**Module 11. Empowered by Prayer. United by Love.**

**Reach Out, Connect, Share**

***Kentucky Council of Churches***

***Campus Ministry Modules***

**Empowered by Prayer. United by Love.**

**Module Flow**

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2) Guiding Question.

3) Guiding Bible Passage and Reflection

4) Bible Passages.

5) Bible Studies: Reflection and Activities.

 1. Unity, Love, Faith

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6) Easily Accessible Resources On-line Enrichment from the KCC, WCC, & TED

7) Mission and Outreach with Community and Global Partners

**Introduction**

Christian thinkers have often reminded us that we should do even the most intellectual and arduous work in an attitude of prayer. Prayer is the serious business of the Christian life. Could you imagine going to worship on Sunday morning and not praying? Some things are just unimaginable. For Jesus the way of prayer was the way of life and truth. It is the event that opens us up to a future of hope with God. This future is a future with God and with the community of God. Here and today we can experience a foretaste of this future when we pray together in unity and within the bond of love. It is all the more important that we learn to pray and practice the way of living that brings us into unity with each other and in concert with the will and wisdom of God.

**Guiding Questions**

How can we, as children of God, reach out, connect, share with those experiencing Human Trafficking? How can we, as children of God be empowered by Prayer and United in Love? How can we be the Body of Christ?

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**Guiding Bible Passage**

Gather in a room in a lecture environment and read before the group this entire passage:

John 17:20-26

John 17:20 “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

"I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

**Guiding Bible Passage Reflection**

Only a few of Jesus' prayers were recorded in the Gospels and this sentence is the final plea to God in his longest. This says something about its importance. It is in many ways a summary of the message about the work of Christ. Christ came, it says, to make God's name known, to continue to make it known, so that divine love may come to all who know or come to know God. God, then is love. To know Him is to love him.

**Worship Center**

Move out of the lecture environment and gather in the center of the room around a table with last least one lighted candle, a chalice and a cross at its center. Have the group stand while these passages are read by participants in the circle.

**Bible Passages**

Matthew 6:9-13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**9**“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**10**Your kingdom come.Your will be done,on earth as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us this day our daily bread

**12** And forgive us our debts,as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13** And do not bring us to the time of trial,but rescue us from the evil one.

Acts 2:42 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**42**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Ephesians 1:5-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**5**He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6**to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7**In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8**that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight **9**he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, **10**as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Philippians 1:8-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**8**For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. **9**And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight **10**to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless . .

Psalm 133:1

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**Bible Study/Unity, Love, Faith**

Read the passages above.

Ask: How are we living out our faith in the world?

Reflect: What does this mean for our understanding of the importance of prayer for the Christian community? What implications does this have for how we view each other and those who do not belong to our church or to any church?

Does it change how we treat each other when Jesus in prays in John 17, ““I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one.”

Why is it important that we witness in the world our unity, love and faith?

Activity: Invite each person to join a group that will discuss one of the three: unity, love and faith. One group will discuss who to express unity, another how to express love and another how to exhibit our faith.

Discuss this these topics for about twenty minutes. Have the group gather to discuss each question in turn. You can extend this to several evenings: one evening about unity, another about love and another about faith. If you wish to limit this the one evening you can gather all three groups together and present your answers. Write down you work on a poster board and post it in the room for you to see during the coming days and weeks.

Activity: Trace and cut out the hands of everyone in the Bible Study. You will need three copies of everyone’s hands (one copy for the theme of “unity”, one for the theme of “love” and one for the theme of “faith”. Draw 2 extra hands for each theme. These will represent the hands of God. For “unity” arrange and tape everyone’s hands, including God’s hands into a circle on a sheet of poster board. For “love” arrange and tape everyone’s hands, including God’s hands in the form of a heart on a sheet of poster board. For “faith” arrange and tape everyone’s hands, including God’s hands, in the form of a cross on a piece of poster board.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center. Hold hands and ask the participants to think about what it means to be physically joined as we strive for unity, love and faith in Christ. If you continue the Bible Study on prayer and unity for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for a division in the church or world for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Body of Christ**

At the next session continue to discuss these ideas by asking this question:

Think about our home churches.

Imagine your church as a body with different people and gifts. Draw a body on a poster board and describe the church in the shape of a body.

How do they relate to other bodies and communities? Can we be brought together in unity? What might that look like?

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What can we do to live together in love, hope and unity. What answers to this question give you hope and/or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing to promote prayer and unity? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to share a hope in prayer. Invite them to pray for this hope every day. If you continue the Bible Study on prayer and unity for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for a division in the church or world for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Resources/TED Talks**

https://www.**ted**.com/**talks**/david\_**steindl**\_**rast**\_want\_to\_be\_happy...

When God Talks Back | Tanya Luhrmann | TEDxStanford

**Resources/WCC**

World Council of Churches Resource. The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle.

In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

From the Website of the WCC:

“At the very heart of the ecumenical movement is the reality of prayer. Jesus prayed that we may all be one, united in God in the mystery of the Trinity. That is the basis and the goal of our search for unity.

The **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer ... “

[Share the ecumenical prayer cycle on your blog or your website!](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/share)

See Ecumenical Prayer Cycle "In God's Hands - Common Prayer for the World" (ISBN 978-2825414880). The book and the website offer valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

**Mission and Outreach**

Join other Churches in celebrating the World Day of Prayer.