



Covenant Prayer

Loving God, we are thankful for the opportunity to gather in this Small Christian Community, to hear your word and share Your good news for the salvation of the world.

We believe Jesus is present and continues to break open the word and speak to our hearts as once He did for His disciples.

Open our minds, our hearts and our lips so that what we hear we will understand, what we understand we will share.

Remind us of the needs of our community, our church and our world as we strive to know your word.

Give us the strength to be present to one another and while in this community may we always be respectful of each other and honor a spirit of confidentiality and trust.

Temper our differences with love and understanding, and call us all to mutual respect and compassion.

May this community and the covenant we share, be a reflection of the covenant you made with our ancestors, a bond that is only strengthened and deepened each time we gather to know, love and serve You.

When our time of prayer and reflection is complete, may your Spirit be with us as we return to the world to live the message we encounter.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*



Alternate Opening Prayers

-A-

God, you have made the heavens and the earth.

**You have revealed your beauty in creation
and inspired the book that we are now about to study.**

Please help us now as we read together.

**Take us deeper into understanding more about you
and your love for us. *Amen***

-B-

Dear Father,

We thank you for everyone gathered here now.

**Thank you that you know each of us by name
and have caused us to walk with You.**

We are dependent on You and our trust is in You completely.

**As we surrender ourselves in adoration we ask that You
would come by Your Holy Spirit and inspire our hearts
today.**

Come fill our lives with Your love,

Fill our conversations with Your grace and truth,

Fill this gathering with Your presence.

We ask this for Your greater glory. *Amen*