

United Prayer Guidelines for Leaders

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2013!

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

These guidelines are meant to help you as a leader. The first section covers topics related to Ten Days of Prayer 2013. The second part includes pointers that have been helpful to other prayer leaders and will help you and your prayer group. Remember that these are just resources and ideas. Feel free to change things as the Spirit leads you.

During the first ten days of prayer, January 9-18, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. The eleventh day, January 19, falls on Sabbath. This day is a celebration of all God has done in answer to united prayer. We hope these ideas and suggestions will be useful to you as a prayer leader and will help to make Ten Days of Prayer 2013 a powerful experience for your small group or church family.

As you embark on this journey, we'd like to share some testimonies from individuals who participated in Ten Days of Prayer 2012:

“God is faithful! The Ten Days experience can't be quantified. Hearts were surrendered, souls were convicted, and requests for prayer were answered.”

“We prayed for members who left to return [to church]. We challenged every active member to pray for three or four church members. This past Sabbath, seven members returned to church.”

“We have never experienced so much spiritual growth and so many answers to prayer in any past event. The daily leader and participant instructions have been WONDERFUL guides to experiencing a revival. The drops of rain are beginning to fall.”

“On the tenth day one young person who had not been to church for years walked in and said he wanted to give his life to Jesus. He has been coming to church ever since.”

“The Ten Days of Prayer revived the mid-week and Friday prayer meetings, which no longer existed in my church. This ten-day session taught us that the power rests in prayer and brought unity amongst church members and a zeal to work for the Lord.”

“The Holy Spirit was poured out and lives were impacted tremendously. Now there is a new emphasis on intentional prayer, and we have had awesome answers to prayer.”

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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 TEN DAYS OF PRAYER ITEMS

WHY PRAY THROUGH 2 PETER 1:1-11? “In the second letter addressed by Peter to those who had obtained ‘like precious faith’ with himself, the apostle sets forth the divine plan for the development of Christian character. . . . These words are full of instruction, and strike the keynote of victory. . . . God has called His people to glory and virtue, and these will be manifest in the lives of all who are truly connected with Him. Having become partakers of the heavenly gift, they are to go on unto perfection, being ‘kept by the power of God through faith.’ 1 Peter 1:5. It is the glory of God to give His virtue to His children” (*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 529-530).

“The standard is lifted up before us higher and still higher, and yet we are to reach it individually. We may attain unto glory and virtue, though weak, sinful mortals, by learning daily lessons in the school of Christ, by becoming conformed to the divine image, by manifesting His excellency of character, by adding grace to grace, by climbing round by round the ladder heavenward, by becoming complete in the Beloved. *As we shall work upon the plan of addition, by faith adding grace to grace, God will work upon the plan of multiplication, and multiply His grace and peace unto us.* We are to be diligent students in the school of Christ, having a knowledge of His will, and becoming active laborers in His vineyard” (*Peter’s Counsel to Parents*, p. 47).

DAILY THEME SHEETS: A theme sheet has been prepared for each of the ten days of prayer. 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 the Intercession Focus section, with ideas of items to pray about specifically. The second page is a journal page so that individuals can record their prayer responses to God, along with making note of His goodness and answers to prayer during the past 24 hours. For more information on the journal pages, please see the section entitled Journal Pages.

We recommend that you copy the first and second pages (theme sheet and journal page) for participants. These could be done front to back. This will allow each person attending the prayer meeting to personalize the prayer time.

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 third daily page is a leader’s guide with specific suggestions 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.

DAILY INTERCESSION THEMES: The daily intercession themes were selected to reflect our greatest personal and corporate church needs. They also highlight the initiatives and mission emphases of our world church in 2013. Feel free to add your own local needs that relate to the daily themes.

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. For example, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to 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 95:2, 6, KJV).

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

Confession: “Beloved, if our heart condemn 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, KJV).

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 mind with any sin you need to confess. Make this a silent time for each person to pray individually.

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 your prayers also.

Thanksgiving: Return to praise and thanksgiving of God at the end of your prayer time. This is 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 Ten Days of Prayer 2013 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 any thing 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, KJV).

“Our Saviour 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 Ten Days of Prayer 2013, make sure to give people some time each day to pray in small groups of two to four people. This can be time to intercede on behalf of the people listed on the intercession cards. Encourage people not to 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 ten 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 the ten days, make sure to do so.

INTERCESSION CARDS: Give each person five 3x5 cards on the first night. On each card they are to write the name and prayer need of one of the five people they have chosen to pray for during the ten days. (Participants may wish to write only a first name or refer to the person in some other way if privacy is an issue.) 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 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 impresses you with a specific scripture to claim for that individual, the reference can be written on the card for future reference. Make sure cards are returned to the box at the end of the prayer time.

JOURNAL PAGES: The journal pages will help participants internalize the daily prayer theme, make concrete commitments to God, and recognize His blessings to them. Writing out our prayers and keeping a record of God’s answers is a proven path to encouragement.

Provide 5 to 10 minutes for people to write in their journal pages during the daily prayer time. Then, during the praise or thanksgiving time, people can share the blessings God has given during the past day. The Journal Page Explanation, included in the Day 1 materials, should be copied for each participant. This will encourage people to use it and help them understand how to begin journaling.

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 foot-washing service to be held 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 prayer time. See the Night of Prayer sheet for suggestions on hourly prayer themes.

SABBATH SERVICES DURING TEN DAYS OF PRAYER 2013: Have a special prayer focus and share testimonies of answered prayer during the church services on both 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 as a time of great rejoicing in all God has done throughout the ten days. Include ample time for testimonies of answered prayer, biblical teaching/preaching on prayer, and singing. Lead the congregation in a time of united prayer so that those who have not attended the daily meetings can experience the joy of praying with others. See the Day 11 materials for more ideas.

FOLLOW-UP TO TEN DAYS OF PRAYER 2013: Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what God has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2013. Perhaps you will continue with a weekly, united prayer meeting. Or perhaps God wants you to begin a new ministry in your church or outreach to the community. Be open and follow where God leads. You're sure to be amazed as you walk with Him.

TESTIMONIES: Please share stories of how God has worked through Ten Days of Prayer 2013! Your stories will be an encouragement to many others. Testimonies may be sent to stories@ministerialassociation.org or submitted online at www.tendaysofprayer.org.

UNITED PRAYER POINTERS

AGREE TOGETHER: When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together; this is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed about the request that no one else needs to. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 18:19, KJV). 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 people and situations in your prayers. 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 Ten Days of Prayer to consider some type of fasting, such as fasting 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. When people move 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 ensure 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 in expressions of praise or promise. "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” (NIV). 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 . . .” and so on.

PRAYER REQUEST NOTEBOOK: You may want to buy a notepad to record people’s prayer requests and answers during the ten days. A simple way to do this is to draw a line down the middle of the paper. Write requests in the left column and 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 in 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 as 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. Short sentence prayers keep the prayer time interesting and allow the Holy Spirit to impress the group how to pray. You don’t need to open and close each short sentence prayer 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 they give God time to speak to our hearts. Allow the Holy Spirit to work and give everyone time to pray.

SINGING: Spontaneous group songs, mingled between prayers, add beauty to the prayer meeting. Appropriate songs are listed at the end of each daily leader’s guide. Do not feel that you need to use all the songs; these are simply suggestions. 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 requests and encourage others to join in agreement and prayer for those requests. Here’s why: time! Talking about the requests will take up most of your prayer 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 you as a leader 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 a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”
(*Great Controversy*, p. 525)

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