

# 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** 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 to be worthy of the trust that you and others are placing in us.

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

- Help me to 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 to 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 to **see clearly**.

- Help us to 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 to see our ministry's strengths and weaknesses and to embrace both.
- Help us connect the dots between the many good ideas to find the great idea you have for us.
- Help us to 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 to **listen objectively**.

- Allow me the grace to filter angry words and hear the truth behind what is being said.
- Help me to listen to the painful heart from which flows harsh comments.
- Help me to learn from what is legitimate and to discard what is said in spite.
- Help me to 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 to **speak cautiously**; let me use the least words, the least intensity, the least volume needed to be understood.

- Help me voice my opinions with care, strength, and meekness.
- Help me to ask good questions, open dialogue, explore options, and deepen discussion.
- Help me to say nothing degrading and nothing that would draw lines of conflict unnecessarily.
- Help me to affirm and agree whenever possible.
- Help me to give second voice to a courageous and wise first-voice; those who risk presenting a new, contrary, or unrefined perspective.
- Lord, help me to 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 to see opportunities and threats; and to count the cost and to weigh risks and rewards.
- Help us to see the possibilities for a better future.
- Help us to honor the past but 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 to avoid the herd mentality that could stampede the ministry in a dangerous and reckless direction.
- Help us to see which decisions are easily reversed and which ones are changed at great peril.

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

- Allow every member to express his or her opinion fully.
- Help us to engage the dreams for the future with harmony and enthusiasm.
- Help each of us to leave this meeting with the commitment to speak with one voice and to support the group decisions in public and private.
- Help us to remember that few decisions are worth the divisions caused by dominant winning or belligerent losing.
- Help us to 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.**

Coming Fall 2024!

