

# 3

## Opening and Closing Prayers

This chapter contains short prayer services for eight common group situations. There is a prayer to be used at the beginning and at the

end of each situation. Each prayer has parts for a leader and a reader. The readings are from Scripture and could be read from the Bible.

### Prayers for Class

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#### Prayer to Begin Class

**All:** +In the name of the Father . . .

**Leader:** Let us recall that we are in the holy presence of God.

*(Pause for a moment of silence.)*

**Reader:** After they had completed [the days of Passover], as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

(LUKE 2:43-47)

**Leader:** Lord of all wisdom, open our minds and hearts to your truth. Help us learn what we need to learn. Give us the grace to do more than we think we can do today. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Prayer to End Class

**Leader:** Let us recall that the Lord our God is in our midst.

*(Pause for a moment of silence.)*

**Reader:** The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, / because the LORD has anointed me.

(ISAIAH 61:1)

**Leader:** Holy God, let us live more fully in your Spirit, that we might walk in confidence. Let us go forth from today certain that with your Spirit upon us, we are empowered to do more than we think we can do. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen. +In the name of the Father . . .

## Prayers for Team Practice

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### Prayer before Practice

**All:** +In the name of the Father . . .

**Leader:** Let us recall that we are in the holy presence of God.

*(Pause for a moment of silence.)*

**Reader:** They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, / they will soar on eagles' wings; / they will run and not grow weary, / walk and not grow faint.

(ISAIAH 40:31)

**Leader:** All-giving God, we thank you for the abilities you have given us and for bringing us together today. We ask you to bring this group of individuals together into a powerful team. Help us to do our best, and help

us to trust others to do their best. Keep us safe from injury, and help us stay focused on our goals. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Prayer after Practice

**Leader:** Let us recall that the Lord our God is in our midst.

*(Pause for a moment of silence.)*

**Reader:** I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

(2 TIMOTHY 4:7–8)