

The Christian Educator

Here are helps for the Christian Educator.

Introduction

Mrs. Joyce Watke and I had a major part in the beginning of Southgate Baptist School, a ministry of Southgate Baptist Church of Augusta, GA. The foundation was laid in 1972 and the school was started in the fall of 1973. It was our intent to pattern the school after Bob Jones University Elementary and Secondary school, as well as others that had a wonderful reputation. We saw the Lord bless that effort and today there are a number who are in the Lord's work who were among the first of the 350-380 students of those early years.

Beginning and maintaining a good, spiritual school with the intent of changing lives is not an easy thing. We rejoice in the evidence of the Lord's hand on the school back in the 1970's. We had students from over 50 Baptist churches of the greater Augusta area in those years. In fact we reached out as far as 40 miles in different directions as the school as the reputation of the school brought in many.

All that is shared below should also be applied to the home school.

These parents must also understand the importance of Christian Education, for it is not just a good thing, it must be seen as a priority. Here I have set forth what Christian Education should be.

In the broader sense, Christian Education is everything that is done in or by a Church or in the home to advance education that is biblical, Godward, and honoring to Him. There are many who seek degrees in Christian Education in order to serve in a local church leading their Sunday School and any aspect of ministry that relates.

So the following should relate to all aspects of Christian Education and the fulfilling of its purposes and God honoring goals. -- **Dr. Edward Watke Jr.**

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Twelve Advantages of Christian Education

One of the fastest growing movements in America during the past thirty years has been the Christian Home School and Christian Day School movement.

Some years ago, Dr. Sidney P. Marland, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Education, Health, Education and Welfare, said, "*There is manifest in this country an active loss of enchantment with our schools. For the first time, Americans in significant numbers are questioning the purpose of education and competency of educators.*"

Dr. Al Janney, past president of the American Association of Christians Schools said, "*Christian Schools are American's viable alternative for today's parents.*" And this could be said for the home school movement as well. This viable alternative offers some very distinct advantages for your child. May I suggest some to you.

I. The Christian School Complements the Home:

1. The teaching of the home is reinforced by the Christian School.
2. Patriotism, respect for authority, hard work, love for God, discipline, and other basic character building principles that are taught in the home are taught and reemphasized in the Christian School.
3. The advantage here is consistency. There must be a consistent pattern in the education of the child. Education is not just for the purpose of filling the head but more importantly to help the parent mold the life.

II. The Christian School Brings Education Back to Bible Principles -- "*Do all for the glory of God.*" (I Cor. 10:31) "*Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*"

1. Colossians 3:17 states "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.*"
2. There is no difference between the sacred and the secular. **All of life is sacred.**
3. Everything that is done should be done to the honor and glory of God. Christian education fulfills this Bible principle by allowing education to be done for His glory.

III. The Christian School Builds Christian Character.

1. It is more important for the child to **BE** (or become) what he should **BE** than to know what he should KNOW.
2. Character is doing right even if the immediate consequences are detrimental to him. Children do not grow in Christian character in a non-Christian setting.
3. The Christian school puts a strong emphasis on developing positive Christian character traits in the student. This emphasis will make them stalwart Christians in the days ahead.

IV. The Christian School Allows Parents a Control Over the Education of Their Children.

1. The Christian school is an extension of the home, it exists to help you in the training of your child.
2. Children do not belong to the state. They do not belong to educators, either. They belong to parent! God said the parents are to train up a child.
(Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4)
3. Parents have little, if any control over their child in secular schools. They have almost no say about what is taught or the content of subjects or texts which are contrary to Biblical truth.

V. The Christian School Prepares the Student to Serve God.

1. One of the major goals of a good Christian school is to prepare the student for life, for a life of service and fulfilling of divine purpose.
2. It teaches a student how to live, the purpose of life, value systems and priorities for life -- that is to serve the Lord, not to just make a living.
3. The student must be taught to live a victorious life over sin, and to serve and honor God in everything he does. This takes time and dedication to purpose on the part of both parents and school staff.

VI. The Christian Schools Provides Leadership Training.

1. Leadership is lacking America. We have very few if any true statesmen. Every one would rather follow the crowd than to be different.
2. The philosophy and goal of our age destroys individuality and a desire to stand for what is right... just because it is right. In our pluralistic society we are told we are to give into the position of the masses, the majority sentiment, or the most vocal, whether it is right or not.
3. The Christian school teaches leadership. It teaches that men are to take their place as God commanded them. They are to be leaders at home, at church, and at work and in society in general -- leaders to uphold the right, the pure, the true and noble.
4. One of the purposes of Christian education is to develop men and women for God, for morality, as God planned it to be.

VII. The Christian School Offers Academic Excellence.

1. One of the major emphasis in a Christian school is learning to read. This is center to all of life.
2. One of the glaring lacks in public education is the failure to graduate youth who can read. Many are just passed from year to year who are functionally illiterate. (If parents were paying for that education in the form of monthly tuition, they would remove their child.)

3. Achievement test scores show Christian school students to be academically ahead of the national norm by one half to a whole year and in many cases far above that. Many youth home schooled have even a better record than this.

VIII. The Christian School Exercises Christian Discipline.

1. One of the primary characteristics of a Christian school is its standards and procedures for maintaining discipline.
2. In a day when respect for authority and individual self-control are lacking, the Christian school is working to discipline students in actions, attitudes, and work. God is the author of law and order while Satan is the author of confusion and chaos.
3. The words "*discipline and disciple*" come from a word that means "*training in orderliness, obedience, and efficiency.*"
4. Discipline aims at removing the bad habits and substituting the good ones. A child learns and builds character largely by the habits he builds.
5. In a Christian school the student is given the discipline that will guide him in the right direction.

IX. The Christian School Teaches That ALL of Life Is Sacred.

1. All of life has a sacred meaning to it... therefore the Christian school endeavors to help the student put everything in right perspective.
2. Life is not sacred on Sunday and then secular during the rest of the week.
3. Being in a profession other than "*full time*" Christian work should be seen just as sacred as the preacher's position. It is God's will that is important.

X. The Christian School Will Help Save Your Child From This Ungodly Society.

1. We live in a humanistic society. Man is a god to the humanist. At the same time they teach and believe evolution and thus man is only a high grade animal living out his will as he pleases.
2. To a large degree the "*movers and shakers of secular education*" are anti-god (at least), and some are outright atheists or agnostics.
3. To the humanist socialism is the main emphasis and life adjustment is the goal of education.
4. Christian education teaches a person where he came from, why he is here, and where he is going. Christian education teaches that all of life is sacred and true life adjustment only comes when a person is in right relation with God through personal trust in Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord.

XI. The Christian School Offers An Environment That Is Conducive to Education.

1. Our public schools are experiencing serious crimes of a felonious nature including brutal assaults on teachers and students as well as rapes, extortion's, burglaries, thefts, and an unprecedented wave of wanton destruction and vandalism.
2. Twenty plus years ago it was estimated that violence and vandalism in American schools cost over \$500 million a year. Today it is much more.
3. The Christian school offers an environment that rejects exposure to drugs, exposure to sex education, sensitivity training, to horrible, crude or wicked language. It offer moral guidelines and molding of positive good character.
4. The Christian school will offer an environment that will be conducive to educating your child academically, spiritually, and socially.

XII. Christian Education Doesn't Cost, It Pays.

1. Many people say, *"I want a Christian education, but I could never afford it."* Perhaps it might be that you can't afford not to have it!
2. Sending your child to a Christian school might be cheaper than paying lawyer's fees to get him out of jail.
3. It may be that sending your child to a Christian school may be cheaper than sending him to an institution for those hooked on drugs.
4. Sending him to a Christian school and teaching him how to live may be cheaper than raising his children from his broken marriage.

You see, in reality, your investment in Christian education may be the wisest investment that you make in your whole life.

Who is molding your child? What kind of philosophy and beliefs are molding your child?

The Christian School Teacher As A Counselor

Do you see yourself as a counselor in the ministry of teaching as a Christian school teacher or as a parent in the home school? Do you recognize that God has given you young lives to mold and direct for His glory? (Eph. 1:6, 12)

I. Why Should You Be A Counselor?

A. Because God commands it!

1. There is to be both instructive and preventive work take place in others lives. (Romans 15:14)
2. Our goal is to present every man (woman, man, child, youth) before the Lord as those accountable for their lives because our ministry and position. To do this we are to warn and teach in all wisdom. Note what Paul says in Colossians 1:28-29.
3. Colossians 3:16 teaches us to *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another. . ."*

B. Because every person is already a counseling whether good or bad.

1. We counsel by our personality, character, and by our manner of life,
2. by our example every day, for we are observed, and
3. by our words and even our body language speaks volumes.

C. Because the Christian school is probably the greatest place to bring about admonition and the molding of a child. (Deut. 6 :7; 11:19)

1. We have them many hours of each week.
2. School is a place of much interrelationships, interplay between people, especially between a teacher and the pupil.
3. It is a place we can teach, mold, bring change by our counsel.

D. Because of the receptivity of young lives.

1. Children and youth are still pliable for the most part.
2. Children are usually tender of heart.
3. They are impressionable, and
4. they are largely receptive what you have to say.

Every problem a child (youth) has is a problem someone else has -- they possibly just have more of it.

A quiet child may have just as many problems the outgoing person, they just keep their problems inward.

E. Because of the impact of a teacher's life.

F. Because of many basic needs that teens and children have.

II. Some Principles In Counseling:

- A. There must be an understanding of the impact of the habits of life.
 - 1. Recognize the need of forming right habits.
 - 2. Help them establish proper problem solving methods.
- B. There is the need of transfer from principle to practice.
 - 1. They must understand the truths of the Word of God and how they apply to their lives.
 - 2. The principles of the Word of God must become the foundation for life.
- C. There must be solving problems God's way -- the biblical way. Students, like all of us, tend to solve problems according to old patterns of sinful reaction.
- D. There must be the result of discipleship -- "*modeled by the teacher.*" The teacher (or parent) must become a discipler, a mentor of the child.

Looking at The Heart of Biblical Counseling

- > Biblical counseling deals with the total man, as God has made him - emotionally, behaviorally, cognitively.
- > Christ emphasized the relationship of inner thoughts, understanding and desire with the outer actions and words. (Study the gospels)
- > Why do people have problems with envy, jealousy, anger, pride, or criticalness? We must recognize that in Scriptural counseling inner thoughts and outer actions are intertwined. (Prov. 23:7; Matt. 12:33-5)
- > For a Christian to live a consistent godly life, his thoughts, emotions, words and actions must be under the control of the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:15-17, 24)
- > Abiding in God's Word means more than casual believing; abiding implies thinking, feeling, and acting according to the directives (or truths) of the Word of God. This necessitates actively applying God's Word. (Jh. 8:31-32)

I. God Expects A Change In OUR Thinking.

- A. This takes place when the Christian (child, youth) chooses to be transformed (changed) by the renewing of mind. (Eph. 4:23, Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:8-14)
This necessitates the child or youth understanding how this takes place in life.
- B. Wrong thinking causes failure, havoc in the emotions and results in sinful actions.
- C. The Word of God puts a great importance on the thinking of the person.

(Matt. 9:4; Psa. 139:23-24; Mark 7:21; Lk 2:19,51; John 8: 32;
Matt 12:33-35)

II. God Desires Accurate, Truthful Thinking.

- A. There must be a primary concern that we walk in truth , (or there will be lies, and half-truths, etc., Prov. 6:16-19)
- B. The teacher counselor must be deeply concerned about the thought life of the student. (See John 8:31-32; Matt. 12:33-35; Rom. 8:5-8; Psa. 9:14)
- C. The teacher must help the student to focus on what is right to think about. (Phil. 4:8)
- D. As thought life changes, behavior will also change. Accurate thinking that is Biblical will free the student from the bondage of sin.
- E. Satan's lies, and the practice of self-deception or telling oneself lies will bring continued bondage in sins that are embraced and practiced.
- F. The mind is a battleground, (II Cor. 10:3-5) on which the thoughts which derive from the world, the flesh, and the devil can vie against the truth of God's Word.
- G. Thoughts can be sinful almost continually. Sinful imaginations and falsehoods can form strongholds in the mind and then in the will (Gen. 6:5-6; II Cor. 10:3-5)

III. Recognizing the Importance of One's Thoughts.

- A. Peoples thinking includes their belief system, attitudes, opinions, and their values.
- B. Thoughts take the form of internalized sentences or our self-talk. We can internalize thoughts in speed upwards to 1,300 words a minute.
- C. People are constantly telling themselves all kinds of things which are reflected in their emotions and their behavior.
- D. Thinking is a train of ideas manifesting itself in sub-vocal speech. Our inner thoughts or words, spoken to ourselves do have a great influence upon our emotions and actions.
- E. It is human nature (sinful) pervert and to distort truth. (Jer. 17:9)
- F. The teacher as a counselor, must help the student to look
 - 1. at his belief system,
 - 2. to look at or consider the lies he is telling himself, and
 - 3. to be honest about the sinful thoughts that bring sinful actions.
- G. We do evaluate our thoughts and from those thoughts we bring about emotions or feelings, and sinful actions. (Rom. 8:5-8; Psa. 139:23-24)

**How Can We Help The Student To Change?
They Must Understand HOW. . .**

I. To "PUT OFF" the Old Man (sinful nature) and It's Sinful Thinking.

(Eph. 4:22; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:8-10)

There has to be a willingness to face the fact of inner lies which are controlled by sinful wrong thinking. (Matt. 12:33-37)

II. To "PUT ON" the New Man (new nature God gave us) and it's Control.

(Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:12-14; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16-17, 24; Rom. 13:14)

We must yield our bodies (I Cor. 6:19,20; Rom. 6:13) and walking in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. (Gal. 5:15-17, 24; Rom. 13:14)

The Goals of Christian Education!

We will seek to be brief here and give a summary about the goals that ought to be the purpose of every Christian school and any good home school.

While no school is perfect as no home is perfect, the goals of Christian education are well worth the sacrifice of parents and teachers alike. The goals of any home school ought to be as definite and as important as any Christian school.

A Christian school needs the parents' support: their prayers, giving, godly positive input and desire to help it succeed in all of its purposes and goals.

Much has been written concerning goals of Christian education. Most Christian schools have published in some form, a written statement concerning the aims and objectives of their particular Christian school. God has given a purpose or design for Christian education as seen in Ephesians 4:11-12.

Interwoven within this purpose are certain intermediary goals that should be accomplished. There are many goals or objectives for any Christian school that is truly Christian and God-honoring.

Here are the basic purposes of a Christian School.

1. To win boys and girls or youth to Christ.
2. To bring education back to Biblical principles -- *do all for the glory of God.*
3. To save our children from an ungodly society.
4. To allow parents control over the education of their children.
5. To complement and support the home in its goal to have godly children.
6. To help build godly, Christian character.
7. To aid in preparing the student to serve God.
8. To provide leadership training.
9. To teach self-discipline and self-control.
10. To teach that *all of life is sacred* and to be lived to God's honor and glory.

The Advantages of Christian Education!

There are many advantages of an education wherein we seek to bring glory to God, build character, prepare youth to serve the Lord, and build them to be a credit to parents, the church, and society.

High Academic Standards

1. The Christian school recognizes the importance of having a strong reading program.
2. The Christian school recognizes the importance of a strong math program.
3. The Christian school seeks to be advanced in other academic subjects.
4. The Christian school recognizes the importance of each individual and seeks to meet the educational needs of each person.

Wholesome Social Emphasis

1. The Christian school provides wholesome activities.
2. The Christian school teaches respect for authority and politeness to others.
3. The Christian school exercises Christian discipline.
4. The Christian school emphasizes patriotism and responsibility.
5. The Christian school supports the home and the church.

An Environment Conducive To Education

In contrast, the following from 1975 figures and things are much, much worst today:

1. Violence and vandalism in American public schools cost over \$500 million a year.
2. In Houston, the nation's sixth largest citywide school district, over 3/4 of a million was budgeted this year for police protection.
3. A U. S. subcommittee report states: *"Our schools are experiencing serious crimes of a felonious nature including brutal assaults on teachers and students as well as rapes, extortion's, burglaries, thefts, and an unprecedented wave of wanton destruction and vandalism."*
4. In contrast to this, Christian schools are relatively free from exposure to drugs, offer no exposure to sex education or sensitivity training, and seek to control language, moral content, and to provide a good wholesome place.

Strong Spiritual Teaching

The Bible is taught daily, with an emphasis on application to the life by qualified teachers who love their students. Every subject to be taught in the light of Scriptural truth with the goal of building godly youth with biblical character training.

-- Counseling Youth --

Some common problem areas of young people and Scripture that can be used in counseling them!

Materials from: Mrs. Royce E. Franklin, Guidance Counselor Alliance
Christian Schools, Birmingham, AL.

Since counseling is truly the work of the Holy Spirit in the inner heart, determine whether or not the student is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Be sure the person is truly born again, truly knows Christ as a personal Savior.

1. **"Have You Accepted Christ as Your Savior?"** This question ought to be used. They should be able to share the circumstances leading up to their salvation. You might ask him to explain to you what it means to be saved. Or ask him if he stood before God today, what reason could he give God that he should spend eternity with Him. Probe a little -- or a lot. If there is any doubt that the student is saved, share the plan of salvation with the individual.

*(Verses that could be used: Rom. 3:9-12, 23; 5:6, 8; 6:23; 10:9-13;
John 3:14-16, 18, 10:10; 1:12; 14:6)*

2. **When Christ is accepted as Savior**, the person should understand they are receiving a person into their life, Christ the Lord. He must be recognized as Lord (Rom. 14:9; 6:13). Students often have the mistaken concept or idea that they can accept God's eternal salvation without any personal responsibility to His Person or Lordship. They should understand that it is much like marriage (Rom. 7:4; II Cor. 11:2) and this means they are accepting a Person who comes in to change their lives. (II Cor. 5:17)

3. **They must know that the abundant life** only comes from yielding to Christ as Lord of their lives. (Jh. 10:10) They should realize they are saved to live for His glory and honor. (Isa. 43:7, 21; Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 6:16-19)

4. **Students are often resentful of the way they look**, their personalities, the abilities they have, their parents, their environment, or economic circumstances. If they cannot accept the way God has made them, then it mars their entire relationship with Him; they will develop an underlying distrust of God.

- > Bring the student to an acceptance of the way God has made him,
- > and to a realization that God is not finished with him yet.
- > God has created us uniquely and He has created a unique plan for the life.
- > No one else can fill the plan that God has for us, but we will fit it perfectly as we allow Him to work in our lives.
- > God has created our weaknesses for His glory.

*(Verses to use: Psa. 139:13-16; Eph. 1:4-7; 2:8-10; Rom. 8:28-29; Psa. 138:8;
II Cor. 12:9-10)*

5. Young people today, more than ever before, resent authority over them.

They complain about its unfairness and are often resistant to or are openly rebellious to any authority over them. They want to be free; yet in being submissive first to the Lord, next to their parents, and then to teachers and other authority over them, they will find the greatest liberty. (Verses to use)

- > Submission to God: Rom. 12:1-2; 6:16-18; Rom 14:9)
- > child-parent relationship: Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20; Prov. 1:8-9; 6:20-23; 15:5)
- > authority in general: Rom. 13:1-6; I Pet. 2:13-17; Heb. 13:7, 17)
- > *verses that deal with the servant/master relationship* are applicable to the student-teacher relationship: I Tim. 6:1-2; I Pet. 2:18-20; Col. 3:22-24; Eph. 6:5-8)

6. Young people sometimes feel that they have been wronged by those in authority over them. . . (or by friends), and they are thereby released from God's principles of life and conduct. Rather, they are told to forgive and to leave the "making of things right" or the offense to God.

(Verses that can be used: Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:31-32; I Pet. 2:18-20; Psa. 37:1-2; Psa. 6-9; Heb. 10:30-31)

7. Sometimes students are disinterested in school and thus are slothful about their work. They often seem to have little concept that their homework is the work that the Lord has given them to do for this present time, and they are responsible to Him for how they do it.

(Verses that can be used: Phil. 2:14; 4:11b; II Cor. 5:9-10; I Cor. 3:13-15; Matt. 25:14-30; II Tim. 2:11-13; Heb. 12:1)

8. Sometimes students become very discouraged because they are not able to do well in school. Remind them again that God has given them the abilities He wants them to have, and they are responsible to Him, (not for A's and B's) but to faithfully use those abilities. If their lives are right with Him, they may claim understanding from Him.

(Verses that could be used: Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Psa. 111:10; Col. 3:17; I Cor. 4:2; Psa. 1:2-3; Phil. 4:13-14; II Cor. 9:8; Prov. 16:3)

9. Sometimes the student's disinterest is compounded by a lack of self-discipline. He feels frustrated by the work he is expected to do, because he is so disorganized and does not know how to study. He may need some practical study helps and basic guidelines in the use of his time. Help him to set some goals for himself and then check on him.

(Verses that could be used: Self-control is the fruit of the Spirit-- Gal. 5:22-23; James 1:5; Prov. 16:3)

10. Students often feel that they have more on them than they can bear--

Such as problems at home, circumstances in their lives, demands made on them at school. Lead them to see that God never allows more on us than we can bear, and all things are for the purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ.

(Verses to use: Isa. 45:7; I Cor. 10:13; Rom. 8:28-29; II Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 12:11 (5-15); Rom. 8:17-18)

11. Students are sometimes reluctant to openly identify themselves with Jesus Christ for fear they will lose friends. In reality, they will attract genuine friends. Friendships centered in and around the Lord Jesus Christ are a rich blessing and provide the fellowship we need to enhance our growth in Him.

(Verses that could be used: Luke 6:22-23; Prov. 18:24; 17:17a; I Cor. 13:4-8)

12. Students need Scriptural principles for their date lives. They need instruction in this and admonition and encouragement to develop the spiritual and mental aspects of their boy-girl relationships. There is real danger that the physical relationships will be dominant and will result in date activities that produce guilt, fear, and frustration.

(Verses that can be used: II Tim. 2:22; I Cor. 6:15-20; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; I Cor. 3:16-17; I Thess. 4:1-9; 5:22-23; I Cor. 13:4-8)

13. Sometimes students who have truly given themselves to the Lord and have a real desire to be in His will and growing in Him become discouraged because they so often fail Him. As a baby must learn to walk and has many falls in so doing, so must we learn to walk in the Lord. And as parents do not get mad at us or discouraged with us when we fall, so God does not get mad at us or discouraged with us when we falter and fall. But we must confess our sins and take hold afresh of His grace and power for victory over failure.

(Verses to use: Psa. 103:8-14; I Jh. 1:7-9; Isa. 41:10, 43:25; Psa. 37:4-5, 23-24)

14. They also become discouraged that they cannot see their spiritual growth from day to day, but neither can they see their physical growth. Yet, when they try to put on clothes from the year before, their growth becomes obvious. And so it is with spiritual growth, the time will come when they will be able to look back and see how God has transformed them.

(Verses you could use: II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 1:6, 2:13; Rom. 8:29; I Thess. 5:24; Isa. 40:28-31, 45:10-11; II Pet. 1:3-11; Job 23:14)

15. Probably the most significant thing we can do to enhance our students' spiritual growth is to get them into God's Word on a consistent basis. (Psa. 1:1-3; I Pet. 2:2-3; Psa. 119:11; Jere. 15:16; Jh. 8:31) Challenge the students to ask the Lord to help them have a quiet time with Him each day, to have the self-discipline he needs for this.

The time need not be long to begin with (5-10 minutes), but it should be consistent. *(Verses to help: Psa. 104:33-34; Jh. 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; Phil. 4:19; Matt. 7:7-8)*

- > It should begin with prayer to commit the time to the Lord and ask Him to give him something just for himself from the portion of the Word he will be reading. (Psa. 119:18, 25)
- > He should learn to read and meditate on several verses of Scripture. It is best to have some pattern of reading. The Psalms, Proverbs, John, Romans, I John, and Philippians are especially good books to read and to reread.
- > The time should end with another prayer time. First, just praising and worshiping the Lord. Thanking Him for everything, then he should take time to intercede for others. Having a prayer list is a good idea. Then pray for his personal needs.... confessing sin, and walking with the Lord!