	Forgiveness	Your sorry	Daughter	Wants	Hope
Beautiful	Transformer	Your joyful	Servant	Asks for	Joy
Caring	Father	Your sad	(your name)	Thanks you for	Peace
Forgiving	Savior	Your blessed	Forgiven one	Longs for	Grace
Marvelous	Spirit	Your scared	Creation	Sees	Healing
Powerful	Mother	Your curious	Friend	Is Creating	Help
Transforming	Friend	Your crushed	Worker	Knows	A mission
Exciting	Force	Your wandering	Student	Accepts	Love
All Present	Breath	Your depressed	Church	Wants to give	Possibilities
In my face	Power	Your relieved	Companion	Has received	A new idea
Amazing	Presence	Your grateful	Child	Rejoices in	A friend

