

ABOARD PRAYER

by Dan Bolin

Ministries rarely rise above the level of their boards. Boards that operate in God-honoring ways set the standard for all activities. Explore seven ways board members can honor God as they guide their ministries.

1. Dear God, **thank you.**

- Thank you for calling this ministry into existence and for allowing it to serve and care for the people you love.
- Thank you for the various perspectives represented in this meeting and the things we will learn from one another.
- Thank you for the privilege of corporately receiving reports, and with one voice establishing policies, discovering direction, setting goals, and encouraging those who serve in this ministry.
- Thank you for the many people whose lives will be influenced through our meeting - other board members, staff, volunteers, donors, participants, vendors, and generations yet unborn who will benefit from the decisions we make today.
- And God, thank you for entrusting your ministry into our care. Help us be worthy of the trust that you and others are placing in us.

2. Father, allow me to **report honestly.**

- Help me tell the whole truth, not just the parts that make me look good.
- Let me not bury bad news in mounds of data and detail, and don't let me gloss over painful issues or personal failures.
- Help me give credit to others and take responsibility for failure and lack of progress.
- Don't let me trivialize serious issues or magnify minor successes.
- Let me tell stories and provide statistics that represent accurately.
- Help me remember that good information provides a smooth pathway to good decisions.

3. God, as we approach this meeting, help us **see clearly.**

- Help us see the issues before us from many perspectives - but ultimately from your perspective. Align our thoughts with your thoughts and our work with your desire.
- God, help us see our ministry's strengths and weaknesses and embrace both.
- Help us connect the dots between the many good ideas to find the great idea you have for us.
- Help us distinguish what is significant from what is superficial, what is short-term from what is long-term, and what is best for me from what is best for all.

4. Help me **listen objectively.**

- Allow me the grace to filter angry words and hear the truth behind what is being said.
- Help me listen to the painful heart from which flows harsh comments.
- Help me learn from what is legitimate and discard what is said in spite.
- Help me respond to questions with grace and respect.
- Allow me to focus on what is being said more than how I will respond.

5. Help me **speak cautiously.**

- Let me use the fewest words, the least intensity, and the lowest volume needed to be understood.
- Help me voice my opinions with care, strength, and meekness.
- Help me ask good questions, open dialogue, explore options, and deepen discussion.
- Help me say nothing degrading and nothing that would draw lines of conflict unnecessarily.
- Help me affirm and agree whenever possible.
- Help me give second-voice to a courageous and wise first-voice; those who risk presenting a new, contrary, or unrefined perspective.
- Lord, help me accept compliments and approval with humility.
- God, give me the grace to watch with dignity as my proposal fails, and give me humility when my idea meets with approval.

6. Dear God, give the board wisdom to **plan wisely.**

- Help us see opportunities and threats and count the cost as we weigh risks and rewards.
- Help us see the possibilities for a better future.
- Help us honor the past and give us the courage to abandon the methods that provided yesterday's success but will lead to futility tomorrow.
- Help us discover and employ the most effective methods to accomplish your mission for this ministry in the days ahead.
- Help this board avoid the herd mentality that could stampede the ministry in a dangerous and reckless direction.
- Help us see which decisions are easily reversed and which ones are changed at great peril.

7. And Dear God, help us **remain unified.**

- Allow every member to express his or her opinion fully.
- Help us engage the dreams for the future with harmony and enthusiasm.
- Help each of us leave this meeting with the commitment to speak with one voice and support the group decisions in public and private.
- Help us remember that few decisions are worth the divisions caused by dominant winning or belligerent losing.
- Help us seek your glory and not ours.
- Grant us the joy of arriving at adjournment closer to one another because we are closer to you.

Amen.

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