

10 Days of Prayer 2017

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Day 7—The Ark: Aaron's Rod

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." John 15:16

Suggested Format for the Prayer Time

Praise (approximately 10 minutes)

- Begin your prayer time by praising God for who He is (His character).
- Praise God that He has called us to bear fruit.
- Praise God that we can bear fruit and that our fruit will remain when we abide in Christ.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin (approximately 5 minutes)

- Ask God to show you which sins to confess openly and which to confess privately. Claim His victory over those sins.
- Ask God for forgiveness for times when you did not bear fruit.
- Ask God for forgiveness for times when you tried to bring fruit in your own power.
- Thank God that He forgives you according to 1 John 1:9.

Supplication and Intercession (approximately 35 minutes)

- Pray that just as Aaron's rod budded and bore fruit (Num. 17:8), others may be blessed by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23) in your life.
- Pray that God will teach you how to live a life hidden in Christ.
- Ask God to help you live a life centered on Christ so that you can bear fruit.
- Ask God to help you grow in grace.
- What are you connected to throughout the day? Ask God to help you stay connected to Him that you may reflect Him to those around you.
- Where do you receive your strength from? Ask God to help you find your strength in Him.
- Pray for comprehensive evangelistic outreach activities to be organized throughout the world focused on "Mission to the Cities" as well as rural areas.
- Pray for God to prepare young professionals to plant churches for the 789 people groups within the 9 countries of North American Division.
- Ask God to open opportunities to train church planting missionaries for the 676 people groups within the 9 countries of South American Division.
- Pray for the 541 people groups within the 18 countries of Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare church members to follow up and disciple Adventist World Radio listeners in the cities.
- Pray for the Youth Department's One Year in Mission (OYIM) initiative as it seeks to train the next generation of urban mission leaders.
- Pray for greater collaboration between the church organization and supporting ministries in the great work of evangelistic outreach to our communities and the world.
- Pray for heightened awareness and distribution of Seventh-day Adventist literature (printed and electronic) by church members, and for increased emphasis on literature evangelism.
- Pray that the seven (or more) people on your list will see their need to abide in Christ and bear fruit.
- Pray for any personal needs you have.

Thanksgiving (approximately 10 minutes)

- Thank God that in order to bear fruit all you need to do is to abide in Him.
- Thank God that Christ is your strength.
- Thank God that He wants you to be a blessing for others.

Suggested Songs to Sing

"God is so Good"; "Give of Your Best to the Master" (SDA Hymnal #572); "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" (SDA Hymnal #573); "So Send I You" (SDA Hymnal #578); "Let Your Heart Be Broken" (SDA Hymnal #575); "Not I, but Christ" (SDA Hymnal #570); "Make Me a Captive, Lord" (SDA Hymnal #568).

The Ark: Aaron's Rod

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." John 15:16

Every Christian will have a missionary spirit. To bear fruit is to work as Christ worked, to love souls as He has loved us. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Savior: and just as soon as a person is converted to the truth, he or she feels an earnest desire that those in darkness should see the precious light shining from God's Word. . . . (*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 281)

Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ's character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.

The plant does not germinate, grow, or bring forth fruit for itself, but to "give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater." So no man is to live unto himself. The Christian is in the world as a representative of Christ, for salvation of other souls.

There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely. (*Lift Him Up*, p. 274)

Resolve that you will be fruit-bearing members of the living Vine. The scion can flourish only as it receives life and strength from the parent stock. Improve, then, every opportunity to connect yourselves more closely with Christ. It is by believing Him, loving Him, copying Him, and depending wholly upon Him, that you are to become one with Him; and through you His life and character will be revealed to the world. (*Our High Calling*, p. 145)

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)

You may have a fervent spirit, your heart all aglow with the love of Jesus. Abide in Christ as the branch abides in the vine; drawing sustenance from the vine, you will be a flourishing branch, and will bear much fruit to the glory of God. Oh, you much need to gaze fixedly upon Jesus! Keep beholding His charms. As you behold they will keep brightening and enlarging until you are filled with all the fullness of God and bear much fruit to His glory. The branch is too firmly connected with the parent stock to be swayed by every breeze. Strength and vigorous growth tell to the world that your root is in Jesus, that your foundation is sure. (*Our High Calling*, p. 216)

Every branch that bears fruit is a living representative of the vine, for it bears the same fruit as the vine. . . . Every branch will show whether or not it has life; for where there is life, there is growth. There is a continual communication of the life-giving properties of the vine, and this is demonstrated by the fruit which the branches bear. (*From the Heart*, p. 119)

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

The grace of Christ must be woven into every phase of the character. . . . Daily growth into the life of Christ creates in the soul a heaven of peace; in such a life there is continual fruit bearing. . . . In the lives of those who are ransomed by the blood of Christ, self-sacrifice will constantly appear. Goodness and righteousness will be seen. The quiet, inward experience will make the life full of godliness, faith, meekness, patience. This is to be our daily experience. We are to form characters free from sin—characters made righteous in and by the grace of Christ. (*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 320)

It is the Lord's desire that His followers shall grow in grace, that their love shall abound more and more, that they shall be filled with the fruits of righteousness. . . . Where there is life, there will be growth and fruit bearing; but unless we grow in grace, our spirituality will be dwarfed, sickly, fruitless. It is only by growing, by bearing fruit, that we can fulfill God's purpose for us. "Herein is my Father glorified," Christ said, "that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8). In order to bear much fruit, we must make the most of our privileges. We must use every opportunity granted us for obtaining strength. (*That I May Know Him*, p. 164)