# A Way to Guide Your Church to Flourishing Through Prayer

# **Collecting and Reviewing Prayer Requests**

Ask for Prayer Requests >
Respond to Requests >
Review for common themes >
Close the Loop with the church

Collecting prayer requests are a great way to assess key areas where people in your church or community may be struggling. Most churches do this quarterly as a way to check the pulse of their congregation and community. As you start to collect and go through prayer requests look for specific themes that arise within your church:

### **Common Themes to look for:**

- Finances, Money
- · Job, work, career, unemployment
- · Injury, sickness, hospital,
- · Marriage, spouse, husband, wife,
- · Family, Kids, brother, sister, parents
- · Relationship, dating, friend,
- · Fear, anxiety, loneliness
- Addiction, recovery, support group

Use these themes to inform programs, teaching, small group topics, sermons, or community needs. For instance, if a large portion of prayer requests are dealing with addiction and your church does not offer a recovery group, it might be time to start one. Or if your congregation is praying for marriage, perhaps a marriage sermon series or starting a small group would help.

You will have a lot of prayer requests to sort and categorize but treat this as direct insight into the health and needs of your congregation. Additionally, use it to help prioritize and focus efforts of your church community by working on the top prayer request theme.

# Close the Communication Loop with your Church

In our experience, we've found that many church communities are strengthened by involving them in what needs prayer. A simple email message or text to pray for the church is a simple way to involve your congregation and the prayer theme you discover is a great topic to focus prayer on.

Lastly, it doesn't always have to be a prayer theme. Think about swapping out a theme for a month if you have a big event like a kids camp, a fall festival, or a date night.

Use the opportunity to see where you can strengthen your church by asking for prayer requests and encouraging your church to be involved in prayer.

## Making This Simple with the Gloo App

The Gloo App Template Library contains a kit designed to help you:

### Prayer Check-In with your Church

As often as you need (most churches do this quarterly), use the Kit to send a scheduled broadcast to your church congregation for prayer requests. The Gloo App automatically captures these prayer requests in the Prayer tab. From that tab, prayer requests can be assigned to a specific staff member to reply, and all conversations and requests are recorded. This is a great way to engage your congregation in prayer through text messaging.

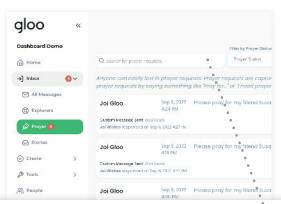
Gathering a prayer request is as simple as filtering requests in the Prayer tab. Filtering by prayer status, assigned to, group and newest/oldest help to manage the prayer requests. But did you know you can use the "Search for Prayer Request" bar to search for

keywords? For instance, you can search for all the prayer requests that contain the keyword "marriage." The keyword can be used with the other filtering methods, too.

If you're looking for more in-depth filtering or are a large congregation with many requests, try downloading a CSV file from the Prayer Tab and using Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel to sort and filter the requests. These can be downloaded for a specific timeframe to help you look at common prayer themes quarterly or monthly.

Beside the two methods above for gathering these themes, you'll also be able to directly respond to any prayer requests. Don't forget messaging on the Gloo App is free!





Q Search for prayer requests