

1.5 Why do you use the word *facilitate* rather than *lead*? What is the difference between the two?

The specific role of the facilitator will be more fully addressed in Sections 6-8. But here is a brief answer.

I don't really expect that the meaning of the question, "Would you lead us in prayer?" (as mentioned in Question 1:4 above) will change any time soon. So, another way to describe the person who is responsible for the time of prayer is a *facilitator*. The hope is that they would not do the leading or the praying as much as they would provide encouragement and opportunities for others to do most of the praying. The most important thing is not how much or how well the facilitator may pray but rather how much and how well the others in the room pray. A good facilitator helps people get where God wants them to go, helps them connect with God and what He is doing. Sometimes they may be noticed, but they are not the center of attention.

On various occasions I have asked those who facilitate dynamic corporate prayer how they would describe the facilitation process. Here is a collection of their answers. They will further develop the distinction between facilitating prayer and leading a more traditional prayer meeting.

- Discerning where the Spirit of God is leading and how He is moving among us, and inviting others to enter in;
 - Giving direction, focus and flow through the prayers we pray, the songs we sing, and the Scriptures we share, as well as through verbal instructions;
 - Giving direction with a gentle, humble spirit, yet with a steady hand in constant dependence and trust in the Holy Spirit;
 - Contributing toward a transforming encounter with God, His sovereignty and holiness;
 - Noticing which door God is opening and inviting the participants to walk through it;
 - Inviting the group to participate in a prayer activity the Lord has invited you to do.
 - Modeling the role of a participant in everything we do or don't do, even our body language. How and when we participate or enter into the flow has influence, gives permission, suggests approval, and provides support or encouragement.
- **Blessed by Doing** – When you are in an extended time of prayer, consider how you might facilitate it. If you are responsible for the time of prayer, think through the bullet points above and let them shape your actions.