

## **Growing in Godliness**

*Godliness: The fruit of abiding in Christ made manifest in our daily lives.*

“to perseverance **godliness**” (2 Peter 1:6).

“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22, 23).

“Godliness is the fruit of Christian character. If we abide in the Vine, we shall bear the fruits of the Spirit. The life of the Vine will manifest itself through the branches. We must have a close and intimate connection with heaven, if we bear the grace of godliness” (*Peter’s Counsel to Parents*, p. 19).

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6).

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints” (1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13).

“True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. ‘God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.’ 1 John 4:16. The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560).

### **Intercession Focus: Church Leadership**

Our church leadership needs our prayer support so much! Pray for leaders at all levels to:

- Know Jesus personally through Bible study and prayer and to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Have a deeply spiritual and evangelistic focus to their ministry
- Recognize their responsibility to God and their fellow church members
- Lead with humility, grace, and a complete reliance on God’s guidance in the Bible and SOP
- Be prepared to take on greater leadership roles as God leads
- Be guided by God’s Spirit in all their leadership meetings and decisions

## Growth in Godliness / Church Leadership

While I work on the plan of **addition** . . . God is working on the plan of **multiplication**!

Dear Lord, during the next 24 hours, I feel You calling me to add this grace to my life: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Your strength and by Your power, I choose to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

These are the ways I saw God multiply His grace to me today:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Growth in Godliness / Church Leadership**

### **Suggested Plan**

#### **Introduction—5 Minutes:**

- Remind people of general guidelines for united prayer as explained in United Prayer Guidelines (available on [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org)).
- Introduce prayer topics: godliness and interceding for our church leaders.
- 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 being the one who calls us to godliness and enables us to abide in Him.
- Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the fruit of the Spirit. Use the scriptures and quotes on the theme sheet to guide your praises.
- Praise God for your lost loved ones and the work He is already doing in their lives.

#### **Confession—5 Minutes:**

- Encourage people to meditate on 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and silently ask God to reveal anything in their lives that prevents them from demonstrating God's life-changing power in daily life, even while they may "look" as if they are doing all the right things.
- Allow about two minutes for corporate confession of our collective sins of ungodliness.

#### **Supplication—25 Minutes:**

- Pray for God to give every church member true godliness and a personal experience of abiding in Christ.
- Pray/claim the scriptures and quotes on the theme sheet.
- Devote a large portion of the supplication time to praying for Seventh-day Adventist church leaders to reflect Christ in the areas listed under the Intercession Focus.
- Claim the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as promised in God's Word.
- Divide people into groups of two or three to pray for the individuals/situations listed on the five cards they chose from the box. Encourage them to keep praying scriptures!

#### **Journal Page Time—5 Minutes:**

- Allow silent time for individuals to ask God how to apply the day's prayer theme—godliness and abiding in Christ—to their life in the coming 24 hours. They may also write down their prayer goal.

#### **Praise—10 Minutes:**

- Thank God for giving us godliness and causing us to abide in Christ!

**Suggested Songs to Use:** "Come, Holy Spirit"; "In the Secret"; "Lord, I Want to Know You More"; "In Christ Alone"; "I Surrender All" (SDA Hymnal #309); "Sanctuary"; "God is So Good"; "In His Time"; "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (SDA Hymnal #567); "Nothing Between" (SDA Hymnal #322); "Live Out Thy Life Within Me" (SDA Hymnal #316); "Nearer, Still Nearer" (SDA Hymnal #301); "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" (SDA Hymnal #574).