

## Intercession

# Prayer Tool: A Circle Prayer

## What?

The circle prayer is a simple activity to equip intercessory prayer. This prayer tool will show you how to do circle prayer.

## Why?

“Lord, bend us according to your will.” Evan Roberts

“The Holy Spirit must have a body to pray and intercede through.” Rees Howells

## Bible Reference:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

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## A quick introduction to Circle Prayer

A great prayer tool to develop your intercessory prayer-life is the circle prayer, inspired by Rodney ‘Gipsy’ Smith, a remarkable English evangelist.

He was the son of gypsy parents and was well accustomed to the superstitions, customs and reputation that came with being a gypsy. He was radically saved as a 16 year old and, in time, became a fervent travelling evangelist.

**His prayer life was marked by one simple activity which became his trademark: drawing a circle and praying inside it.**

When asked about what was needed for a successful revival, Gipsy replied: “Go home. Lock yourself in your room. Kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk draw a circle around yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Batterson’s book *The Circle Maker* is where this quote was sourced and inspires this kind of prayer.

Gipsy Smith began each of his evangelist crusades with such a ritual. On the outskirts of a city or town he was due to preach at he would draw a circle and begin to intercede for a revival.

This is such a powerful prayer tool because it encourages us to internalise the work we long to see God do in other people's lives, in our own hearts. Remember God wants to pray through us and symbolically putting ourselves in a circle like this has the same effect as 'laying ourselves on the altar'.

We are showing God we prepared to let Him do what He needs to do in our hearts, so He can release His prayers and His power through us. Drawing a circle, kneeling inside it, and asking God to do what He wants to do is a great place to a revival.

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## **Do it: A Circle Prayer**

This activity can be done as part of a personal quiet time – you might like to mark out a circle using a piece of string rather than drawing on your carpet! It also works well as a group activity, with a large circle marked out so everyone can kneel within it.

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## **Books on Circle Prayer**

- The Circle Maker – Mark Batterson