God’s Word teaches us that God’s people need to be MINISTERED to, DISCIPLED/Mentored, & MOBILIZED.

For this to happen I believe EVERY student should be LOVED, PRAYED for daily, PRAYED WITH personally and DISCIPLED.

Why these objectives?
Because they are clearly taught from Scripture. Notice some:

- We are taught in the following Scriptures to “love one another”
  - John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you that you LOVE one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
  - John 15:12 “This is My commandment, that you LOVE one another: as I have loved you.”
  - John 15:17 “These things I command you, that you LOVE one another.”
  - Rom. 12:10 “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love in HONOR giving preference to one another.”
  - Rom. 13:8 “Owe no man anything except to love one another, for he who love another has fulfilled the law.”
  - Gal.5:13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, SERVE one another in love.”
  - Eph. 5:1-2 “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling offering.”
  - I Thess. 4:9 “but concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.”
  - I Peter 1:22 “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, LOVE one another deeply, from the heart.”
  - I Peter 4:8 “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins:
  - I John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us LOVE one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”
- We are taught in the following Scriptures to “pray for one another.”
  - Col. 4:12-13 and Col. 1:9-12

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy." Col. 1:9-12

From Col. 1:9-12 we have five request that we can pray for others.
On Monday that a person come to understand the Will of God for their life.
On Tuesday that a person’s walk (lifestyle) before God will be pleasing.
On Wednesday that a person’s work for God will be productive.
On Thursday that a person will increase in their wisdom about God.
On Friday that a person will have the strength to withstand trials and temptations.

Every day at LU every student is prayed for if RDs pray for RAs, RAs for SLDs, SLDs for PLs and PLs for their PG.
We are taught in the following Scriptures to "pray with one another."
James 5:13-16; Acts 20:36 – Paul knelt down and prayed with the leaders.

We are taught in the following Scriptures to "Disciples one another." Matt. 28:18-20

A GREAT DEFINITION FOR WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLER:
"Discipling others is the process by which a Christian with a life worth emulating commits himself or herself for an extended period of time to a few individuals who have been won to Christ, the purpose being to aid and guide their growth to maturity and equip them to reproduce themselves in a third spiritual generation."

While some of our objectives can be accomplished in a large group setting, a _PERSONAL_ touch is greatly needed and desired.

"You can IMPRESS a person from a distance but you can only IMPACT a person up close."

At Liberty University we view Prayer Groups to be one of the most _VALUABLE_ ministry avenues we have!

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A SMALL GROUP/PRAYER GROUP Ministry?

The idea of having Prayer Group comes primarily from two passages of Scripture:
Exodus. 18:13-26 and Acts 2:42-47

In Ex. 18:13-26 Moses was told by Jethro that when it comes to ministry "SMALLER is BETTER."
He advised him to relinquish his role as supreme counselor and judge of every problem and recruit and train others to help.

Ex. 18:20-23, 25 reads this way: "And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they MUST walk and the work they MUST do. (EQUIP) v. 21 Moreover you shall select (ENLIST) from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; (QUALIFICATIONS); and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of ten. (Establish assignment.) And let them judge the people at all times. (EMPOWER) Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.” “And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of ten.”

From Exodus 18 we get the Jethro Principle and it teaches us to DIVIDE and MINISTER. By dividing the large group (our campus) into smaller groups (prayer groups) with leaders that are responsible for the group, more is accomplished.

Using this principle it has been my objective to have a PRAYER GROUP led by a PRAYER LEADER with 5 students (and never more than 6 students.)

This means each floor has a leadership team of 2 RAs, 2 SLDs and 10 PLs.

* We have a ONE TO FIVE RATIO of leaders to students.
  * Example: Let's say that Dorm 5-2 is a floor of 64 students

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"You can IMPRESS a person from a distance but you can only IMPACT a person up close."
In Acts 2 we find the early church meeting in small groups.
Acts 2:41-47 (NKJV) "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized: and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

What did these believers do together and gain from being together?
1. PRAYER
2. FELLOWSHIP
3. TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD
4. MIRACLES
5. SENSE OF UNITY/CLOSERNESS
6. GIVING TO MEET NEEDS
7. MINISTRY OF MEETING NEEDS
8. EVANGELISM OF LOST
9. WORSHIP
10. SPIRITUAL GROWTH
11. ENCOURAGEMENT
12. INFLUENCE

What takes place in a Prayer Group?
There are four different ways to describe a prayer group.

1. The small group is **SANCTUARY**. It is a place of **WORSHIP**.
   You should have a time of praising God and a time of prayer. Incorporate praise songs in to your group. Have members share blessings they are experiencing. Then have them share prayer request and pray specifically for those prayer requests.

2. It is a **LEARNING** center. It is a place of **INSTRUCTION**.
   You should plan to teach a lesson from God's Word. **APPLICATION** of God's Word is crucial.

3. It is a **CONNECTING** center. It is a place of **FELLOWSHIP**.
   Dorm friendship and dorm unity are by products.

4. It is a **SUPPORT** center. It is a place of **ENCOURAGEMENT**.
   Every day has its struggles. Students need to be encouraged.

What is needed in order to have a successful PG?

1. a **PRAYER** **LEADER** (who is Faithful)
   F one who is a **FOLLOWER** of Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 11:1)
   A one who is **AVAILABLE**.
   I one who is an **INFLUENCER**.
   T one who is **TEACHABLE** and able to **TEACH**.
   H one who is **HUMBLE**.
   F one who **FEARS** God and **FLEES** from sin.
   U one who is **USEFUL** to the Master.
   L one who **LOVES** God and people.

2. A clear **PURPOSE** which means it has a time of **PRAYER** * and **BIBLE** study.
   * a. the **PRAYER** **REQUEST** of the group.
   b. our **CAMPUS**
   c. our **COUNTRY**
   d. our **HOME PASTORS**
   e. our **WORLD**
3. Intense **PROMOTION**.
   Why is promotion so important? PGs are voluntary!

4. Team **COOPERATION**. We must have a unified team effort by CP, RD, RA, SLD and PL.

5. **ASSOCIATION** with members of your group. Be **SEEN**, Be **KNOWN**, Be **Understood**.

6. **EXPECTATION** that sees the various possibilities and the potential that comes from PGs.
   What can students expect to gain from coming to PGs?
   1.) prayer warrior and partner  7.) Friendship
   2.) love and acceptance   8.) Warnings to avoid sin
   3.) Discipleship/instruction  9.) Accountability
   4.) Encouragement        10.) A listening ear
   5.) Trusted Advisor/counselor  11) Exhortation/challenges
   6.) Edification/Affirmation 12) Fellowship

7. **PREPARATION** before each prayer group.
   a. of an **AGENDA**. Be detail oriented.
   b. of your **ROOM**. It is best to sit in a **CIRCLE**.
   c. of **YOURSELF**. Make sure you are prayed up and clean.

8. **HOSPITALITY**. A receptive and warm atmosphere.

9. A dynamic **PRESENTATION**. Smile and be excited

10. **PARTICIPATION** & **INTERACTION** of PG members.
    Get group members **INVOLVED**! (ask good Questions)
    You need **Ice breaker** questions to get **started**.
    You need **probing** questions to **open them up**.
    **Challenging** questions to **fire them up**.
    **Overview and summary** questions to **wrap up**.

11. **APPLICATION** of the lesson.

12. **DELEGATION** that gives ownership.
    Cultivate the idea that “If it is to be, it is up to us.”

13. **ANOINTING**. Seek the Lord’s help.
    Ask for Him to bless. Pray for the prayer group.
    Little prayer, little power. More prayer, more power. Much prayer, much power.

14. **EVALUATION** that leads to improvement. Always seek to improve.
Practicing the “One Anothers” of God’s Word

Many of the actions that we need to take in order to be a person that others will respect and enjoy being around are found in verses that contain the words “one another.”

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you that you LOVE one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Romans 12:10 “Be DEVOTED to one another in brotherly love. HONOR one another above yourselves.”

Romans 12:16 “Live in HARMONY with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

Romans 15:7 “ACCEPT one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Romans 15:14 “I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to INSTRUCT one another.”

1 Cor. 1:10 “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you AGREE with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

Galatians 5:13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, SERVE one another in love.”

Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, BEARING with one another in love.”

Ephesians 4:32 “Be KIND and COMPASSIONATE to one another, FORGIVING each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” See Col. 3:13

Ephesians 5:21 “SUBMIT to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you TEACH and ADMONISH one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”

1 Thess. 5:11 “Therefore COMFORT each other and EDIFY one another, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thess. 5:14 “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

Hebrews 3:13 “But ENCOURAGE one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Hebrews 10:24 “And let us CONSIDER one another in order to stir up love and good deeds.”

James 5:16 “And PRAY one for another.”

1 Peter 1:22 “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, LOVE one another deeply, from the heart.”

1 Peter 3:8 “Finally, all of you, live in HARMONY with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”

1 Peter 4:9 “Offer HOSPITALITY to one another without grumbling.”

1 Peter 4:10 “As each of you have received a gift, MINISTER IT to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 5:5 “Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe your-selves with HUMILITY toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

1 John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us LOVE one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”