

## Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2015! *Leader's Guide*

God has worked thousands of miracles through the Ten Days of Prayer. 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 2015. 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 ten days of prayer, January 7-16, 2015, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. The eleventh day, January 17, 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 2015 a powerful experience for your small group or church family. If you or your group is unable to meeting during the designated days, chose an alternate ten days that works for you and still participate in the blessing.

As you embark on this journey, we'd like to share some testimonies from individuals who participated in Ten Days of Prayer 2014:

"Yes, we saw the hand of the Lord during the past Ten Days of Prayer. Miracles happened, healings took place, many longtime unanswered prayers were answered. A lady who was invited by a colleague sister was healed of lung cancer and traveled to France for a check-up, and it was confirmed by a doctor over there. I believe no church can afford to miss next year's Ten Days of Prayer here in Guadeloupe. Thank you once again for the initiative and the vision for our church."—Buhire Elie Brown, Guadeloupe

"The prayer time was so Spirit-filled. On the night of the eighth day, one of our neighbors had demonic possession. One of my elders and I were invited to pray for the lady. We went there, and the demon manifested himself, but the power of God was mighty on us, and God Himself prevailed. The testimony from the lady the following morning was that she didn't just see two of us enter her house; instead, she saw a multitude of angels that accompanied us. To God be the glory. During the Ten Days of Prayer, we were asking God to give the church very significant testimony that would tell people that He is with us. He did answer us."—Pastor Francis Aja

### General Ten Days of Prayer Items

#### **Why Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit?**

As Christians, our greatest desire is to become like Jesus. Jesus Himself told us several times in His Word that we need to be like Him. How can we recognize someone who is like Him? "You will know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16). What are these fruits? Paul tells us in Galatians 5 which fruit we will bear if we abide in Christ.

Christ longs to work His character in us so that we can be His witnesses to a world that is perishing. He wants us to be His channels so He can reveal Himself through us to those who do not know Him. "Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say as upon what we are" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 142). We need the Holy Spirit in our lives to work in us the fruit of the Spirit. This is a work that we cannot

do ourselves. We do not have the power to become like Christ. Only Christ's power in us will shape and mold our characters and make us more like Him.

That is why we would like to pray in a special way during these ten days that the Holy Spirit will teach us how to abide in Christ and how to experience the fruit of the Spirit.

### **Daily Theme Sheets**

A theme sheet has been prepared for each of the ten days of prayer. The first section gives Scriptures to claim, ideas for items to pray about, and songs to sing together. Included at the end is a passage from Ellen White that adds insight into the night's theme.

We recommend that you copy the theme sheets so each participant can have a set. The copies could be done front to back. This will help each person attending the prayer meeting know what to pray for during the prayer time.

Churches around the world will be praying for each day's theme. Join them in united prayer and pray through the Scriptures, quotes, and prayer suggestions on each theme sheet. The more you focus on the theme, the more meaningful the prayer time will be. However, you need not stick solely to the theme sheet—simply let it guide you. You don't need to pray through each point in order, as these are just suggestions for what to include in your prayer time.

### **Suggested Passages and Reflection Questions for Personal Devotions**

In addition to meeting together to pray unitedly, a sheet has been prepared with the daily theme passages and a list of questions that will help enhance your personal devotional time during the ten days of prayer. Spend time reading the listed Bible passages and reflecting on the questions in your own personal time with God.

### **Ellen White Passage on the Fruit of the Spirit**

We have included passages by Ellen G. White for each night. These talk about the importance of the fruit of the Spirit and how we can experience the fruit of the Spirit. We suggest that you read these passages together at some point during the prayer time. This could be done at the beginning, to set the stage for the day's theme, or at some other point during the prayer time.

### **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 2015 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" (Matt. 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 for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 429).

When separating into small prayer groups at the end, encourage people not to pray with the same group each night but to deepen their relationships with others in the church by praying with a variety of people.

### **Intercede for Seven**

Encourage each person to ask God to show them seven people to pray for during the ten days. These may be family members, friends, coworkers, church members, etc. Encourage them to pray that the Holy Spirit will work in them the fruit of the Spirit. Have them also ask God what else they should pray about for these individuals and how to reach out to them as God leads.

### **Sabbath Services During Ten Days of Prayer 2015**

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 that 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 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 2015**

Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what God has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2015. Perhaps you will continue with a weekly prayer meeting. Or perhaps God wants you to begin a new ministry in your church or an 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 2015! Your stories will be an encouragement to many others. Testimonies may be sent to [stories@ministerialassociation.org](mailto:stories@ministerialassociation.org) or submitted online at [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://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, 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" (Matt. 18:19, KJV). How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer!

### **Claiming God's Promises**

Encourage the members to claim God's promises. This will help them increase their faith and remind them that nothing is impossible with God. We have provided a list of promises, but encourage the people to claim other promises as well. They will help people take their eyes off of their weaknesses and difficulties and set them on Jesus. For every weakness, for every struggle that we have, we can find Bible promises to claim. Encourage people to search for those promises and write them down so they can claim them in the future.

"With heartfelt simplicity we should state our needs to the Lord, and claim His promises with such faith and confidence that the congregation will know that we have learned to prevail with God in prayer. They will be encouraged to believe that the Lord's presence is in the meeting, and they will open their hearts to receive His rich blessing. Their faith in your sincerity will be increased, and they will be ready to listen with willing ears to the instruction given by the speaker" (*Evangelism*, p. 146).

"God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will co-operate with Him. All who obey Him may with confidence claim the fulfillment of His promises. But we must show a firm, undeviating trust in God. Often He delays to answer us in order to try our faith or test the genuineness of our desire. Having asked according to His word, we should believe His promise and press our petitions with a determination that will not be denied" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 145).

### **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, sweets, or other types of food that are hard to digest. Use the extra time to pray and study the Bible, asking God to help you and your congregation experience the fruit of the Spirit.

Encourage the members to adopt a simple diet that will allow their brain to be more receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

### **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. The Bible tells us that we do not know what to pray for and that the Holy Spirit is the one making intercession for us.

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.' Romans 8:26. Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Claim Romans 8:26 and ask the Holy Spirit to show you whom to pray for and what to pray for concerning certain people or situations.

### **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" (Col. 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.

### **Journaling**

Keeping a prayer journal during the Ten Days of Prayer can be a good way for participants to 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.

Journaling can be included in the Ten Days of Prayer in several ways. You could provide time during the prayer meeting for people to journal their responses to God in a private prayer journal. Or you could keep a group journal of prayer requests and answers—either in a notebook, on a large poster, or online. 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 theme sheet. 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 the 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" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 210).

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**Let's  
Pray!**