



Day 6

Self-Examination / Lost Family & Church Members

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

“Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:12-15).

“These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37).

“After Christ’s ascension, the disciples were gathered together in one place to make humble supplication to God. And after ten days of heart searching and self-examination, the way was prepared for the Holy Spirit to enter the cleansed, consecrated soul temples. Every heart was filled with the Spirit, as though God desired to show His people that it was His prerogative to bless them with the choicest of heaven’s blessings” (*Evangelism*, p. 698).

“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my mind and my heart. For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth” (Psalm 26:2-3).

“In the family if one member is lost to God every means should be used for his recovery. On the part of all the others let there be diligent, careful self-examination. Let the life-practice be investigated. See if there is not some mistake, some error in management, by which that soul is confirmed in impenitence” (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 194).

“Thus says the LORD: “Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children” (Isaiah 49:25).

Prayer Focus: *Lost Family and Church Members*

- Ask God to reveal anything in you that is keeping your loved ones from being saved and how you can cooperate with Him for their salvation.
- Pray for your family and church to be a safe place for the backslidden to find Jesus again.
- In faith, claim promises like Isaiah 49:25, Isaiah 55:13, Ezekiel 11:19-20, Joel 2:28-29, Jeremiah 24:7, Mark 10:27, and Ephesians 3:14-21 for lost family and church members.
- Praise God for what He is already doing in their lives and that He is saving them!



Leader's Guide Day 6

Suggested Plan for *Self-Examination / Lost Family and Church Members*

- **Introduction - 5 Minutes:**
 - Remind people of general guidelines for united prayer as explained in United Prayer Guidelines (available on www.revivalandreformation.org).
 - Introduce the day's prayer topic of self-examination and prayer for lost family and church members. Explain how to pray scripture into people's lives in faith. See explanation in Supplication section below.
 - Have each person select five intercession cards at random from the intercession box to pray over during the supplication time. Make sure they return these to the box at the end.

United Prayer Time

- **Praise - 10 Minutes:**
 - Praise God for revealing the hidden things in our hearts to us. Use the scriptures on the theme sheet to guide your praises.
 - Praise God for our lost loved ones and the work He is already doing in their lives.
 - Encourage people to share their answers to prayer as praises to God.
- **Confession – 10 Minutes:**
 - Give people 5-8 minutes to search their own hearts and silently ask God to reveal anything that stands between them and God. Especially encourage them to search their hearts concerning relationships with their loved ones that are lost.
 - Allow 3-5 minutes for corporate confession of our collective sins that have driven people away from the church.
- **Supplication - 25 Minutes:**
 - Pray that each church member will take time to search their own hearts and allow God to show them hidden sin. Especially pray/claim the promises on the theme sheet.
 - Claim the outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised in God's word.
 - Pray scripture into the lives of your lost family and church members. Pray the first one to show people how. For example, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, "May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." Then pray something like this: "Dear Lord, please strengthen my son's heart-level determination to do what is right. Give him your grace to make decisions that lead to holiness. Jesus, may he look forward to your return. ... etc."
 - Divide people into groups of twos or threes to pray for the individuals/situations listed on the five cards they chose from the box. Encourage them to keep praying scriptures!
- **Praise - 5 Minutes:**
 - Thank God for saving our lost family and church members!

Suggested Songs to Use: Come Holy Spirit, I Need You; Sanctuary; God is so Good; He's Able; In His Time; Let Your Heart Be Broken (*SDA Hymnal* #575); Rescue the Perishing (*SDA Hymnal* #367).