



# *United Prayer Guidelines*

God has worked thousands of miracles through Operation Global Rain since it began in 2006. The Holy Spirit has wrought revival, conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, and healed relationships. Truly, prayer is the birthplace for revival!

During the first ten days of OGR, January 4-14, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. The eleventh day falls on Sabbath and is meant to be a celebration of all God has done in answer to united prayer. It is our hope that the ideas and suggestions here will be useful to you as a prayer leader and will help to make OGR a powerful experience for your small group or church family.

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*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20, 21).*

## GENERAL OPERATION GLOBAL RAIN ITEMS

**DAILY THEME SHEETS:** A theme sheet has been prepared for each of the 10 days of OGR. The first page of each theme sheet has Bible and Spirit of Prophecy quotes to be considered and prayed over during the daily prayer time. At the bottom of the theme sheet is a suggested “Intercession Focus” with ideas of items to pray about specifically. This first page of the theme sheet should be printed and copied so each person attending the prayer meeting can have a copy.

Churches all around the world will be joining you in praying about each day’s theme. So join them in united prayer and pray through the scriptures, quotes and prayer suggestions on each theme sheet. The more focused you can stay on the theme, the more meaningful the prayers will be to all present.

The second (and sometimes third) page of the daily theme sheet is a “Leader’s Guide” with specific suggestions for that theme on how to lead out in the prayer time. The suggestions include items to pray about, prayer activities, approximate times to allow for each prayer segment, and appropriate songs. These are designed to help you as a leader, but feel free to make changes as the Holy Spirit leads. These are just suggestions.

### GENERAL PRAYER FORMAT

**Adoration:** Begin and end your group prayer time with praise and thanksgiving. You may want to choose an applicable psalm to pray through. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4). “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker” (Psalm 96:2, 6).

It is a powerful and special experience to begin prayer time with thanksgiving and praise. Also, mingle requests with praise and thanksgiving. The prayers in the Bible by men such as Daniel, Elijah, and others always began with praise, thanksgiving, or confessing who God is.

**Confession:** “Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:21, 22).

What a difference it makes to spend the first few minutes of your prayer time clearing the path for God to hear your prayers as a group. Allow God to impress your minds with any sin you need to confess. Make this a silent time when each person does this individually.

"AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD IN PRAYER", by Juanita Kretschmar, found in OGR Theme Sheet Day 3 has step-by-step directions for a leader to lead the group through a time of confession. This can be a powerful experience!

**Supplication:** Here is where we take God at His word. He tells us to ask, to seek, to knock. “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:9, 10, 13). So let’s take Him at His Word and ask!

Don’t be afraid to ask large things of God. He tells us to! So plead for the Holy Spirit, for people’s salvation, for God to reveal Himself to you, for open doors for the Gospel. And then praise Him as He answers your prayers! Pray scriptures and promises throughout too.

**Thanksgiving:** Return to praise and thanksgiving of God at the end of your prayer time. This is a time to specifically thank God for the many gifts He has given us—salvation, life, family, friends, etc. Answers to prayer can be shared as thanksgiving to God during this time. Also, praise and thank God in faith for hearing and answering the prayers you have just prayed during the supplication time. Praying the Psalms and other scriptures back to God is a wonderful way to thank God.

“We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God, and have more bestowed to praise Him for.” (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 317. Read pages 315-317. It is so good!).

**TWOS OR THREES:** It is nice to have more people, but you only need two or three. Whether you have a lot of people for OGR or just a few, be assured that your prayers will be heard and answered in heaven. “Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:19,20).

“Our Savior follows His lessons of instruction with a promise that if two or three should be united in asking anything of God, it should be given them. Christ here shows that there must be union with others, even in our desires for a given object. Great importance is attached to the united prayer, the union of purpose” (*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 429).

If you have a lot of people attending OGR, make sure to give people some time each day to pray in small groups of 2-4 people. This can be time to intercede on behalf of the people listed on the intercession cards. Encourage people to not pray with the same small group each night, but to deepen their relationships with others in the church by praying with a variety of people.

**INTERCEDE FOR FIVE:** Encourage each person to ask God to show them five people to pray for during the 10 days. These may be family members, friends, coworkers, church members, etc. Have them ask God what they should pray about for these individuals too. God may surprise you with what needs to be prayed about. Make a list of these individuals and pray for them daily. If God impresses you to reach out to them in some way during OGR, make sure to do so.

**INTERCESSION CARDS:** Give each person five 3x5 cards. On each card they are to write the name (people may wish to use a first name only, or in some other way mention the person if privacy is an issue) and prayer need of one of the five people they are going to be praying for especially during OGR. At the end of the first meeting, collect these cards and place them in a general intercession box to be kept at your meeting place. During part of the prayer time each day, have people come and take five name cards out of the box and pray for those people and their situation. If God leads to special scriptures/promises to pray for that individual during the prayer time, the reference can be written on the card so those praying for it the next day can also pray that scripture for them. Make sure cards are returned to the box at the end of the prayer time.

**FINAL FRIDAY NIGHT:** There are several options for the final Friday. You may want to simply meet as you have on the other days. Or you may want to plan a special communion and footwashing service to happen after a fellowship meal together. Another option is to coordinate an all-night prayer vigil, with various church members each leading out in an hour of the prayer time and each hour focusing on a different prayer themes. See the “Night of Prayer” Theme sheet for suggestions.

**SABBATH SERVICES DURING OGR:** Have a special prayer focus and share testimonies of answered prayer during the church services of both OGR Sabbaths. Be creative, there are many ways to share with the church family what is happening during the daily prayer meetings.

**FINAL SABBATH CELEBRATION:** The final Sabbath, especially, should be designed to be a time of great rejoicing in all God has done for you throughout OGR. Include ample time for testimonies of answered prayers, Biblical teaching/preaching on prayer, and singing. It would also be good to have a time of united prayer so that those who have not been able to attend the daily meetings can experience the joy of praying with others.

**FOLLOW-UP TO OGR:** Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what God has begun during OGR. This may be through a weekly, united prayer meeting. Or perhaps God wants you to begin a new ministry to your church or outreach to the community. Be open to God's leading and follow where He leads. You're sure to be amazed as you walk with Him.

## **UNITED PRAYER POINTERS**

**AGREE TOGETHER:** When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together. It is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed the request no one else needs to. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 18:19). How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer!

**BIBLE PROMISES:** Ask God to lead you to promises in His word that you can claim for the person or situation for which you are praying. We are told to put our finger on the promise and bring it before the Lord, thanking Him in advance for the answer according to His will.

"He is pleased with the faith that takes Him at His word. The mother of Augustine prayed for her son's conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desire of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 322, 323).

Encourage people to write down the promises He leads them to so they can remember to claim them in the future.

**FASTING:** Invite those joining you in OGR to consider some type of fasting, such as from TV, secular music, movies, the Internet, or sweets. Use the extra time to pray and study the Bible, asking God to reveal Himself to your congregation.

**HOLY SPIRIT:** Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how or what you should pray for in a person's life or in a particular situation. Claim Romans 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

**PHYSICAL TOGETHERNESS:** As you begin a united prayer session, invite everyone to come close together so that there is a sense of unity. When people press in close together to form a tight circle, it helps to promote a spirit of unity which is very important for united prayer. If people are spread out in a room it is also difficult to hear each other's prayers.

**PRAY SCRIPTURES:** Reading or praying a short portion of Scripture is a wonderful way to insure you are praying God's will. Praying God's promises back to Him is an incredible faith builder. God loves for us to pray His word back to Him in expressions of praise or promises. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). You'll be amazed at how long a group can pray and enjoy it!

Here's an example of how to pray scripture back to God: 1 Thessalonians 3:13 says, "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."

**PRAYER REQUEST NOTEBOOK:** You may want to buy a notepad or use a spiral bound notebook to record people's prayer requests and answers during OGR. A simple way to do this is to draw a line down the middle of the paper. Put the requests in the left column and the answers in the right. It is exciting and faith building to look back and see how God has answered prayers!

**REVERENCE:** Encourage and model a reverent attitude. We are approaching the throne room of the King of the Universe. Let's not treat this prayer time carelessly by our posture or mannerisms. However, it is not necessary that everyone kneel continuously. You want people to be comfortable for an hour, so encourage people to kneel or sit or stand as God leads and they are comfortable.

**SENTENCE PRAYERS:** Prayers should be short and to the point. This gives others an opportunity to pray as well. Try to limit your prayers to a few sentences. Each person can pray multiple times. Using short sentence prayers keeps the prayer time interesting and allow the Holy Spirit to impress the group how to pray. You don't need to open and close the short sentence pray each time with phrases such as "Dear God" and "Amen". It is an ongoing conversation with God.

**SILENCE:** As a leader, don't dominate the prayer time. The goal is to get others praying... times of silence are wonderful as it gives God time to speak to our hearts. Allow the Holy Spirit to work and give everyone time to pray.

**SINGING:** Spontaneous songs in which all join in, mingled between prayers, add beauty to the prayer meeting. A list of appropriate songs is listed at the end of each theme sheet. Singing is also a good way to transition from one prayer section to another.

**TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS:** Don't ask for prayer requests from the group. Instead tell people to pray their request and encourage others to join in agreement and pray for those requests. Here's why – time! Talking about the requests will take up most of your prayer group

time. Satan is thrilled if he can keep us talking about the problem instead of praying about the problem. Group members will often begin counseling and suggesting solutions. The power is from God! The more we pray, the more His power is unleashed!

**YOUR DAILY TIME:** This is so important! Make sure that as a leader you are spending time daily at the feet of Jesus talking with Him and reading His word! If you will make knowing God a first priority in your life, it will open such a beautiful experience to you. “From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises” (*Great Controversy*, p. 210).

*“It is part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask.”*  
(*Great Controversy*, p. 525)

