



Prayer Hour Essentials

How to Lead a Virtual Prayer Hour

Unceasing Prayer for Bible Translation

Table of Contents

Invite Participants _____	1	Prepare _____	2	Pray _____	6
Plan _____	1	Gather prayer requests ____	2	Hosting protocols _____	6
Worship and Praise _____	1	Prepare your visuals _____	3	Styles of prayer _____	7
Intercession _____	1	Prepare yourself _____	3	Lead in the Holy Spirit ____	8
Fellowship _____	1	Learn the Zoom interface_	3	Outro _____	8
Take Action _____	2	Final preparations _____	6		

Unceasing Prayer for Bible Translation (UP) is a global collaboration among churches, missions agencies, prayer ministries and Bible translation agencies to lead praying believers in a continuous online prayer space. Each week is divided into 168 one-hour time slots, each hosted by leaders from different organizations. To lead their recurring prayer hour, hosts need to invite participants, plan and prepare their hour, and finally lead praying believers in worship and praise, and prayer for Bible translation and the Bibleless. This article provides guidance and tips for doing those things.

Invite Participants

Invite people to join you in praying for Bible translation. Think through all the groups in your Christian network. This might include

- People in your church
- Ministry partners in other churches
- People within your Christian organization
- People within partner organizations
- Your financial and prayer supporters
- Your family and friends

Tell them why you decided to sign up to host a recurring hour in this continuous prayer. Invite them to join you. Personal invitations work better than general announcements.

This [video](#) may be helpful as you invite participants.

Until the public UP website is ready, you will have to send them the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712830927> and the passcode that was included in your welcome email.

Plan

Time in the UP prayer room should primarily focus on worship and praise, and praying for Bible translation and people without any Scripture. Prayer activities should encourage fellowship among the participants. Some time may be devoted to instruction to help participants pray better or informing participants about opportunities to take action.

Structure the hour as the Holy Spirit leads you in light of common purposes uniting us for this event:

Worship and Praise

Plan part of your time to worship and exalt the God of the Bibleless, King Jesus. You can use video or have live worship, read and respond to Scripture, or sing. You can celebrate Bible translation progress and the life transformation that results amongst people groups. Follow the results from your prayers week-to-week and thank God for those results.

Intercession

Plan your intercession so that participants have some context about the issues you are praying for. Don't assume that your participants understand the process of choosing a language, building and equipping a team, or even the process of translation itself. Don't assume your participants understand the political and spiritual context in the country.

Avoid lengthy instruction. Using visuals can help clarify the prayer issue as well as the context. So, take time to plan some visuals to share during your hour.

There are three prayer directions for Bible translation. Focus on one or more of these in your hour:

People groups without any scripture: Pray for all people groups in your focus area to have the whole Bible in each of their native languages.

Bible translation projects: Pray for current prayer needs for active Bible translation projects in your focus area.

Strategic points: Pray about the unique obstacles to Bible translation for your area (i.e. geographical barriers, internet connections, lack of Bible translation consultants, governmental opposition, etc.).

Fellowship

We value fellowship within the global body of Christ. As you plan, choose formats that encourage interaction among your participants rather than formats in which they are simply an audience.

Watch for opportunities to share leadership with others. Contact some of your participants in advance to ask them to lead or present for part or all of your hour.

Take Action

Use the prayer room's chat feature to provide links to connect with the ministry you are praying for or for links to digital resource downloads that your participants can use. When appropriate, provide a way for your participants to connect with the Bible translation partner regarding any of the issues that are being prayed for.

Prepare

Gather prayer requests

Use [resources](#) provided by Unceasing Prayer, or by the Bible translation ministry that you partner with to learn current prayer needs.

A warning about sensitive information:

Many translation projects are located in sensitive areas where there is great opposition to Bible translation. Publicizing details about the project--names of language, participants, or location--may endanger the project or its participants. When praying for a current project, *find out ahead of time if it is in a sensitive location*. If it is, here are tips for protecting the project as you pray:

- Avoid using the actual names of the country, province, city, or village where the translation is taking place. Use regional names instead, such as Southeast Asia or Northwest Africa.
- Avoid using full names of translators or other project participants. Use just first names or nicknames.
- Avoid using the name of the language. Use a pseudonym instead.
- Avoid showing photos of project participants.
- Avoid showing photos of landmarks that make it easy to identify the location of the project.

Remember: God knows who you are praying for, even when you use regional names and pseudonyms.

Best practice: contact the project leaders and ask them how to refer to them in a semi-public online prayer room. Don't guess what is best.

Prepare your visuals

Gather images that give context for your prayer requests. Prepare images for your lists of requests. If you have multiple visuals, a slide show can simplify moving from one visual to another.

Prepare yourself

Take advantage of [forums](#) for connecting with the other prayer hosts for encouragement and support.

Seek God. Depend on his power to bring this to pass.

Learn the Zoom interface

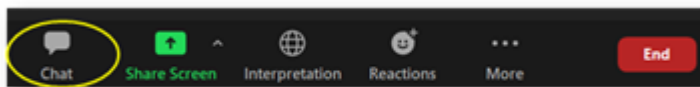
Before your first scheduled hour, enter the prayer room. If you can, join as a participant in an hour that is being led by another host.

Virtual Prayer Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712830927>

Passcode: The passcode was included in your welcome email. Do not share this passcode online or in social media.

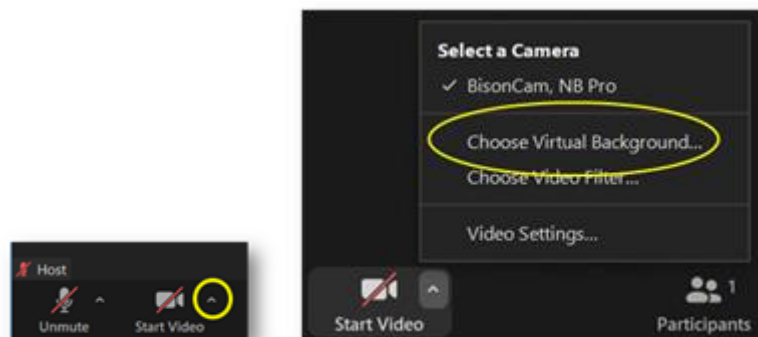
Chat:

The Chat tool allows every participant to take part even when they don't pray aloud. Use Chat to share links with your participants.

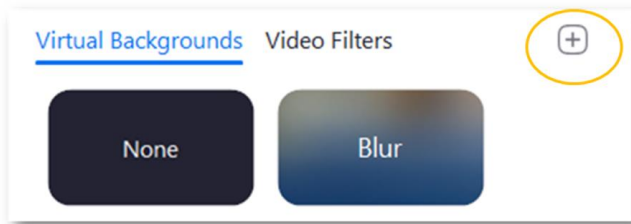


Background:

As host, you should have your video on. If your office or room at home is not suitable for streaming on the internet, you can change the background that appears behind you in the prayer room. Click the arrow (^) on the Start Video icon to see the option to choose a virtual background. Click that option.

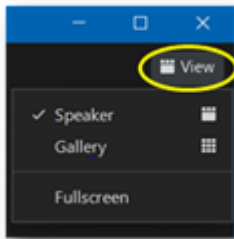


You'll see an option to blur your background and the option to add an image to use instead. Click the "+" to add an image that will appear as the wall behind you.



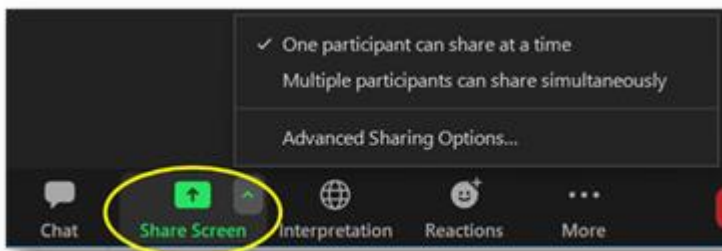
Participant Display:

Click "View" in the upper right of the screen to see options for how Zoom displays the other participants.

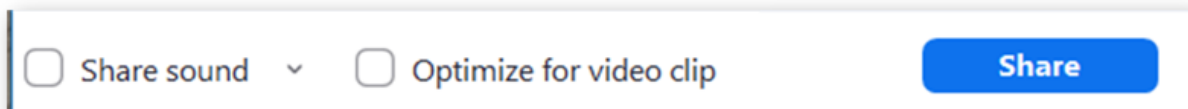


Share Screen:

Screen sharing is a setting that the host controls. You can share your screen or permit another participant to share their screen. Look for the green button in the Zoom toolbar.



After clicking, you will see a dialog with images of every open window on your computer. Choose the window that you want to share. If you are using video, then select the buttons for sound and optimize for video.

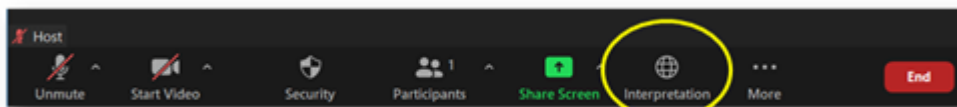


Optimize sound:

This [site has detailed instructions](#) to optimize Zoom's sound settings when using live music. Your participants will need to mute their own microphones while they sing along.

Interpretation:

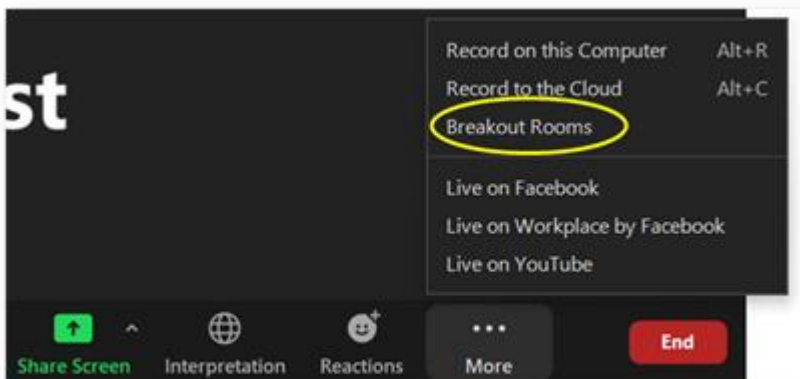
We *highly* encourage you to pray and speak in your native language. The interpretation tool for [simultaneous translation](#) allows participants who don't speak your language to hear a live translator. You can view this [training video](#) and or view this [simple guide](#) to understand how to implement this feature. Share this training with your interpreter prior to your prayer hour.

**Mute and Mute all:**

As host, click the Participants tool to find the option to turn off the microphone or video of any participant. This will give you the ability to intervene with problematic participants.

**Breakout rooms:**

If you have a large number of participants, you may want to use breakout rooms. Click "More" to see this option.



Claim host:

If there is no host in the prayer room when you enter, then you must “Claim Host.” Click on “Participants,” then on “Claim Host.” Add the access code that was emailed to you when you reserved your hour as host.

Final preparations

Have all your necessary slides, prayer resources, browser tabs, videos, and links ready to share. Turn off notifications on your phone and computer. Eliminate any other distractions.

Assure proper lighting and have a visually pleasing background.

Enter the prayer room at least 15 minutes before your hour to assure a good internet connection. Coordinate with your co-leaders so they join you early as well.

Virtual Prayer Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712830927>

Passcode: The passcode was included in your welcome email. Do not share this passcode online or in social media.

Pray

Successful hosting is simply leading prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

Hosting protocols

Use these protocols to help the hour begin and end smoothly.

Notify the current host

After you join the prayer room, find the host in the list of participants. and send a private chat message to let them know you will be the next host. If there is no current host, you’ll need to [use the access code](#) to “Claim Host.”

Receive and give a blessing

Five-minutes before your hour, the current prayer hour leader will take time to bless you and your team, pray for your hour and then officially hand off the prayer room to your team. Have someone on your team bless them in return and thank God for His power upon them to intercede during their hour.

Welcome and introductions

If your hour has [simultaneous translation](#), immediately explain how people can use this feature. This explanation can simply be an image in both languages that you show as participants are arriving.

Welcome all who are present and take a few minutes for you and your team to introduce yourselves.

As host, create an atmosphere of respect and honor of the participants. Acknowledge them consistently and affirm their importance in prayer during this time. Be friendly, smile and express gratitude for those joining.

Styles of prayer

Greatly emphasize the encouragement for *everyone* to engage the *whole time* in praying together. Here are some ways to keep the prayer participants engaged in prayer:

“Aroma” prayer

Create moments for all participants to pray out-loud, unmuted, together at the same time. It will be rather impossible to hear everyone’s prayers, but the LORD will receive this united fire of prayers as a sweet-smelling incense (Revelation 5:8).

Conversational prayer:

Conversational prayer is a good way to encourage timid participants to pray aloud. In a normal conversation, the speakers usually only speak one or two sentences before another joins in with one or two sentences. Sometimes in a conversation a speaker will speak just a phrase or one word. After a topic fades, another topic replaces it, and the speakers continue their conversation. We all speak in groups this way and naturally move as a group from topic to topic.

We can bring this format into our joint conversation with God. During your preparation, break up your topics for prayer into smaller units and list these separately on your visual. Explain the format of conversational prayer and show the first topic. Encourage sentence prayers of 10-20 seconds. Encourage your participants to pray what the Spirit brings to mind about that topic. When the praying on the first topic begins to slow, show the next topic.

Pray the Scriptures

Post Scripture in your visual and encourage conversational prayer in response to the Scripture.

Turn-taking prayer:

Offer the participants to take turns praying in prayers of longer duration. Stay away from longer prayer times where just one person prays. Prayers of 2-3 minutes should suffice.

Prayers in chat box

Create moments for all participants to post their prayers in the chat box. A beautiful tapestry of prayers fills this virtual prayer wall, and many are blessed to see what others are praying.

Visual celebration

Create moments for participants to celebrate answered prayer and the progress of Bible translation by using the clapping hands motion in most sign languages by holding your hands up and rotating your wrists quickly back and forth. [Here is a video to demonstrate.](#) This as well is a way to honor the nearly 70 million unreached Deaf people and the 300+ sign languages without any Scripture.

Singing

The slight delay sending and receiving in the virtual prayer room makes synchronized singing impossible. To use song in your worship time, ask one person to lead the singing. Ask all other participants to sing along but *mute their microphones* (or use “Mute All” in the Participants tool). You’ll be able to see one another singing together, and God will hear the unified song.

Lead in the Holy Spirit

Be sensitive to how the LORD is prompting others to pray and invite deeper intercession if there seems to be a strong theme/word/topic arising

Make room for moments for listening prayer so participants have time to hear God the Spirit speaking to them about the Bibleless. Encourage participants to use the chat to share what they hear and any Scripture that comes to mind.

Our efforts in unceasing prayer for Bible translation will succeed only if this is a movement called and led by God’s Spirit. Trust him to work his purposes through your time in the prayer room.

Outro

At the ten-minute mark, take five minutes to explain how people can continue to pray for the Bibleless and especially get involved in tangible ways like volunteering their time to work with a Bible translation agency, being a voice on social media for the Bibleless, inviting their church community to impact the Bible translation movement, etc . Share any links for further action or resources.

Take the last five minutes to bless the next host. Assign them as “host” on the Participants tool on Zoom.