

INVITING GOD

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Sample

Inviting God



Simple,
Creative Prayers
for Meetings

KRYSTYNA HIGGINS



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General Introduction

Meetings are an inescapable feature of contemporary society. They may consist of two people, or hundreds. They may be regularly scheduled events, or ad hoc groups with a specific and time-limited focus. Whatever form it takes, meeting together is an inevitable aspect of every workplace, every volunteer association, every medical or educational or arts community.

We humans are hard-wired for connection, and so meetings can bring out the best in people. Ideally, they serve as a forum for effective communication, shared insights, mutual support, and communal decision making. Because we are all unique individuals with our own distinct baggage, however, meetings can also bring out less desirable traits, such as unresolved conflict, destructive criticism, or misuse of power.

Jesus said, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20) While this Scripture verse actually occurs in the context of a discussion about church discipline, it has a much wider resonance for us. People of faith profess the belief that God is with us in every situation. How appropriate it is, then, to turn our attention to our Creator when we gather together for discussion and action. Beginning our meetings by expressing our needs and affirming our faith in

God's guidance can establish a positive and hopeful tone, and can focus our gaze beyond our personal agendas and limited vision.

Many faith-based organizations already implement this practice. Some people are comfortable and adept at leading an impromptu prayer when asked. Others, however, find the prospect rather daunting, and may not know where to begin. This book is intended to offer some solutions.

With the goal of making this collection as user-friendly as possible, the prayers are divided into eight categories, each with a brief explanatory introduction. The first section contains prayers linked to the feasts and seasons of both the liturgical and the secular calendars. The second set consists of invocations to various saints. Part C prays for particular virtues, while Part D centres on certain causes or issues. A section of prayers suitable for particular kinds of groups is followed by prayers inspired by aspects of the natural world. The final group of opening prayers consists of mini-rituals focused on concrete objects. All of the prayers are very short; each begins with a brief quotation from Scripture, and none takes more than a few minutes to complete. Part H contains ten very brief (one- or two-sentence) closing prayers, in cases where such a prayer might be desired. Certain themes surface in more than one prayer, and in these instances cross-references are provided.

Any of these prayers can be adapted to your own situation as needed, or you can use them as an inspiration for your own ideas. In cases where a longer prayer is desired, you might consider combining two prayers on similar themes.

However you wish to use them, may these prayers help you to keep God and creation in your hearts and minds as you meet together!