

Some Thoughts About Public Prayer

We are very grateful for our men who are willing to help during the assemblies by leading the congregation in prayer. We know it can be a hard task and you are doing a good work so please keep it up! In order to improve our efforts in public prayers, please consider the following suggestions:

- Speak up! If you cannot be heard, you are not really doing your job. How can you “lead” others if they cannot hear you? You must project your voice in a louder and more forceful tone than you commonly do in normal conversation. A good way to measure how loudly you should speak is to imagine someone standing in the farthest corner of the building, then speak so they could easily hear you.
- Remember that this is a public prayer. This will dictate what sort of things you should pray about. Private matters should be dealt with in private.
- Don’t pray to be seen or heard by men (Matthew 6:5-8). You are not trying to impress men with eloquent speech. You are speaking to the eternal Father in Heaven.
- Give some thought to the length of your prayer. Public prayers do not need to be extremely long. The “model prayer” that Jesus prayed (Matthew 6:9-13) can be recited in less than twenty seconds. On the other hand, you do not to get in a big rush either. Nervousness can make you speak so rapidly that it is hard for others to understand.
- Don’t sermonize. Again, you are speaking to God, not men. You should not use your prayer as an opportunity to “make a point” with others who are in the assembly.
- Do everything (volume, speed, content, motive, etc.) in such a way that others will be able to add their “amen” at the end of the prayer.

Adapted From Greg Gwin