## Starting a Prayer Group

Thank you for your interest in starting a Christian community in your school. This is important work that has eternal impact.

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

**Ask God to guide** you in facilitating what works in your workplace. Ask for wisdom as you begin planning and sharing. Pray that He will open doors of opportunity. Pray that God will bring people to mind to invite. Pray for courage as you begin to tell others about your group. Below are ideas that can help you get started.

Starting a Prayer Group Resource Sheet

Invitation -Make sure to let your administrator know that you are meeting. Select a time before your after your contract day. Ask you administrator how he/she would like to you to let others know about it.

<u>Norms</u>- As you begin to bring people together it is important to talk about what you want your group to look like and how to treat this time together. Confidentiality is a BIG deal, so make sure to discuss this from day one. As new people join, give them a copy of the norms.

<u>Format-</u> There is no right or wrong way to do this. Sharing praises and requests really opens others up to do life together. Having a devotional or theme can also be helpful. Our first prayer group focused on "The Fruit of the Week." We did a study on the "Fruit of the Spirit." See some links below for suggestions. You can close in prayer with just one person or open to others.

Fruit of the Spirit Resource

Teachers Who Pray Weekly Devotional/Prayer Guide

Jesus Calling

Any other devotionals that you find encouraging.

YouTube video of a worship song.

<u>Keeping People Connected-</u> There will be some people who will not be able to make a particular time for your prayer group. Many groups collect home email addresses and send requests out to the list with some encouragement for the group. It is amazing how this really helps others feel involved in each other's lives.

<u>Personalizing Your Group</u>- There are ways to make this time more personalized. Here are a couple of ideas.

<u>Prayer/Encouragement Partners</u>- At the end of each prayer time have people write their names on a slip of paper. Draw names for partners and have these people check in with each other during the week to encourage and/or prayer for specific needs.

<u>Verse of the Week</u>- Find verses of encouragement and print them out. Cut verses out and put them in a container. Each person draws a verse for the week as an encouragement.