

Packet for Individual Use: UPDATED Weeks 9 - 14

Materials for May 30 - July 12, 2025

Back to the Altar

100 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION



Back to
the Altar

Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

(Packet for Individual Use: Weeks 9 - 14)



Organized by Melody Mason, with collaboration of the Back to the Altar leadership team, under the direction of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Ministerial Association

Many of these materials are taken from the booklet, *The Way Back to the Altar*.
For more information or to register for 100 Days of Prayer visit: www.backtothealtar.org

Note:

If you would like to teach these materials or lead a small group, please go to www.backtothealtar.org to download our leadership packet.

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the continuing **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** journey.

In the series of lessons included in this packet, we move on to the final countdown with lessons nine through fourteen. If you notice, much of the first nine lessons, shared during the first nine weeks of this **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** journey, have focused on deep *personal* revival and reformation. Let's do a quick review:

- **Week 1:** Preparing for Revival
- **Week 2:** Worshiping Together
- **Week 3:** What it Means to be a Disciple
- **Week 4:** BTTA Principle #1 – **Come to Jesus as You are**
- **Week 5:** BTTA Principle #2 – **Honor Jesus as Lord**
- **Week 6:** BTTA Principle #3 – **Discover Jesus in His Word and in Prayer**
- **Week 7:** Going Deeper in the Word: Hiding God's Word in Your heart
- **Week 8:** Going Deeper in the Word: Limiting Digital Distractions
- **Week 9:** BTTA Principle #4 – **Ask for and Receive a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Starting with week ten, we begin to focus more on the expansion of discipleship and mission, starting with those nearest and dearest. Of course, we will not neglect the continuing need for daily personal revival. Rather, we will build upon it. A growing focus on mission and discipleship would not be possible without our own personal continuing journey with Jesus. As we keep coming to Jesus as we are, as we continue honoring Jesus as Lord, discovering fresh pictures of Jesus in His Word and in prayer, and as we keep asking for and receiving a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit, the natural overflow of our lives will be, "I must GO, I must share, I have to tell others what great things God has done for me!"

Matthew 28:19-20 reads, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

"Jesus is coming, I WILL GO!"

May following Jesus and responding to His call to make disciples for the Kingdom become the central focus and mission of our lives.

Join the 1 hour Zoom revival every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time with the Back to the Altar leadership: <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

If you have a testimony to share, please share it at this link! <https://www.backtothealtar.org/share-your-testimony/>

The Back to the Altar leadership team,

Ramon Canals, Dwain Esmond, Don MacLafferty, Pavel Goia, Melody Mason, John Feezer and Gabriel Begle

Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

Fourteen Week Topic & Zoom Outline

Note: The first eight weeks of materials can be found online at www.backtothelatar.org.

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Week 1 | April 4 – 10 | Preparing for Revival

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 2 | April 11 - 17 | Worshiping Together

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 13th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 3 | April 18 - 24 | What it Means to be a Disciple

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 20th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 4 | April 25 – May 1 | Come to Jesus as You Are

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 27th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 5 | May 2 - 8 | Honor Jesus as Lord

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 4th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 6 | May 9 - 15 | Discover Jesus in the Word and in Prayer

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 11th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 7 | May 16 - 22 | Word before World: Hiding God's Word in Our Heart

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 18th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 8 | **May 23 - 29** | Word before World: Limiting Digital Distractions

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 25th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 9 | **May 30 – June 5** | Ask for and Receive a Fresh Daily Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 1st (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 8th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 11 | **June 13 - 19** | Jesus is coming, I Will GO!

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 15th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 12 | **June 20 - 26** | Disciple Others to Jesus

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 22nd (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 13 | **June 27 – July 3** | Live Your God given Mission

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 29th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 14 | **July 4 – July 12** | Moving Forward in Faith

- Zoom Revival – Sunday July 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 9 | May 30 – June 5, 2025)

Ask for and Receive a Fresh Daily Baptism of the Holy Spirit -
Program Materials

Week 9 | May 30 – June 5 | Holy Spirit Baptism | Testimony

“Preparing for Pentecost”

By Mark Finley

“So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.’” Zec. 4:6

Years ago, early in my ministry, I was invited to conduct a Week of Spiritual Emphasis at a Christian elementary school. As the week progressed, it became obvious to me that two of the teachers were having a serious conflict. Their negative attitudes toward one another regularly boiled over in staff meetings. If one suggested an idea, the other opposed it. When both of them were present in a meeting, tension filled the air. It was apparent that they did not like one another at all.

Toward the end of the week, I preached on Christ’s great intercessory prayer in John 17. Jesus was about ready to leave His disciples. Soon He would be betrayed and crucified. He would rise from the grave and ascend to His Father. His earnest prayer reflects what was on His heart. It reveals what was on His mind just before His death on the cross. The Savior was concerned about the unity of the church. He prayed, “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me” (John 17:21). Christ longed that the dissension, jealousy, striving for supremacy, and conflict between His disciples cease. He prayed that their unity, in spite of all their differences, would reveal to the world the power of His love.

As I shared the longing of Jesus’ heart with these students and teachers, something remarkable happened. The last night of our Week of Spiritual Emphasis, we scheduled a foot washing and Communion service. The Holy Spirit broke through. God moved powerfully.

The two teachers who experienced such division knelt at each other’s feet. The Spirit of God broke down the barriers. They embraced, confessed their negative attitudes and prayed together.

The disciples experienced this same sweet repentance and humility during the 10 days in the upper room that preceded Pentecost. During those ten days, the disciples confessed their petty differences toward one another. They repented of their jealousy and pride. And their hearts were filled with love for Christ who had given His all for them. How they wished they could live the last three and a half years over again!

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever wished that you could go back and correct your past mistakes?

When we see God’s loving-kindness and observe the righteousness of His character, we recognize our weakness, shortcomings, and sins. In the blazing light of His unconditional love and perfection, our hearts are humbled. We are led to deep confession and repentance. We cry out to Him for the salvation and righteousness that only He can provide. When we are overwhelmed with His holiness, with the prophet Isaiah, we cry out, “Woe is me, for I am

undone!" (Isa. 6:5). Self-examination may not always be the most pleasant experience, but it is absolutely necessary. In self-examination we ask God, "Is there anything in my life that is not in harmony with Your will?" We pray, "Lord, reveal those attitudes deep within my soul that are not like Jesus."

God's goal in this process is to lead us closer to Him. He does not want us to wallow in guilt or be filled with remorse over our past lives. His goal is to lead us "in the way everlasting."

Although it is healthy to take a candid look at our own spiritual lives, it is unhealthy to dwell on the faults of our past lives. Dwelling on our faults and focusing too long on our mistakes only discourages us.

Always remember, our Lord is bigger than our mistakes and greater than our failures. We certainly need to honestly know our condition—but it is much more important to know His grace. Understanding our weakness prepares us to receive His strength. Understanding our sinfulness prepares us to receive His righteousness. Understanding our ignorance prepares us to receive His wisdom.

Ellen White writes, "There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation" (*Review & Herald*, March 22, 1887, par. 7).

The purpose of the Holy Spirit's conviction is to lead us to Jesus. As we recognize our sins and mistakes through a process of self-examination, we can thank God that the Holy Spirit is leading us closer to Jesus, and as a result to each other. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit is preparing us to receive the fullness of the Spirit in latter-rain power. But before God makes us, He must break us. Before He fills us, He must empty us. Before He is enthroned in our hearts, self must be dethroned.

Mark Finley is assistant to the General Conference president. His popular book titled, Ten Days in the Upper Room, dives much deeper into what it means to ask for and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit like the disciples received at Pentecost.

Week 9 | May 30 – June 5 | Holy Spirit Baptism | Study

Welcome to another lesson in the **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** revival series!

In the last several sessions we've been going deeper into what it means to discover Jesus in His Word, how to hide God's Word in our hearts, and how to put the Word before the World. We've learned practical steps to memorizing Scripture and limiting distractions, primarily digital distractions.

Have you put into practice the things you've been learning? Share with a friend a verse you've memorized or share with them how you are seeking to change your digital usage habits. Every time we give expression to our new spiritual goals, it helps us grow stronger.

Now it's time to introduce **Back to the Altar Principle #4** – Asking for and Receiving a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When we talk about receiving a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit this isn't just about what we get. Instead, it's about the Holy Spirit getting *more and more of us*. As He has more of us, He is freer to work powerfully in our lives because *we* aren't getting in the way. Perhaps this is why Paul commanded the believers to be constantly filled with the Spirit.

Have we as a people sometimes been so consumed by all our ideas, plans, and programs that we have forgotten our need for a daily Holy Spirit baptism and filling?

Author Dennis Smith once wrote: "I have nothing against plans, programs and methods. But I am afraid that we often depend on these things to move God's work forward. Plans, programs and methods will not complete God's work. Great speakers, wonderful Christian concerts, satellite broadcasts won't end God's work. God's Spirit will end the work—God's Spirit that speaks and serves through Spirit-filled men and women" (*40 Days—Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming*, p. 88).

Heart Connect Activity: Pause for a moment and think about things in your life that are better when they are completely filled. Take five minutes and write down as many things as you can think of that fit this description. If you have a friend nearby, grab a pen and a sheet of paper and do this exercise together.

Read/Reflect on Matthew 3:11, 16 and Luke 4:1: Then answer the following questions.

- What is baptism by water and baptism by fire?
- What practical example did Jesus give for us to follow?
- As believers today, would you say we are filled by the Holy Spirit? Why or why not, and what is the evidence to support your response? (*Journal your thoughts or discuss with a friend.*)

Ellen White writes soberly: "If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the

divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude. Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50, underline added for emphasis).

Let’s open our Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 18 as we return to Mount Carmel, where we last saw Elijah. What powerful lessons about the effects of Holy Spirit fire does God have for us in this story?

- **Play Video 1** – Elijah Calls for Fire - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID1>

As we saw in this story, when fire fell from heaven, there was nothing left that Elijah had touched. Everything was consumed. Nobody could give any glory to Elijah. All they could say is, “The Lord He is God, The Lord He is God.”

Personal Reflection Questions: Is there anything about your life, your home, or your ministry that is focused on bringing attention or glory to yourself, or is your life so consumed and filled by the Holy Spirit that all glory is going directly to God? Finally, how does your current filling (or lack of Holy Spirit filling) affect your ability to lead your family in meaningful worship?

The reality remains that we cannot give what we do not first have ourselves. If we want to pour into the lives of others, we need the Holy Spirit fire to pour into our life and consume the self within our own hearts.

Ask for and Receive a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit – Bible Study

In this session we will explore what it means to ask for and receive the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. But first, let’s pray!

Dear Father in heaven, bring us a hunger and thirst for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Please send the Holy Spirit to teach us about this Gift right now. In Jesus’ name, amen.

1. Five Steps to Receiving a Fresh Daily Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Let’s open our Bibles and discover five specific steps to being daily baptized by the Holy Spirit. We will let Pastor Don help us with Step 1.

Open your Bible to John 7:37-39 as you watch the following video. Be listening for the three-part answer for Step 1.

- **Play Video 2** – Are you Thirsty for More? - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID2>

What is your answer to Pastor Don's question? Are you thirsty for more? If so, you are on the right path because God promises to pour out His Holy Spirit on those who are thirsty.

Based on what we just learned in John 7:37-39, what makes up the three-parts for Step 1? Fill in the blank below or write your answer on a sheet of paper.

- **Step 1** _____

Read/Reflect on Acts 2:38 - What two steps do you find in this passage?

- **Step 2** _____
- **Step 3** _____

Read/Reflect on Acts 5:32 - What very significant step do you find in this passage?

- **Step 4** _____

Read/Reflect on Luke 11:13 - What are you to do, if you long for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- **Step 5** _____

Did you discover the five steps? If you aren't quite sure, the answers are as follows:

Step 1 Answer: Come to Jesus with thirst, drink of His Word, and believe in Him.

Step 2 Answer: Repent

Step 3 Answer: Be baptized with water, in the name of Jesus

Step 4 Answer: Obey God

Step 5 Answer: Ask God for this Gift!

2. The Result of a Daily Holy Spirit Baptism

What happens when we repent from our old ways and truly seek after Jesus with all of our heart? What changes will others see in our lives? Let's watch this video illustration to find out.

- **Play Video 3** – True Repentance and the Fruit and Power of the Spirit
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID3>

As we saw in these illustrations, revival *and reformation* will be the result of a genuine Holy Spirit filling. When the Holy Spirit lives within you, Holy Spirit fruit will be seen in your life, just as it was seen in Jesus' life.

Let's reflect a bit more on what Holy Spirit fruit will look like in the life of a believer.

Read/Reflect on Galatians 5:22-25 - What is the fruit of the Spirit? What does it mean to live and walk in the Spirit?

In *Christ's Object Lessons*, we have the following description of Jesus while He was on earth:

“Not for Himself, but for others, He lived and thought and prayed. From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. *Daily* He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit” (Ellen G. White, p. 139, emphasis added).

Oh, how our hearts should be moved to know that Jesus Himself received a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since He needed this Gift, how much more do we need this Gift every moment of our lives?

To help make this very practical and meaningful, let's watch one more video illustration from Pastor Don and his young helpers. We encourage you to learn how to share this illustration with others.

- **Play Video 4** – Are you an empty glass or a full glass?
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID4>

Friend, are you thirsty for more than just a little bit of the Holy Spirit? Are you thirsty for more than just a little sprinkling? Are you thirsty to be completely immersed and overflowing with Holy Spirit power, so there's nothing left in your heart, in your mind, in your thinking, in your attitude, that's not under the presence and transformational power of the Holy Spirit?

Remember, what is in our glass is what will come out. If the Holy Spirit is overflowing our heart and life, others will get wet from that sweet overflow. There will not be a mixture of bad with good. There will be no double standards or double living even in our private life.

Read/Reflect on John 4:14 and James 3:11-12 - If there is a double standard or any double living going on in your life, James 4:8 has the solution. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

If it is your desire to experience a daily Holy Spirit baptism and you want to let go of anything that's hindering God's work in your life, take some time right now to reflect on what you've learned in this lesson. Read Psalm 139:23-24 as you ask God to search your heart and show you what might be hindering your receiving this Holy Spirit filling. Ask God to give you the power to live for Him. After you've done this, pray through the five steps that we've studied and ask God again for this precious gift! Do whatever He asks you to do.

“Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you’ ”
(*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Remember, we don't ask God for this gift once. We need to pray for a fresh Holy Spirit baptism every day, for the rest of our lives.

When you've asked for the Holy Spirit baptism, receive it by faith, even if you don't feel any different. Receiving the Holy Spirit baptism is not about experiencing fireworks or special

sensations or feelings. It's about a changed heart and a changed life. It's about yielding yourself to Jesus and living each day for God's glory!

3. Personal Practical Application

As you go through this coming week, here are three practical heart challenges:

- **1st Challenge:** Every day ask for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Receive this Gift by faith. Honor Jesus as Lord by doing whatever He asks you to do.
- **2nd Challenge:** Keep claiming James 4:8 as you pray that God will cleanse your heart of any hypocrisy or double standards. Remember the Holy Spirit comes to those who are seeking to obey and honor God and His Word.
- **3rd Challenge:** If you have not been baptized yet, take this step and follow the example of Jesus in baptism by immersion, as outlined in Scripture. You don't just want a sprinkling of the Holy Spirit. You want the full deal!

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on Zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

Now it's time to pray!

Bonus Material

Here's some additional resources to take you deeper in understanding the Holy Spirit, or help you review what we've learned.

- **Play Video 5:** Holy Spirit Review + Pastor Don's Testimony
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID5>
- **The Amazing Work of the Holy Spirit** – Video by Frank Hasel
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID6>
- **The Personal Nature of the Holy Spirit** – Video by Frank Hasel
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW9VID7>

There is increasing confusion over the necessity, nature, and person of the Holy Spirit. We recommend the above two-part video series by Dr. Frank Hasel. These are powerful and inspiring messages. There's no need for confusion.

"Will we wrestle with God in prayer? Will we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? This is what we need and may have at this time.... If we will walk humbly with God, God will walk with us" (Ellen G. White, *Prayer*, p. 87).

Week 9 | May 30 – June 5 | Holy Spirit Baptism | Prayer Focus

Promises to Claim as You Pray



“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11:13

“We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507, 508

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.” Zech. 10:1

Prayer Focus for Week 9

1. Dear Heavenly Father, help us recognize our great spiritual need and put aside any double standards. Help us recognize that apart from You, we can do nothing, but through Your Holy Spirit we can be overcomers. (Claim Ps. 51:10-11)
2. Precious Jesus, as we enjoy the Sabbath hours, baptize us afresh with Your Holy Spirit, and may this Sabbath be so full of Your Holy Spirit outpouring in our lives that everyone around us will be affected as well. (Claim Acts 1:8)
3. Dear Lord, help us not be content with the Holy Spirit filling we’ve had up to this point, but help us to continually dare to ask for more, because MORE is what you’ve promised. (Claim Eph. 3:20-21)
4. Heavenly Father, there’s many details that need to come together as we prepare for the General Conference session. Please baptize us and baptize our leaders afresh with the Holy Spirit. Be Lord of all the details. (Claim Matthew 8:19-20)
5. Heavenly Father, bless the General Conference business sessions. Pour out Your Holy Spirit in every meeting. May much be accomplished for Your glory! (Claim Jer. 1:5)
6. Dear Jesus, bless all the divine appointments that will happen in the Exhibit Hall. Also pour out Your Spirit on the Back to the Altar revival sessions that will happen in the prayer room. May the entire General Conference session be touched by the many prayers that are even now being prayed. (Claim Jer. 33:3)
7. Lord, for those still wavering in the valley of decision, give them courage to stand for You and be baptized. Help them to choose You today just as You have already chosen them when you died for them on the cross! (Claim Josh 24:15)

“A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world...to pray for the Holy Spirit.”
Review and Herald, January 3, 1907



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 10 | June 6-12, 2025)

Love Your Family Sacrificially - Program Materials

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially | **Testimony**

“The Heart Surgery Miracle: Forgiving the Unforgiveable”

By Connie Jones

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

The testimony I am going to share with you is a testimony of our God, Who is the Great Restorer and Healer of a bitter and broken heart.

I was born into an Adventist home, and my father was a pastor. He was loved and highly respected by our church family and everyone thought we were a normal, happy pastoral family. After all, from outward appearances, that's what we looked like. But, as we all know, looks can be deceiving. No one knew the sadness and pain that existed in our home.

I was awakened at a very young age to what sounded like fighting in my parents' bedroom. What I saw was something no child should ever see: the abuse of my mother and the raging temper of my father.

We moved a lot. In my childhood mind, I didn't understand why we moved more than other pastors' families. It was confusing. I would settle in and make friends, then we would move again, changing schools every few years. I felt constantly uprooted.

As I grew into middle school and was old enough to understand, I became aware of why we moved so often. You see, my father was having affairs with the different women in our church, so we had to keep moving to escape the fallout from these affairs.

As I grew into my teen years, I struggled spiritually and lost my connection with my Lord. I started letting go of His hand. When I heard people speak of our Heavenly Father's unconditional love, I couldn't relate. How could I relate to a Father of unconditional love, a God who heard and answered prayers, when I had never experienced the unconditional love of my earthly father, only a father of anger and abuse?

When I was 16, my parents separated. My father took a leave of absence from the ministry, and my mother and I moved to Collegedale, Tennessee. The rumors about my father were spreading, and I was humiliated and ashamed. Friendships were destroyed. During this time, I attended a different academy every year. Deep bitterness began to fill my heart.

However, even though I was letting go of my Heavenly Father's hand, He never let go of mine. God had a plan for me. He knew what lay ahead for my family and that I would need someone's hand to hold.

During my senior year in academy, He brought Donnie Jones into my life. Donnie has been the love of my life for 45 years now. His coming into my life was the perfect timing, and his hand

would be the hand I would hold that would give me the strength to face what was about to come. My Heavenly Father was also with me through it all, even though I didn't love and trust Him at the time.

My parents eventually reunited, and my father returned to the ministry, but sadly nothing changed. The rages, affairs, and abuse of my mother continued.

Donnie and I married, and three years passed. Finally, after many broken hearts and broken lives, the Lord said it was enough, and my father was told he would have to leave the ministry.

My parents divorced, and the Lord gave my mother the strength to walk away from the abuse and shame of the years. It was then that I swore I would never have anything more to do with my father because of the choices he had made. He would no longer be a part of my life. Bitterness and hatred toward him consumed my heart.

For thirty-five years, this bitterness and hatred grew, and I would have nothing to do with my father. I felt I had every right to make him suffer for what he had done to our family. We all knew that how he had treated us and the choices he had made were wrong. His choices had shattered our family. However, my loving Heavenly Father had not given up on my father, and He had a different plan.

In February 2019, Pastor Don MacLafferty came to the Collegedale Church where Donnie and I attended, and he and his daughter, Julie, gave a revival.

One night, Pastor Don read the verses in Ezekiel 36:26-27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

He said that if we wanted to be used by the Lord, we needed to search our hearts and empty our hearts of any bitterness and hatred so that the Holy Spirit could dwell in our hearts.

I knew the Holy Spirit was speaking to me that night. I had that heart of stone. I knew what I had to do. The thirty-five years of bitterness and hatred in my heart were turning me into someone I didn't like.

After the meeting, Donnie and I met personally with Pastor Don, and I told him my story. Without judging, he prayed with us and encouraged us. For days after, Donnie and I prayed together that the Lord would give me a new heart, but the bitterness, pain, and hatred were too deep, too intense. How could I forgive someone who had hurt me so deeply, someone who hadn't even asked for my forgiveness?

One morning as my husband Donnie and I knelt in prayer together; we prayed for God to heal my stony heart. I got up from my knees, feeling no different. I had not slept well for days struggling with this, and I was exhausted. I told Donnie that I was going to lie down and try to get some sleep. I went to our bedroom and knelt by our bed again as I poured my heart out to the Lord with tears. I pleaded with Him to remove my stony heart full of bitterness and hatred and to change me. I didn't want to carry this heavy burden any longer.

Finally, after thirty-five years, I surrendered my heart of bitterness to Jesus and lay it at all at His feet. I asked Him to do His total and complete heart surgery on my heart.

I crawled into bed, and tossed and turned for a few minutes, but then a peace came over me like I have never felt before. It was as if my loving Savior reached His nail-scarred hands into my chest, removed my stony heart, and gave me a heart of flesh filled with His peace. I felt as if He was saying, "You have carried it long enough, my child. Now you have surrendered it to Me; it is no longer yours to carry."

I immediately got out of bed and went downstairs. I told Donnie what the Lord had done and what I knew I had to do. I needed to go see my father and ask his forgiveness for how I'd treated him and how I'd held bitterness against him for so many years.

Although I'd only seen my father once, over the past thirty-five years, when we got to my father's house, I was warmly welcomed. I knelt down by his side and took his hand. "Daddy," I began. "God has done a wonderful thing for me, and I am here to ask your forgiveness for all the hatred and bitterness I have held in my heart against you for these past thirty-five years."

My father graciously forgave me as we both wept. Then I turned to his wife and asked her forgiveness for my bitterness towards her for having a part in what had happened to our family. Once again, I was graciously forgiven. We prayed together, and as Donnie and I started to leave, my dad spoke up. "Connie, there is just one more thing I would love to be able to do before I leave this world: I would like to ask your mother for forgiveness for what I have put her through." (My parents had not seen or spoken to each other since their divorce thirty-five years previous.)

You see, the Lord had already sent the Holy Spirit to work on my father's heart too, to bring healing to our family, and God made that moment happen. He also spoke to my sweet husband Donnie's heart to help orchestrate bringing my parents together. My father was given the opportunity to ask my mother's forgiveness, and she was able to forgive. God brought healing to a hurting and broken family, and both my parents found forgiveness towards each other.

In June of 2024, I was given the precious gift of being at my father's side in the hospital right before he went to sleep in Jesus at the age of ninety-four. We read and prayed together, and he expressed to me how he was at peace with the Lord. What if I had not allowed the Lord to humble my heart and give me a new spirit of forgiveness toward my father? I would have missed this precious experience as well as the peace that my own heart needed.

My friends, our precious Savior forgave as He hung, dying on the cross and cried out, "Father, forgive them." How can we not also forgive those who have hurt us and caused us pain?

Of course, forgiveness is very difficult if the person causing our pain doesn't recognize what they've done. It's also difficult when they don't see their need to be forgiven, or when they are continuing to wound us. We do not turn a blind eye or encourage ongoing abuse by offering our forgiveness. We must maintain safe boundaries. But this journey of sacrificial love and forgiveness toward our family members (or anyone who has hurt us) is not about enabling destructive behaviors but about allowing God to set us free from the destruction occurring

inside our own souls. Bitterness is a deadly disease that destroys from the inside out. It sucks the life out of our spiritual journey like a deadly cancer. It cannot exist in the hearts of those preparing for heaven. While we cannot change the character or choices of those who have wounded us, we can allow God to change our own heart. He will remove the deadly poisonous root of bitterness, if we give Him permission.

Jesus truly is the Healer and Restorer of bitter and hurting hearts. He is the Master Heart Surgeon. If He did this beautiful miracle in our family, He can do the same miracle for you. The question is, will you let Him?

Connie Jones is a retired nurse and spends her time with her husband Donnie loving their grandchildren and volunteering with In Discipleship. She and her husband also assist with Back to the Altar discipleship training events all around the world.

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially | **Study**

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

In Malachi 4:5-6 we are told, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

This prophecy foreshadows what is going to be happening in our homes as we near the second coming of Jesus.

As we begin this study, let’s listen to a powerful testimony of how God turned one father’s heart back to his children. This video sets the stage for what will be shared in this lesson.

- **Play Video 1** – Testimony: A Father Turns His Heart Toward Home
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW10VID1>

If you could ask for any miracle for your family relationships or your home life, what would that be? (*Journal your answers or share with a friend.*)

Change is possible. Miracles are possible. Nothing is too difficult for God. But change must start with us personally!

Ellen White writes, “The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ. Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running to the center. The nearer these lines approach the center, the nearer they are to one another. Thus it is in the Christian life. The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another” (*Adventist Home*, p. 179).

As we begin to learn what it means to love our family sacrificially, let’s open our Bible to Luke 1:17.

Watch and listen as Pastor Don shares this powerful passage in the context of the Last Elijah message that we are called to share in these last days. In this video, we see another beautiful testimony of what heart healing looks like.

- **Play Video 2** – Elijah Calls for Heart Healing - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW10VID2>

Do you long for heart healing in your family? Are you willing to take the necessary steps to see this happen?

Love Your Family Sacrificially – Bible Study

1. Connect Activity

Take a few moments and think of one of your favorite family memories. If you do not have any happy family memories, think of happy memories that you may have made with a best friend or with your church family. *(Journal your memory or share it with a family member or friend.)*

What ingredients make up a good family memory?

What would God love to do with our families before Jesus returns to take us all home?
(Journal your responses to these questions or share with someone near you.)

Now let's get into our Bible study!

2. How to Love Your Family Sacrificially

Read/Reflect on Romans 13:8 - What kind of debt does God ask us to keep?

Read/Reflect on Ephesians 4:29–32

- What filter should we use for all our conversations?
- What should we do with resentment and bitterness?
- To what level should we forgive each other?

Read/Reflect on Matthew 5:23, 24 – What should you do when you remember someone has something against you? How should you apply this passage to your time of personal or family worship?

Ephesians 6:12 tells us, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

It's important to recognize that when we are in conflict, we are actually not fighting against a person. It's a bigger spiritual battle we face. We are warring against spiritual powers and wickedness in high places. If we recognize who our true enemy is — Satan, not each other — and remember that we and our family members are on the winning side when we choose to honor Jesus, what a difference it will make in helping us forgive and work through conflict.

3. How to Love Your Spouse and Children Sacrificially

From the pen of Inspiration we read, “The wife, united with her husband in the fear of God, is to be a strength and power in the church” (*10 Manuscript Releases*, 179).

Now let's open our Bible to Ephesians 5:22-33 as we learn how a husband and wife can sacrificially love and serve one another, so that their lives reflect the glory of God.

- **Play Video 3** – Submitting to One Another in Love
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW10VID3>

It's difficult to put away pride and take the first step to approach your spouse in humility. But pride is usually the biggest roadblock to working through difficult relationships. It's what drives division both in the home and in the church. The Bible tells us, "By pride comes nothing but strife" (Prov. 13:10) Imagine what would happen if we would put away our pride and allow God to humble our hearts.

"If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties. Angels have been grieved, and God has been displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self" (*Early Writings*, p. 119).

Are you a humble person? If your answer is yes, you probably aren't. Consider the questions on the following chart which contrast pride and humility.

- **Download Pride versus Humility** - <https://tinyurl.com/Pride-Humility>

Are you moved by what you just heard? Let's pause for a moment right now and pray for God to help us be more Christlike and more humble towards each other.

Would you like God's vision for your family? Let's turn to Acts 2:17 and then Deuteronomy 6:4-9 as we watch the next video, teaching what discipleship looks like in daily life.

- **Play Video 4 – Practical Discipleship in the Home**
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW10VID4>

"Ellen White writes, "The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides" (*Adventist Home*, p. 15).

As you've just finished this powerful teaching segment in this video, what practical ways come to your mind of how you could be more in tune and loving towards your spouse, your children, your parents, or those in your home? (*Journal your response or share your answers with someone you want to love more intentionally.*)

Perhaps you have a difficult family situation, or you've already lost the heart of your children. Don't miss the bonus video and testimony at the end of this lesson, where Pastor Don and April share more about their personal journey. We pray their testimony will be an inspiration to all watching, that God is able to redeem the years the locusts have eaten.

4. Time for Heart Surgery

Before we close this lesson, it's time to ask a hard question. Do you need heart surgery to be able to forgive someone who has wronged you? Do you need heart surgery to be a more loving and lovable Christian, especially in your own home?

Read/Reflect on Ezekiel 36:26, 27 - Who performs this heart surgery — you or someone else? Read through this passage several times. How many promises does God give you in this passage?

Will you be willing to get on your knees right now and ask God to do His miracle heart surgery in your own heart?

Now time for the Practical Heart Challenges.

5. Practical Heart Challenge

To take this message deeper, here are three practical challenges.

- **1st Challenge:** Every day, ask God to help you put away pride and love your family members (or those closest) sacrificially.
- **2nd Challenge:** Make a commitment to only speak words that build up for this next week. Every time you are tempted to complain or criticize, replace those words with a positive affirmation or word of encouragement.
- **3rd Challenge:** Outline 3-5 new goals of family habits that you want to integrate into your home and lifestyle. Talk with your family about these goals so everyone is on board. Commit to seeking these goals together as a family! (*Example: "We are going to have worship together every day," or "We are going to eat together on these days," or "I'm going to make intentional time for an activity my child or spouse wants," or "We are going to do a specific activity together every week as a family," etc.)*)

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on Zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

You are also invited to pray daily with believers from around the world at www.247unitedprayer.org. There are multiple prayer calls in multiple languages all praying over the Back to the Altar themes from 100 Days of Prayer.

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Bonus Video and Materials:

Following are some more testimonies with Pastor Don and April, as well as some prayers and promises that you can pray over your marriage and over your children. Also included are some prayers and promises for singles or for those who have spiritual children.

- **Play Video 5** - Testimony: Winning Back the Hearts of Our Children
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW10VID5>
- **Download** - Promises to Pray for your Marriage
<https://tinyurl.com/PrayingForYourMarriage>
- **Download** - Promises to Pray for your Children
<https://tinyurl.com/PromisesForYourChildren>
- **Download** - Prayers and Promises for Singles
<https://tinyurl.com/PrayersForSingles>

Would you like creative ideas how to make God's Word the welcome and witness of your property or home, or as part of prayer walks with your children? Consider inviting your

children and others to join you on a Bible prayer walk on your property. If you don't have much property or don't live where you can do Bible prayer walks in nature, walk your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors — and let them know you are praying for them. Ask, when possible, how you can pray for them.

For ideas for Bible prayer walks, see the book *Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks*, by Don MacLafferty. This book is downloadable for free at <https://indiscipleship.org/resources/> and is a great resource for families of all ages.

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially | **Prayer Focus**

Bible Promises to Claim as You Pray



"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Cor. 13:4-8

"Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'" Matthew 18:21-22

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matthew 20:27

Prayer Focus for Week 10

1. **Dear Heavenly Father**, as we learn afresh what it means to love our family members sacrificially, please pour out Your Spirit on our homes and in our hearts. Pour out Your Spirit on our church. Prepare us to meet you in the clouds of glory. (Claim Luke 1:17)
2. **Our Heavenly King**, Creator of the Universe, and Lord of our hearts, please do something so special for our family this Sabbath. Turn our hearts back to You. Help us to make strong the altar of worship and find fresh reasons to rejoice in Your goodness. (Claim Ps. 34:1-3)
3. **Dear Jesus**, we pray for the upcoming General Conference session. We ask that You guide the agenda, the discussions, and the worship services. We pray that You would do something so special at this session that it would be clear to anyone watching that You are on the throne and You are leading our church. (Claim Jer. 33:3)
4. **Lord**, as we seek to love our family members sacrificially, help us only speak word that edify and build up. Help us to put away pride and humble ourselves as we serve one another in sacrificial love. (Claim Prov. 15:1)
5. **Heavenly Father**, help our homes to become a little heaven on earth, a place where Your Holy Spirit loves to dwell. (Claim Ps. 127:1)
6. **Heavenly Father**, please save our children, and those we love who are not walking with You. Deliver them from the clutches of the enemy and bring them back to the fold. (Claim Jer. 31:16-17)
7. **Dear Lord**, just as You tell us in Malachi 4:5-6, please turn our hearts back to our children and our children's hearts back to ours. Prepare us for Your soon coming. (Claim Mal. 4:5-6)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 11 | June 13 - 19, 2025)

Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO - Resource Materials

Week 11 | **June 13 – 19** | Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO | **Testimony**

“A Wall of Fire”

By Ted N.C. Wilson as told by Geoffrey Mbwana

*“For I,’ says the LORD, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.’”
Zechariah 2:5*

I want to share an amazing story about a small group of young people who heard God calling them to reach others living in a very difficult and dangerous area. In spite of the risks, these precious young people put their trust in the Lord and said, "I Will Go!"

Along the Indian Ocean coast of Tanzania lies a town of more than 8,000 inhabitants. The town is predominantly non-Christian. It is known to be a highly superstitious town, causing many people to fear the town and its people.

A number of years ago, a group of young people from churches in a city some kilometers away dared to conduct an evangelistic series in this town. Knowing the work before them was delicate and risky, they decided to spend two weeks in earnest prayer, pleading for God's intervention for the salvation of the people there. Amazingly, a few days later they received permission from the town government to hold religious meetings.

The young people continued to pray earnestly, choosing to have their special prayer times early in the morning by the seashore. Unbeknownst to them, other young people were sent by the town elders to go and kill these young Adventists before they started their meetings in town.

One morning as they went to the shore, the killers found the Adventist youth kneeling in earnest prayer by the sea. As they approached, ready to kill, the attackers saw a wall of fire surrounding the Adventist youth. They were shocked and dared not attack so they ran away.

The Adventist young people went on with their plans and started the meetings. But the elders of the city were determined to stop them. They sent their youth to steal equipment and furniture that was used for the meeting in an open area. But one night when they approached the place where the equipment was kept, they saw a very tall man wearing a white gown, holding a shining sword and walking around the equipment. They again failed to execute their wicked plan.

Soon after, as the meetings were going on in the open area, two town elders dressed in full traditional regalia walked through the crowd, heading toward the front where one of the young Adventists was preaching. They did not have good intentions. But before they reached the front, the town elders started running and jumping, screaming, "We're burning! We're burning!" They rushed toward the preacher but went out behind him. While no one saw any flames, the intruders acted as though they were on fire. Later, these same leaders explained how they wanted to attack the preacher but saw a wall of fire surrounding him.

After this, the young men of the town approached the Adventist young people, inquiring about the superstitious powers they were using to protect themselves against the attacks. The Adventist youth told them they didn't believe in superstition and would have nothing to do with it. Then they asked the young men why they thought they were using some sort of magic as protection, and the town youth explained what they had seen when they had tried to destroy them!

The Adventists happily explained that they serve the living God of heaven and have the protection of divine angels sent by God. It became a big story all across that town and surrounding towns, and in the end many people were baptized. Even though working in this area continues to be challenging, there are now organized churches in this town, with a growing membership.

May we, just as those dear young people by the seaside did, put our trust fully in the Lord and be willing to say, "I will go," wherever He may lead.

Ted N.C. Wilson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. Geoffrey Mbwana is one of six general vice presidents for the world church. Both reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Week 11 | **June 13 – 19** | Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO | **Study**

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

Have you ever felt like the outsider in a group, wondering where you belong, when suddenly someone went out of their way to make you feel included and welcome?

Many churches don't have a sign that says, "For Members Only." However, the lack of outreach, the silence of invitation, and the inward focus of our worship activities can convey that sentiment and leave many feeling unwelcomed and unwanted.

One woman named Gloria once shared her story.

Gloria lived across the street from a church for eighteen years—eighteen years of witnessing weddings, baby dedications, and funerals—without ever receiving a single invitation to step inside. When she finally accepted an invitation, studied the Bible, and was baptized, she shared her story as both a praise and an indictment. Gloria's words echoed a haunting question: "What took you so long?"

This story is a powerful reminder of the silent message we send when we do not actively engage in mission. Jesus said in John 10:16, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice."

Ellen White echoed this thought when she wrote, "Many have gone down to ruin who might have been saved if their neighbors, common men and women, had put forth personal effort for them" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 148).

I. The Call to Go: The Mission of the Church

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is clear: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return." This mission is grounded in the Word of God and can be found in the following passages.

Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, and Revelation 14:6-7

The "I WILL GO" initiative is not just a slogan. It is a divine calling for every member of the body of Christ.

Ellen White writes:

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life (*Desire of Ages*, p. 195).

So, how does the story of Gloria reflect the silent barriers we may unknowingly create in our churches? What can we do to make our churches more welcoming and inclusive to those around us?

II. The Mandate of the Master: Go and Make Disciples

Jesus did not give a mere suggestion. His parting command was direct: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Reflect on this passage a little more. What exactly did Jesus command His disciples to **GO DO** in this passage? (Write down your thoughts.)

1. Make Disciples, Not Just Members

Jesus called us to make disciples—followers, not merely church attendees.

2. Baptize

Baptism is the visible entry into the community of faith. Just as circumcision was a sign of the covenant in the Old Testament (Genesis 17:10-11), so baptism symbolizes death to self and new life in Christ.

3. Teach the New Disciples to Honor God’s Word Through Obedience

True discipleship involves teaching obedience to all of Christ’s commands.

In the following video, we will see an illustration that makes daily discipleship very practical. As you watch, take note of the principles you can apply to your own life today.

- **Play Video 1:** Illustration: How to Disciple Someone to Jesus
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW11VID1>

How did Jesus care for those He discipled? How did He go about reaching the ones lost in darkness? In *Ministry of Healing*, we read:

The training of the disciples was the example for the training of all future workers. Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.” There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Discussion Questions:

- What is the difference between a disciple and a member?

- What do you learn from Christ's Method that you can apply today in your own life?
- How can we better engage every member in Total Member Involvement?

III. The Urgency of the Hour: Jesus Is Coming

We are living in the most solemn time in history. Jesus said, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33).

The signs are unmistakable. Read the following passage and discuss the signs you see.

- **Matthew 24:6** _____
- **Luke 21:11** _____
- **2 Timothy 3:1-5** _____
- **Matthew 24:14** _____

Discussion Questions:

- Which signs of the times do you see being fulfilled today?
- How should the urgency of Christ's return affect the way we live and witness?

Ellen White warns, "The final movements will be rapid ones" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 11). That means, NOW is the time to act. NOW is the time to go while we still have opportunity to share. We are losing our freedoms quickly.

IV. The Power of Your Testimony: People Are Waiting

Gloria's testimony illustrates a painful truth—many are watching from afar, never invited, never reached. Yet the Bible tells us, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14).

Read/Reflect on 1 Peter 3:15: What are we always to be ready to do?

What better place to start than sharing your own testimony with someone?

A simple way to think of your personal testimony (the story of you and Jesus Christ) is to prepare it in three parts.

1. **Before you met Christ:** Describe briefly what your life was like before you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Tell what was missing in your life. Do not make your sinful life look glamorous.
2. **How you met Christ:** Share how Jesus Christ intervened in your life. How did He get your attention? How did He call you to Him? Include a Bible verse or passage if possible.
3. **How Jesus is changing you:** Tell what difference Jesus Christ has made in your life. Why do you love and serve Him? What has He done for you? Those you share with need to see something fresh in your spiritual journey; something that draws them to

want the same. Share the difference He is making in your daily experience now! What do you have in your walk with Jesus that others need to have? This should be the sweetest part of your testimony.

Take a few minutes to think through your testimony in relation to the three points above and then find a friend or family member (or study partner) and share a short 2-3 minute personal testimony of what God has done in your life.

Now after that practice, take a few more minutes to write out or record your testimony, with a few more details. Maybe write down key points under each section labeled “Before I Met Christ, How I Met Christ, the Difference Christ Has Made.” This will help you be more ready to share again. Make sure to include at least 1-2 Scriptures. Keep your testimony short and sweet, under 5 minutes in length.

As you get more comfortable sharing, we encourage you to work on some different variations of your testimony as follows:

- The 1-minute elevator version — in other words, a testimony you can give in one minute on an elevator.
- The 5-minute nutshell version, with the key points. (This is what you should have already put together with exercise above!)
- The 10- to 15-minute version, with more details and testimonies of God’s intervention and leading that you could sharing during a worship service.

After you’ve prayed through what to include in your testimony, pray that God will help you get comfortable sharing it with others. Remember, be genuine and real and joyful as you share. You are on a journey with Jesus. Your life is not about yourself. Don’t hide what God has done for you because you feel shy or you think you are not an eloquent speaker. Also, don’t parade around seeking for applause or attention. Your life is meant to bring Jesus glory, not yourself!

1 Peter 2:9 tells us, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

“So you are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and I am God” (Isa. 43:12).

You are God’s instrument. Your testimony is the light someone needs in this dark world. No matter what you’ve been through, God can use it to help someone else in need.

Stand up right now and speak with conviction: “Jesus is coming. I WILL GO. Jesus is coming. I WILL SHARE what He has done for me!”

Discussion Questions:

- Who will you share your testimony with this week?
- What can we do to ensure that no one in our community feels left out like Gloria?

V. Conclusion: What Will You Do?

The mission is clear, the command is urgent, and the need is great. Jesus is coming soon. Will you go? Let us not delay. Let us not remain silent. Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

Remember, it's not just pastors or leaders who are called to follow the Great Commission and be disciple-makers. It's all of us. Being a disciple = being a disciple-maker. And even a child can become a disciple-maker.

Watch the following testimony of a little girl who told Jesus, "I WILL GO" as she helped disciple her own daddy to trust, love, and follow Jesus all the way to baptism.

- **Play Video 2:** Anna's Testimony - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW11VID2>

If the Spirit of God has touched your heart and you want to say, "Lord, here I am—send me! Use me! Help me start today in my own home but then take me wherever You want me to go!" If this is your desire, then get on your knees right now and pray this prayer with us:

Dear Jesus, the calling You have given is clear. Although I may not know where or how you will lead, I am willing to GO. Take my life today and use it as a testimony to bring more to Your Kingdom. And starting right now, make me a missionary today, in my own home and community. I know You are coming soon, and I WILL GO wherever You lead. In Jesus name, Amen!

Jesus tells us in Revelation 22:20, "Surely I am coming quickly!" There's no time to delay!

To take this message deeper, here are three practical heart challenges.

- **1st Challenge:** Every day, tell Jesus, "Here I am send me!" Pray for divine appointments and open doors. Pray that He will use you as His mouthpiece to reach others along your path.
- **2nd Challenge:** Make time to refine your testimony and find at least 1 person to share your testimony with this week.
- **3rd Challenge:** Over this coming week, read and reflect on Romans 10:14, Ephesians 3:8, Isaiah 52:7, and Isaiah 61:1. Keep reminding yourself, "Jesus is coming, I WILL GO!"

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on Zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

You are also invited to pray daily with believers from around the world at www.247unitedprayer.org. There are multiple prayer calls in multiple languages all praying over the Back to the Altar themes from 100 Days of Prayer.

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Week 11 | June 13 – 19 | Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

[These miraculous opening of the prison doors and other such miracles] ...“were not written merely that we might read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God’s servants of old might work in us. In no less marked a manner than He wrought then will He work now wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power.” *Education*, p. 256

“Then Moses said to the LORD, ‘O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.’ So the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.’” Exodus 4:10-12

"You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you." Matthew 10:18-20

Prayer Focus for Week 11

1. **Dear Heavenly Father**, Make each of our homes a missionary training school. Give our children the heart to see the harvest and to say, “Here I am, send me!” (Claim Isa. 6:8)
2. **Dear Savior and Lord**, Give each of us a testimony to share for Your glory. Take away any fear from our hearts. Help us to trust Your Holy Spirit to speak through us as we joyfully testify of Your goodness and faithfulness. (Claim Matthew 10:19-20)
3. **Dear Jesus**, As we approach the General Conference session, we pray that Your Holy Spirit would be poured out on the hearts of each delegate and attendee in such a powerful way that even before they arrive at session, they will sense Your presence. (Claim Zech. 10:1)
4. **Dear Heavenly Father**, be with our international delegates especially. Help them to get the needed visas and not to have any problems with immigration, as they travel into the United States. (Claim Deut. 31:8)
5. **Dear Jesus**, We know You are coming soon. Help each one of us to say, “I WILL GO wherever Jesus leads me.” Help us speak boldly for You! (Claim Ex. 4:12)
6. **Dear Father**, please bless the tech staff and countless volunteers who are working even now behind the scenes preparing for GC session. (Claim Deut. 11:26-27)
7. **Dear Jesus**, give us the humility and faith of children. (Claim Luke 18:16-17)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 12 | June 20 - 26, 2025)

Disciple Others to Jesus - Resource Materials

Week 12 | **June 20 - 26** | Disciple Others to Jesus | **Testimony**

"The Iron Gate"

By Don MacLafferty

"I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron." Isaiah 45:2

A few years ago, God sent my wife April and me to live in a small mountain town. The church I was pastoring at the time was far away in the valley, and I had a long commute. We often wondered why God would lead us to live so far away from where I worked.

Then one day, we were fascinated to hear that just a mile or so away from our little cottage lived a wealthy couple who had not been in church for over forty years. We were told that they lived on a big piece of property, with a big iron gate guarding the entrance. No one ever saw them much, and the man didn't like church or people who worked with the church. I began praying that I would have a divine appointment with the man who seemed impossible to reach.

One beautiful Sabbath day, God awakened me early in the morning, and I went walking on the road that led up to the mountain. I was praying as I walked, for the man behind the iron gate.

As I walked and prayed, I saw my neighbor talking to someone beside a well-manicured entry to a beautiful estate. My neighbor called out to me, "Hey Don, come over and meet your neighbor, Tom."

Walking up the driveway, I realized that my neighbor was talking to a man beside a large iron gate. I couldn't believe it! I was walking past the very property of the man for whom I'd just been praying. Now, the Spirit of God impressed me to ask the man a bold question. Walking up to the man, I introduced myself and then said, "Tom, may I ask you a question?" The man was a little surprised.

"What's your question?" he responded cautiously.

"Are you ready for Jesus to come?" I asked. It was abrupt, and I could tell he was shocked by my boldness.

"That's a good question," Tom responded with furrowed brow. "I hope to be ready for Jesus to come. I would like my wife to be ready for Jesus to come also." I then asked Tom if I could pray that God would help them both be ready for Jesus to come. It was an awkward moment, but Tom shrugged and said, "Sure."

I prayed with Tom and my neighbor, then waved goodbye as I needed to get down the mountain and join my family of faith. I wasn't sure that it was the best beginning for a friendship with Tom, but I knew it was what God had told me to say.

Later, I found out that after I had left, Tom had asked my neighbor what I was doing out on the road so early in the morning. When my neighbor shared that I was looking for a place to pray, Tom told my neighbor, "Tell Don that if he wants a quiet place to pray, my property is open to him. Here is the combination for my iron gate so that he can come in any time and have a quiet place to pray and read the Word. He won't be bothered by cars or traffic here."

When I heard this news, I was delighted! God had just given me the combination to the iron gate of the man whom I'd been praying I would be able to reach with the love of Jesus Christ.

From then on, each morning, whenever I was in town, I would go to Tom's property to pray. I did not see Tom again for many days. However, one morning, as I was praying at my favorite spot, his car went by in the early morning mist. The Spirit of God impressed me, "Run after that car, and make Tom a very special offer."

I got up from my perch on the rocks and ran after him as fast as I could go. He pulled his car up to the big iron gate and stepped out to inspect something just as I came running up.

"You know, I saw your car going by and I was in prayer, and God impressed me to make you an offer," I told the man.

"What would that be?" he asked as he looked me up and down.

I drew a deep breath and began to share. "I am someone who wants to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. And I want to know if you would meet me at 6:00 a.m. every morning for the next twelve mornings, and we will discover together more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus."

He looked at me and half grunted, as he said, "Six a.m. for the next twelve mornings? I can't imagine why I would want to get up at 6:00 a.m. I can do whatever I want to at any time of day!"

"Would you be willing to pray with me about this?" I asked.

Tom laughed. "I'll tell you what, if God tells me while you are praying to meet with you at 6:00 a.m. for the next twelve mornings, then I will do it. But otherwise, no! That's the last thing I would do."

I immediately knelt right there on his asphalt drive. To my surprise, he knelt beside me. I then began to pray and poured my heart out, asking that God would be with Tom and that He would open the way for us to study His Word together.

When I finished praying, I was getting ready to stand up, but then Tom began to pray. At the end of his prayer, before I could say anything more, he said, "I'll see you in the morning at 6:00 a.m." With that he jumped into his car and sped off down the road.

For the next twelve mornings, we met morning after morning. We would pray and then read the written Word of God together and discover what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. Each morning, it was simple: pray, study, and apply. I was excited to see if, at the end of our time

together, this man would have a new experience with Jesus. However, as we concluded our twelve days, Tom told me simply, "Okay, well, it was good to meet with you." And that was it. I kept praying, but months went by, and nothing more happened.

Then out of the blue one morning, I got a phone call from Tom. He sounded very troubled. "Don, can you drive me to the hospital right now?" he asked. "My wife is just being transferred from one hospital to the next hospital. I think she is dying. Would you please come?"

"Absolutely!" I responded. Immediately, I jumped in my car and went to drive him to the hospital. As we arrived at the hospital, he asked, "Would you come in and pray with my wife?"

We went into the hospital together, and I prayed over that precious wife of his in her hospital bed. I knew from the diagnosis that it was a very serious situation, and the likelihood of her living was not high. As we prayed together, I cried out to God that He would do for her what I could never do for her and that if it would bring Him glory, that she would be restored.

God is good. God chose in this circumstance to heal this woman as a testimony to Tom of His great love and power. Tom's wife was restored to good health. Some days later, Tom contacted me. "You know," he said. "My wife is asking questions about the Bible. Would you come and study the Word of God with us both?"

And so, we began to study together. Sometime later, they were both baptized like Jesus was, fully immersed in water, as a testimony to all that they were giving their lives fully to Jesus Christ as Lord. They came up out of the water and began a fresh experience with Jesus that has lasted to this day.

Although April and I don't live in that small mountain town anymore, I often think of this precious couple. People had told me it was nearly impossible to ever see this couple outside their property. When I met Tom, he appeared at first to be someone who needed nothing. He seemed beyond reach. However, while man builds iron gates, the Holy Spirit knows how to open those gates, for He knows the combination to reach every heart.

Don MacLafferty is president of In Discipleship, an intergenerational revival and disciple ministry impacting the lives of both young and old. He has authored more than 10 books, including the original "The Way Back to the Altar" discipleship curriculum which is being used during this 100 Days of Prayer. This testimony comes from one of his most widely published books, God Still Lives. You can read the entire book of miracle stories [at this link](#). Pastor Don currently assists the General Conference Ministerial Association as a volunteer and leads out with Back to the Altar training programs all around the world. He will be leading Back to the Altar prayer and revival sessions in the prayer room at the General Conference session in St. Louis this coming July.

Week 12 | June 20 - 26 | Disciple Others to Jesus | Study

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

What do you think is the most important qualification for disciple-makers today?

“Do you love me?” That’s the question Jesus asked Peter when giving him his commission as a disciple-maker for the heavenly Kingdom.

The question that Christ had put to Peter was significant. He mentioned only one condition of discipleship and service. “Lovest thou Me?” He said. This is the essential qualification. Though Peter might possess every other, yet without the love of Christ he could not be a faithful shepherd over the Lord’s flock. Knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, gratitude, and zeal are all aids in the good work; but without the love of Jesus in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure (*Desire of Ages*, p. 815).

The Bible tells us, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 22:37–40).

The foundation for being a true disciple-maker for Jesus is love! We love because He first loved us.

Let’s return to the life of Elijah and learn how God used a challenging experience in Elijah’s life to give him a fresh commission, a fresh calling, and a fresh purpose as a disciple-maker for God’s Kingdom.

- **Play Video 1:** Elijah Mentors Elisha - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW12VID1>

Have you found your Elisha? Has God given you someone to mentor to be a disciple-maker for the Kingdom? If not, pray that He will bring you an Elisha.

Disciple Others to Jesus – Bible Study

1. Connect Activity

It’s time for a fun heart connect activity. Please pick one of the following activities that you have never done before.

- Changing a flat tire
- Sewing a dress
- Changing a baby’s diaper
- Driving a tractor
- Performing a root canal
- Baking a cake
- Building a dresser
- Shoeing a horse

After you’ve picked one activity that you have no experience in doing, please take a few minutes to practice giving a friend verbal instructions on how to do this activity. *You heard*

right! This might seem a little difficult but do your best to give a thorough description of how to accomplish the specific activity you have chosen. (If you don't have someone to do this activity with, then record a voice message of yourself giving the instructions to someone. Again, choose an activity that you have never done!)

Now that you've had some fun, think about how this illustration relates to discipleship. What can you learn from this activity that applies to making disciples for Jesus?

As you probably discovered in this activity, it's a bit difficult to teach others what you haven't personally experienced. We must first be living as disciples of Jesus, behind the scenes and in everyday life, before we can be effective disciple-makers. As one pastor once said, "The life you live in private determines the ministry you can have in public."

So, where do we begin? How do we become a disciple-maker for Jesus? The answer is simple. We begin by following the ways of Jesus, the Master Disciple-Maker. Jesus spent unrushed time with His Heavenly Father every day (see Isa. 50:4, and Mark 1:35) and from that time with His Father, He poured His life into those around Him.

Let's learn about some practical steps Jesus took as He made disciples.

2. Jesus' Disciple-Making Method

Read/Reflect on Luke 6:12-16 – What were the first steps Jesus took before choosing the twelve?

Read/Reflect on Matthew 4:18-20 –Based on this passage, what are ways that you could be more intentional about making disciples for Jesus?

Read/Reflect on Mark 3:14 – Before sending the disciples out to preach, what was their first need and calling?

Let's watch the following video where Pastor Don goes deeper into the practical application of these inspiring Bible passages.

- **Play Video 2:** The First Steps in Disciple-Making - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW12VID2>

Again and again, we see that disciple-making is an investment of time, energy, and focus. In other words, it is very intentional and sacrificial. In *Desire of Ages* we read:

It was by personal contact and association that Jesus trained His disciples. Sometimes He taught them, sitting among them on the mountainside; sometimes beside the sea, or walking with them by the way, He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom of God. He did not sermonize as men do today. Wherever hearts were open to receive the divine message, He unfolded the truths of the way of salvation. He did not command His disciples to do this or that, but said, "Follow Me." On His journeys through country and cities He took them with Him, that they might see how He taught the people. He linked their interest with His, and they united with Him in the work (*Desire of Ages*, p. 152).

When someone you mentor watches you, do they see glimpses of Jesus?

3. Power to be a Disciple-Maker

Read/Reflect on Luke 9:1, 2 – Where did the disciple’s power come from? Where does your strength and power as a disciple of Jesus come from today? What is the entering wedge for the gospel ministry based on this passage, and what could it be today?

In 1896 Ellen White wrote:

I want to say that the third angel's message is the gospel, and that the health reform is the entering wedge for the truth. There are to be no abrupt declarations of any phase of our faith. Preach the truth as it is in Jesus and bring all the brightness and special radiance from the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness into the gospel. Those who speak of practical godliness should dwell upon the lessons of Christ. All should have the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and let none be satisfied without it. Let your words express your confidence and love for God. The most simple testimonies borne in a humble spirit, expressing the love of God will touch hearts (*Health, Philanthropic, and Medical Missionary Work*, p. 48).

Disciple of Jesus, if you feel powerless and inadequate for the calling at hand, you are in the perfect place to become the disciple-maker God intends you to be. Remember, “From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 300).

God has everything you need for life, for godliness, and to be disciple-makers for His Kingdom. But we each must learn to depend completely on Him!

As we close this session, we hope you enjoy the following personal recap by Pastor Don and Melody.

- **Play Video 3:** Reflections on Being a Disciple-Maker - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW12VID3>

Will you step out of your comfort zone and invest in someone’s life? Will you become a disciple-maker for Jesus?

Dear Father in heaven, we have little time left to follow our Savior’s command to go and make disciples around the world. We have given others information about Jesus yet made few disciples of Jesus. Forgive us for not being willing to pay the price that disciple-making costs. To make a disciple costs our time when we have too much to do. It costs our comfort when we are weary. It costs our reputation when the Holy Spirit sends us to someone we do not want to see. It cost Jesus His life to make the way back to the altar to disciple us. Send us the Holy Spirit to empower us to make disciples of Jesus who walk with Him, talk with Him, and share Him with heart-pounding power. In Jesus’ name, amen.

4. Practical Application and Heart Challenge

- **1st Challenge:** Study Matthew 4:19, 20. How is Jesus asking you to follow Him as His disciple? What active steps of obedience will you take for Jesus this very week?
- **2nd Challenge:** Take a night of prayer and ask God who He wants you to disciple and mentor in an intentional way. Ask Him for someone you can disciple that can go even beyond you in life and ministry.
- **3rd Challenge:** Once God has given you a name(s), reach out to that person(s) and tell them God has placed their name on your heart. Ask them if they'd be interested in your mentoring them and discipling them. (*Important that men disciple men and women disciple women.*)
- **4th Challenge:** Find a friend this coming week to do the follow-up discipleship activity with that is included in the bonus section. That person can also be the person God has laid on your heart to disciple, if they are willing. Ask this person to meet for 1 hour of time to do the activity. Have fun!

Don't forget, you are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on Zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome! Zoom link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

Let's pray!

Bonus Discipleship Activity

You've just completed a study on how to be a disciple-maker. Now we have a special activity for you to do with a discipleship partner. This can be with a friend or someone that you want to disciple more intentionally for Jesus. Give about 1 hour for this activity. (We recommend that men partner with men and women with women. Youth can also take part and do this with a friend or someone they want to disciple for Jesus.)

After you have prayerfully asked someone to partner with you, agree on a time and a place to meet. We recommend meeting in a place where you can talk and pray without too many distractions. In your home, in a park, or out in nature are some good examples. While this is a practice exercise for you, we want this activity to be meaningful and a blessing for both you and your discipleship partner, so don't rush through the activity. Before you and your discipleship partner meet, pray that the Holy Spirit will really bless this discipleship activity as well as the life of the person doing the activity with you.

When you meet, play the following video and pause the video every time you are instructed to discuss a question or do a specific activity. Again, have fun and use this as a special bonding experience for both you and your discipleship partner.

- **Play Video 4:** Discipleship Activity with a Partner - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW12VID4>

Questions are in video, but we have also included them here for your reference:

- **Question 1:** Get Acquainted - Share a little about who you are as a person.
(Give each person 3-5 minutes for this conversation.)
- **Question 2:** Going Deeper - How would you spend a day if you could do anything?
(Give each person 1-2 minutes to answer this question.)
- **Question 3:** Who is Jesus Christ to you at this time in your life?
(Give each person 3-5 minutes to answer this question.)
- **Question 4:** Going Deeper – How do you need God to work in your life right now?
(Give each person 5 minutes to answer this question.)
- Find a special **promise or verse of encouragement** that you can share with your discipleship partner. This verse of encouragement should correspond with the need they expressed in Question 4.
- Close with a special prayer for one another! Then listen to the remainder of the video as Pastor Don finishes this session by sharing a special testimony about discipleship.

If you and your discipleship partner want to continue meeting, plan your next appointment to pray together and encourage one another. Prayerfully consider exploring the **Back to the Altar** series with your disciple partner. A leadership packet for each lesson with teaching tips can be found online at: www.backtothealtar.org

Week 12 | June 20 - 26 | Disciple Others to Jesus | Prayer Focus

Promises to Claim as you Pray



“You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 146

“Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.” Psalm 2:8

“We have too little faith. We limit the Holy One of Israel. We should be grateful that God condescends to use any of us as his instruments.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 52

Prayer Focus for Week 12

1. **Heavenly Father**, fill the convention center, the dome, all the meeting halls, and every place that will be utilized during the GC session with Your Holy Spirit in such a significant way that even the convention center staff and session management will sense Your presence. (Claim Ezekiel 10:4)
2. **Dear Jesus**, as we experience this Sabbath day of rest, help us to rest in You, in Your love, in Your Peace, in Your perfect righteousness. Help us to rest in Your amazing grace. Thank you for redeeming us from all our sins. (Claim Ephesians 2:8-9)
3. **Heavenly Father**, give us the desire and willingness to wrestle in prayer, even all night in prayer, as Jesus did, that we may more clearly hear Your voice and know who You are calling us to disciple for the Kingdom. (Claim Luke 6:12)
4. **Dear Jesus**, make us disciples and disciple-makers. Teach us what it means to truly be fishers of men, and to GO in obedience wherever You call. (Claim Matt. 4:19)
5. **Lord**, be with our church leaders and administrators as they prepare for GC session. Give them heavenly wisdom and Holy Spirit blessing. Lead them in Your way and help them to lean constantly on You for their strength. (Claim Isa. 30:21)
6. **Dear Jesus**, You are coming soon. Prepare our hearts as a people for the great trials that are soon to come. Even when it seems that everything is against us, help us to stand strong for You! Keep us in the secret place of Your presence. (Claim Psalm 91:1)
7. **Heavenly Father**, grow our faith. Help us to walk by faith, live by faith, and move in faith, knowing that You have called us and You will be faithful to complete the work You have started in us. (Claim Phil 1:6)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 13 | June 27 - July 3, 2025)

Live Your God Given Mission - Resource Materials

Week 13 | **June 27 – July 3** | Live God's Mission | **Testimony**

"Hurled into the Harvest"

By Derek Morris

"Then [Jesus] said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" Matt. 9:37-38

Mary Ann Roberts grew up in a Christian home, but as a young person she never made a personal commitment to Jesus as her Savior and Lord. After college she married, her husband joined the military, and they moved to Europe. It was there that Mary Ann abandoned all connections with church and became a self-described party animal.

During 1983 she hit rock bottom. In the midst of a week-end-long drinking binge she became so drunk and sick that she was unable to attend a family reunion. That's when Mary Ann decided to ask God back into her life. The vivid picture that came to her mind at that low point in her life was of a loving Father running down the road to meet His prodigal child. Mary Ann knew she was that child.

Realizing that she needed to make some radical changes in her lifestyle, she wrote to a Christian pastor and told him of her commitment to become a follower of Jesus. That pastor's wife understood how difficult the transition would be and supported Mary Ann by calling her on the telephone every single morning for an entire year to pray with her.

Even though Mary Ann started attending a Christian church and God became a vital part of her life, she sensed that something was still missing—that God had something special in store for her that she had not yet found. She had always wished that she had continued her education, so she decided to go back to school. Perhaps it would fill the void in her heart. She applied to and was accepted into a graduate program in science and eventually completed a Ph.D. in neuroscience. But somehow life still seemed incomplete.

In the summer of 2001 Mary Ann attended a camp meeting in North Carolina. She was interested mainly in socializing with friends, so she sat near the back of the auditorium. During one of the meetings though, she overheard a Christian evangelist invite those who were interested in a ministry project in Kenya to meet with him after the service.

"Usually, I like to mull things over before I act," Mary Ann recalls, "but it was as if someone were standing in front of me and pointing directly at me." At the close of the meeting, she walked up to the front of the auditorium under deep conviction that God was calling her to participate in the ministry project in Kenya. After talking with Mary Ann, the evangelist invited Mary Ann to conduct a series of meetings in the primitive community of Rongo, Kenya. Mary Ann was not a public speaker. She had no homiletical training and absolutely no experience in frontline mission work. It had never crossed her mind that God would ask her to become a preacher. But she was open to the working of the Holy Spirit that day, and, in her own words, she began to pray a very radical prayer: "Lord, I give You permission to throw me out into your harvest."

Fast forward a few months and Mary Ann traveled to Kenya to do just what God had called her to do. Although she was terrified, every night when she stood up to preach, she sensed God speaking through her to the crowd assembled in the town square, and at the end of her meetings there in Rongo, Kenya, more than 500 people confessed their love for Jesus in baptism. As you can imagine, Mary Ann was filled with joy—radical joy! And that joy has not disappeared. Mary Ann has continued to preach and share and follow God’s leading. She found her calling when she gave God permission to use her in His harvest.

Derek Morris is Field Secretary for Hope Channel International and Host of Hope Sabbath School.

Week 13 | **June 27 – July 3** | Live God's Mission | **Study**

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

Throughout this series, we've been learning how God used Elijah to turn the hearts of straying Israel back to Him. However, when we last left the story, Elijah had just started mentoring Elisha. Let's tune in again to learn what Elijah did when facing the Jordan river.

- **Play Video 1:** Crossing the Jordan - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID1>

What is the "Jordan River" that you are facing right now? What is something that God is asking you to do but it seems impossible, and you haven't yet moved forward for fear of what will happen?

Bow your head for a few moments and pray about what your "Jordan River" might be. When God brings it to your mind, write it down on a slip of paper. It might be choosing to keep the Sabbath instead of pleasing an employer or standing up for something else that you believe God has told you in His Word. Perhaps it is stepping forward on a faith venture that you feel God is calling you to make. Only you and God know exactly what this "Jordan River" is.

Are you willing to cross that "Jordan River" by the power of the Lord? If so, put your paper down on the floor, and then step over it, as a symbol to the Lord that you are willing to cross your "Jordan River" by faith in His power. This isn't just a little exercise. When you step over that paper, you are in essence telling God, "I choose to move forward by faith and cross the Jordan River that lies in front of me!"

If you just stepped over your "Jordan River," know that the choice you have just made is significant, and heaven is rejoicing! Ellen White writes, "The Lord can do more in one hour than we can do in a whole lifetime, and when He sees that His people are fully consecrated, let me tell you, a great work will be done in a short time, and the message of truth is to be carried into the dark places of the earth, where it has never been proclaimed" (*5th Manuscript Releases*, p. 347)

Continue to cross each "Jordan River" that you face by faith, and God will be with you!

Before we get into this week's Bible study, let's follow along as Pastor Don does a review of all the Back to the Altar principles that we've learned so far.

- **Play Video 2:** Review of Back to the Altar principles - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID2>

These Back to the Altar principles we've been learning are not just things we do once and then forget. These principles are to become part of our daily life!

Lesson Introduction

Have you ever longed to be chosen for something significant? You don't need to *long* anymore because you have already been chosen by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! John 15:16 tells us, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

God has a special purpose and mission for your life! Your life matters! No matter where you've been or what you've done, no matter your age, your gender, your education or lack thereof, where you live, your qualifications or lack of qualifications, if you are willing, God will use you.

To His servants Christ commits "His goods" — something to be put to use for Him. He gives "to every man his work." Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 326).

In this session, we will learn the seventh and final principle of what it means to come back to the altar. That principle is "Live your God-given mission!"

Would you like to know God's mission for your life?

Live Your God-given Mission Study

Just as you might have had dreams when you were a child of what you wanted to do or what you wanted to become when you grew up, God also has special dreams for you and your life. In this lesson we will explore our unique and special God-given calling.

I. What does God know about you?

Read/Reflect on Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18. Make a list of what God knows about you, based on these verses.

Read/Reflect on Ephesians 1:4 and Ephesians 2:10. When did God choose you?

God has a mission for each one of us! Let's explore who God created us to be and learn how we may serve Him in our own unique way.

II. Discover Your God-Given Mission!

Following is a list of exploring questions to help you learn where God might be calling you to serve. These are passages that you will want to look up and pray over as an individual. Humbly pray before you begin exploring. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to guide you as you seek to understand His calling and mission for your life.

1. What are my spiritual gifts? Based on the following passages, make a list of all that you think you have. After you've made a list, circle your top 3–5 spiritual gifts.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

- Romans 12:6–8, 13
- Ephesians 4:11, 12
- 1 Peter 4:9–11
- Exodus 31:1–5

Before you go through the next series of questions, watch this video where Pastor Don gives a deeper overview of the questions you are going to be asking yourself.

- **Play Video 3:** Finding Your Mission - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID3>

Now, with what Pastor Don has just shared in mind, go through the following questions. Write down your answers on a notepad.

2. When did I feel the most:

- Free — to be who God made me to be?
- Flow — to serve people I love to help and tackle issues I care about in a way that utilizes my natural gifts?
- Joy?
- Used of God?
- Positive feedback from people who responded to my service by moving toward God?

Before you move on, write down two/three times in your life when all these five things were present for you as you served others.

As you prepare to answer the next series of questions, listen once more as Pastor Don takes these questions a little deeper.

- **Play Video 4:** Going Deeper with Heart Searching Questions
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID4>

As you go through the following questions, give yourself 60 seconds for each question, then give another 60 seconds to circle the top three answers of the types of people you like to help.

3. Who do I love to help?

- List all the types/categories of people you have a heart to help.
(*Example: Children/Youth, Single moms, Abuse victims, Unreached, Etc.*)
- Circle the top 3.

4. What issues do I care about?

- List issues that are being neglected in your world that trouble your heart or make you angry. (*Example: Education for impoverished children, lack of support for pregnant teens, abuse of specific people groups.... Etc.*)
- List issues you have a passion to address or do something about.

5. What do others see in me?

After you've written down the answers to questions 1-4, send those questions along with your answers to five people who have the following criteria:

- They know you well.
- They care about you.
- They walk with God.
- They have discernment.
- They will be willing to spend three days praying and reflecting on your answers and will respond to this question: "In what specific ways do you think I could best serve God with my gifts, with a focus on the people and on the issues I care about?"

After you've heard back from these five people, pray over the feedback you receive. Lay their responses out before God as you seek His wisdom in prayer. Consider the things God has been laying on your heart and the spiritual gifts you've studied. Claim James 1:5-8 as you pray for wisdom.

III. Live the Lord of the Harvest Prayer

Read/Reflect on Matthew 9:35-38. What can you learn about Jesus' mission from these passages?

In verse 38 we see that Jesus tells His disciples to beg the Lord of the harvest to *ekballō* — that is, to hurl out workers into His harvest.

In Matthew 10:16 we find that Jesus doesn't just call us to pray that He will send out others into the harvest. He tells us to go ourselves, even when we face difficult circumstances. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can be fearless and faithful in our heavenly mission!

As you reflect on Jesus' mission, watch the following video as Pastor Don takes these passages deeper.

- **Play Video 4:** Practical Lessons we can learn from Jesus' Mission
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID5>

Now it's time for a fun little activity to put feet on our faith! You can do this by yourself or with a group.

Hurling into the Harvest – Closing Activity

As we've just learned, Jesus wants to *hurl* us out into His harvest. He wants to throw you and me into the mission He has dreamed for us.

- Instructions: Take a piece of paper and write down an out-of-your-comfort zone mission that God might be nudging you to take. It could be witnessing to a difficult neighbor down the street, making friends with the bully at school, or something much more daring like quitting a job or going to a faraway place to make disciples.
- When you have finished writing down that mission, stand up and come together with those around you forming a big circle with each person facing outward.
- Take the sheet of paper that you just wrote on and wad it up into a tight ball. Then hurl or throw the paper ball as far away from the circle as you can. Make sure you see where it landed, as you will go to that spot in a moment.
- Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone to go to where your piece of paper fell and take five minutes to surrender to Jesus privately, asking Him to *hurl you* out into the mission He dreamed and planned for you before you were born?

Let's listen as Pastor Don shares a powerful testimony about one young woman who was willing to be hurled into the harvest, no matter the cost.

- **Play Video 5:** Testimony: Hurlled into the Harvest, Whatever the Cost
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID6>

Only God knows the ending to this young woman's story, but it is our prayer that this young woman's life and bold step of faith was not in vain. May her zeal encourage all of us to go wherever God calls and live the mission He has given us.

Remember, the days ahead will not be easy. Persecution is coming. For many, persecution is already here. But remember, no matter what you face, no matter what difficulties come, Jesus walks beside you, and He will be with you to the end.

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for calling us to follow Your Son as His disciples! We surrender to Jesus as our Lord and ask that He will hurl us out into the harvest anywhere He wants to send us. Give us courage to obey immediately when He calls us on His gospel missions. In Jesus' name, amen.

Jesus has a special mission just for you. And following His mission is your highest honor!

IV. Three Practical Challenges

- **1st Challenge** – Contact five mentors, friends, or people who care about you deeply and ask them to pray for three days about your mission and calling. At the end of three days, ask them to give you their feedback about where they think you can serve God best.
- **2nd Challenge** – After you've prayed through the questions in this session, and after you've received feedback from trusted mentors/friends, pray and ask God, "Where can I serve You best? What is the next step You want me to take, and what is Your urgency on when I should take this next step?"
- **3rd Challenge** - After you have clarity on what God is calling you to do in your next step of faith, call those five people who prayed for you, and share with them what

God is calling you to do, and ask them to back you up with their prayers.

Don't forget, you are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on Zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome! Zoom link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

Let's pray!

Additional Bonus Material

If you'd like some more amazing and inspiring testimonies, listen in as Pastor Don shares about a whole boat load, or in this case, plane load of miracle stories from one long flight across the ocean. We pray these stories and reflections inspire all of you to be willing to speak up, step out of your comfort zone, and live your God-given mission wherever God leads.

- **Play Video 7:** Testimony: Welcome to My Neighborhood & More Airplane Stories
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW13VID7>
- For many more miracle stories, read the book by Don MacLafferty titled, *God Still Lives*. This book of 16 miracle stories will change your life! Download here:
<https://qr.safeliz.com/eb/gs/en/gs.html>

Week 13 | June 27 – July 3 | Live God's Mission | Prayer Focus

Promises to Claim as You Pray



“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.” 1 John 5:14

“Could we see all the activity of human instrumentality as it appears before God, we would see that only the work accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the merit of Christ will stand the test of the judgment.” *Christian Service*, p. 263

“Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.”
Desire of Ages, p. 672

“In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Eph. 2:22

Prayer Focus for Week 13

1. **Dear Heavenly Father**, Please be with our church leaders and administrators as they prepare to travel to GC session. Please pour out Your Holy Spirit on them and give them divine appointments as they travel. (Claim Psalm 119:105)
2. **Heavenly Father**, Help each of us to discover the mission and calling that You have for our life. If it's something different than what we are doing, open our hearts to be ready to go wherever You lead. (Claim Isa. 30:21)
3. **Dear Jesus**, We pray for a sweet spirit of love and unity to be upon all the GC delegates and attendees. Help this GC session to be an Upper Room experience for all who attend. Bless the Back to the Altar revival sessions in the prayer room. (Claim Acts 1:14)
4. **Heavenly Father**, As the song goes, “They will know that we are Christians by our love.” Help everyone who is watching our church see a beautiful representation of the character of Christ by how we live and serve together. (Claim John 13:35)
5. **Dear Jesus**, We continue to pray for a special revival in the main worship sessions. Bless the times of prayer, and bless the Back to the Altar revival sessions. Please bring just the people who need encouragement to the prayer room. (Claim Isa. 44:3)
6. **Heavenly Father**, Guide the agenda, guide the conversations, pour out your Spirit on every family member, youth, and visiting attendee. (Claim Isa. 59:21)
7. **Dear Jesus**, Please let this be our last GC session. Please come soon! (Claim Rev. 22:12)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 14 | July 4 - 12, 2025)

Moving Forward in Faith - Resource Materials

Week 14 | **July 4 – 12** | Moving Forward by Faith | **Testimony**

“Crossing our Jordan River!”

By Don MacLafferty

“And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Deu. 31:8

Have you ever felt God calling you to step out of your comfort zone, to move forward by faith on some ministry venture, but it seemed like what God was asking you to do was crazy? (It probably didn't help when others saw what you were doing, and they also thought that you were crazy.)

April and I had our faith put to the test after God called us to leave our paid ministry and start working as full-time volunteers. I was senior pastor of a large congregation and had been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist church for over twenty-five years when God called me to step back from that position so I could be more free to go wherever He called in our growing international discipleship ministry.

As we began this new phase of our ministry, we had told God, “Send us anywhere you want us to go!” His answer surprised us: “Lacombe, Alberta, Canada!”

We sent in all our paperwork to the Canadian government, so that we could move to the place where God was calling. After months of waiting for the proper permits to move, we faced a dilemma. Our daughter Jessica needed to start school in a couple of weeks, but we were told that we would have to wait four or five more months. Yet, God said, “I have urgency for you to move to Canada! Call for revival there before the school year begins.”

In prayer, I shared why that was not possible at that time. God challenged us, “Go put your feet in the Jordan! Go to the border by faith!” Our friends kindly advised us that we should not leave our home and travel 1,000 miles north to cross the border into Canada without having a permit in hand. “If you were told it would take four to five more months to get your permit, then that is what it will be.” But God said, “Go!”

So, we packed up everything we could into a moving truck and gave the rest away. I drove the truck, and April drove our van behind me. Jessica bounced between us to give us much-appreciated company. We headed north by faith, sure that God would work a miracle before we came to the US/Canada border. We encouraged each other, “Even though the Canadian officials said it would take four to five more months, God can do anything! He will send us our permits in the next few days before we reach the border!”

So, we drove through great forests, dry wastelands, and along roads where we saw no one for long stretches. Each day we eagerly checked our email to see if God had worked a miracle. There was nothing.

Finally, the big day arrived! We drove right up to within a mile of the border and stopped and checked our email with great hope and expectation for a miracle.

Guess what? There was nothing!

“What do we do now, Lord?” we asked in prayer.

“Put your feet in the Jordan. Go cross the border.” He spoke to our hearts.

We drove up to the border feeling like fools, parked, and stepped into the crisp, clean office. The official looked over our documentation. “You have no permit from Canada to move here. Where is your permit?” he asked with concern.

“We don’t have a permit yet. We were told it would take four to five more months.” I bravely answered.

“Follow me!” The border control officer said. We followed him outside to the truck. “How far have you come? I hope you still have a home to return to! It is impossible for me to do anything to help you move into Canada without your permit.”

He shook his head and walked away. That was all!

We looked blankly at each other. It wasn’t supposed to work like this. We were supposed to put our feet in the Jordan, and God was supposed to part the waters. I silently prayed, *God, help! Help us get across this border. We are here by faith in Your command!*

The officer immediately spun around and walked back to us, as if he had heard my silent prayer to heaven. “What were you hoping I would do today for your family?” he asked incredulously.

“I don’t know if you believe in God or not, but God has called our family to move to Canada to help families mentor their children to be disciples of Jesus.”

He stared at us, his face impassive. “Follow me!” he ordered.

For one hour, this officer, who said it was impossible to get us across the border, worked to find a solution. Two hours went by, and he asked one more officer and then another to help him. Three border officers worked tirelessly to find a way we could enter Canada—after stating it was completely impossible in our situation.

After five hours, the officer called from the desk, “MacLafferty family!” We came up to the desk. Thump, thump, thump, we heard as he quickly stamped each of our passports.

“Welcome to Canada!”

We were overjoyed! “Sir, I don’t know if you believe in God, but do you mind if I thank God right here for how He used you to be a part of His miracle?” I asked with a great smile. He looked warily to the left and then to the right, lowered his voice, and said, “Follow me!”

He led us out to our truck and turned to us. I looked him in the eye and said, "God just did a mighty miracle through you today!" I could not read his expression. Haltingly, he shared, "What you don't know is that I used to believe in God! I have become discouraged lately with God and church and gave up on both. Today I choose to believe in God again. I will go home after my shift and tell my wife what God did today that I know was impossible. We will believe in God again and make our home a place to worship Him."

In awe of this living God, we all bowed our heads for prayer. We waved goodbye to the officer and drove into Canada with less than a hundred dollars to spend. We had no home and no job, but God was calling, and we trusted in His care.

Trust God as you follow His call.

Don MacLafferty is president of In Discipleship, an intergenerational revival ministry impacting the lives of both young and old. He has authored more than 10 books, including the original "The Way Back to the Altar" discipleship curriculum which is being used during this 100 Days of Prayer. This testimony comes from his book of faith stories titled "Live Like Elijah." You can read the whole book [at this link](#). Pastor Don currently assists the General Conference Ministerial Association as a volunteer and leads out with Back to the Altar training programs all around the world. He will be leading Back to the Altar prayer and revival sessions in the prayer room at the General Conference session in St. Louis this week.

Week 14 | July 4 – 12 | Moving Forward by Faith | Study

Welcome to the last session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

It's time for one final Back to the Altar review. How many of the Back to the Altar principles can you name by memory? Which principle has had the biggest impact in your personal life? *(Write down your answers or share with a friend.)*

Let's do a quick review all together:

Principle 1: Come to Jesus as You Are

Principle 2: Honor Jesus as Lord

Principle 3: Discover a Fresh Picture of Jesus in the Word and in Prayer

Principle 4: Ask for and Receive a Fresh Daily Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Principle 5: Love Your Family Sacrificially

Principle 6: Disciple Others to Jesus

Principle 7: Live Your God-given Mission

These basic discipleship principles we've been sharing throughout all these sessions, including the appeals to put away our distractions and hide God's Word in our hearts, are probably not new instruction for you. Chances are, you've heard all this information before. The problem, however, for many is that they do not live the basic principles of discipleship that they know. They have an intellectual knowledge but not a heart and life transformation. But God wants to change this pattern. He wants us to experience daily revival and reformation from the inside out.

Going forward from today, what will you do to keep these Back to the Altar principles a part of your daily life? What are you going to do to share these principles with others?

For the final study in this series, let's learn a little more how we can move forward by faith, even when the road before us seems impossible!

Moving Forward by Faith - Study

1. Connect Activity

What is something in your life that you thought was impossible that actually happened? *(Write down your response or share it with a friend.)*

2. The God of the Impossible

Read/Reflect on Matthew 19:26, Luke 18:27, Luke 1:37 - What do we learn about God from these passages?

Read the following passages and discover what God did in these impossible situations!

- Genesis 18:13-14
- Numbers 11:18-23

- 2 Kings 6:15-17
- Luke 1:31-38
- Hebrews 11:17-19
- 2 Chronicles 20:1-2, 12-22

Read/Reflect on Hebrews 13:8 – What does this passage teach us about God?

If you have five friends nearby, gather them together in a circle, and without measuring or making calculations, take a guess together on how many feet/meters you think you all can stretch as a team. The only rule is that you have to touch. Once you've decided on a number, experiment and see if your guess was close. Ask someone to measure for you!

Pause right now to do this activity before continuing!

Read/Reflect on Ephesians 3:20-21 and Jeremiah 33:3 - What do these passages tell us that God is longing to do?

Chances are, when you did the stretching exercise with friends, you found that you could go far beyond what you expected. The same is true in the Christian walk!

It's time to move forward by faith asking and expecting great things from God. Times aren't going to get easier. Jesus is about to come! But that's when we need to hold on by faith and press forward even more boldly.

"Just believe and praise God and go forward. We are almost home ... Bear your whole weight on the promises of God. Believe. It is your privilege to believe" (*Letter 31*, Jan 1, 1897).

In *The Great Controversy*, we read, "The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time...Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 621).

Be the Last Elijah in these Final Days before Jesus Returns

Throughout this series, interspersed with the Back to the Altar principles of discipleship, we have been catching little glimpses of what it means to be the "Last Elijah" living in the final days of earth's history. This hasn't been just the re-telling of a story of a mighty prophet who lived long ago. Elijah's story is meant to become our story. *God is calling us, His last day remnant people, to become The Last Elijah*, to help the world prepare for Christ's soon return!

Have you been convicted? What have you learned from the life of Elijah, over these 100 Days of Prayer, that has spoken most deeply to your heart? How are you choosing to live differently as a result? (*Journal your response or share with a friend!*)

As we learned, Elijah stood boldly before King Ahab, because he was already standing and living boldly for God. He did not question what might happen when God told him to do stand before King Ahab. When the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, he did not hesitate or ask questions. He immediately obeyed. Even when much of Israel, including king Ahab, was worshiping the idol Baal, Elijah still stood boldly for God and called for heaven-sent fire. God heard Elijah's prayer, just as He hears our prayers today.

Ellen White writes, "It was because Elijah was a man of large faith that God could use him in this grave crisis in the history of Israel. As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favor. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God's service... Faith such as this is needed in the world today—faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears" (*Prayer*, p. 138).

Elijah was not perfect. But, even when Elijah did fall into discouragement and run for his life in fear of Jezebel, God was *still* with him. God did not give up on Elijah, and He hasn't given up on you either. Even though you've probably made some bad choices in your life, God is still with you, and He has a distinct mission and purpose for your life.

Let's tune in one last time to this special story and see what happened to Elijah and how Elisha reacted when facing his own Jordan River.

- **Play Video 1:** Taking Up Elijah's Mantle - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW14VID1>

Will you take the challenge? Will you mentor an Elisha for the kingdom?

What would happen if you really lived like Elijah and Elisha, today? If you continued to cross whatever "Jordan River" you face, by faith in the Living God?

Consider the following lessons we've learned over this *Last Elijah* series as you ask yourself "What if...?"

- What if you met with God each morning before you met with others?
- What if you lived each day by the Word of God?
- What if you listened every day for that still small voice?
- What if you cried out each morning for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- What if you repaired the broken down altars in your own home and heart?
- What if you by faith heard the promised rain before it came?
- What if you ran the race of your life by the power of God, and not your own strength?
- What if you dared to call family, friends, co-workers, and even strangers to follow God?
- What if you stood against the obstacles facing your life by the authority of God?
- What if you trusted that what God has called you to do, He will provide for you to do?

Bow your head right now and pray the following prayer:

O Lord, Mighty God of Elijah and of me, I praise You for being the Living One, who was, and is and is to come! Forgive me for living without fearless faith. Forgive me for my compromises. Restore the broken altars of my heart, home, and community. Lead me by Your Holy Spirit to live each remaining moment of my life with holy boldness and fearless faithfulness. Give me the selfless love to mentor an Elisha by Your power to serve You far beyond what I have given You. In Jesus' name, amen!

Three Practical Challenges

- **1st Challenge:** Invest two-six hours within the next week to have a personal retreat with God. Ask two to three close friends to be praying for you during this time.
- **2nd Challenge:** While on the retreat, humbly claim Ephesians 3:20,21. Ask God what He is ready to do in your life FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY BEYOND ALL you can ask or think? Write down all God impresses you to do.
- **3rd Challenge:** Go share this list with your close friends and ask them to pray for you!

If your life has been impacted by Back to the Altar, please share your testimony at the following link: <https://www.backtothealtar.org/share-your-testimony/>

Let's pray!

Additional Resource Material

What's next after Back to the Altar? Consider leading your family or friends or others through this series. To hear some ideas or learn about resources we have, listen to this video as Pastor Don and Melody discuss different available resources and where to go from here.

- **Play Video 2:** After Back to the Altar - What Next?
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW14VID2>
- **Play Video 3:** Pastor Don MacLafferty Testimony – "I Gave Up My Job to Become a Full Time Volunteer" - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW14VID3>

If you or your church would like to continue to study together, here's some additional small group studies that foster revival and a deeper Back to the Altar experience with Jesus.

- The Last Elijah: Revival Manual - <https://tinyurl.com/TheLastElijah>
- Jesus Last Love Letter - <https://tinyurl.com/JesusLastLoveLetter>
- The Timeless Truth of Jesus - <https://tinyurl.com/TimelessTruthOfJesus>
- Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks for Adults, Children and Youth - <https://tinyurl.com/MeetJesusOutside>

Stay tuned for more resources coming to www.backtothealtar.org.

If your life has been impacted by Back to the Altar, please share your testimony at the following link: <https://www.backtothealtar.org/share-your-testimony/>

Move forward by Faith & Live at the Altar!

“Lay all upon the altar, a living, consuming sacrifice. Bind it with cords, if you cannot keep it there. Give yourselves to prayer. **Live at the altar.** Strengthen your purposes by the promises of God.” *Testimonies for the Church*, no. 4, p. 20

“**There is no limit** to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” *Christian Service*, p. 254

“**Press together, press together.** In union there is strength and victory; in discord and division there is weakness and defeat.” 7 Letters and Manuscripts, Lt 32a, 1892, par. 18

“We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy that we most need to fear...No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self. We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. **We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls.**”
Ministry of Healing, p. 485

Week 14 | July 4 – 12 | Moving Forward by Faith | Prayer Focus

Powerful Quotes on Faith and Prayer



“According to your FAITH be it unto you!” Matt. 9:29

“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.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 525

“Here are the great cities... [around the world] with their millions of inhabitants that have not yet heard the last warning message. How are these to be warned? If the people of God would only exercise faith, He would work in a wonderful manner to accomplish this work. Hear the words of Christ: ‘If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.’ Precious promise! Do we believe it? What marvelous results would appear if the united prayers of this company were to ascend to God in living faith! Jesus stands ready to take these petitions and present them to His Father, saying, ‘I know these persons by name. Send answers to their prayers; for I have graven their names on the palms of My hands.’”—*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, 152 (1886).

Prayer Focus for Week 14

1. **Pray that** the Holy Spirit would be poured out in such rich measure at the General Conference Session that it would be evident to all that God is with us as a church, and He is doing a great work. (Claim Luke 11:13)
2. **Pray that** it won't be business as usual at this GC session, but a time of *spiritual revival* that will refresh the hearts of all in attendance. (Claim Psalms 85:6)
3. **Pray for** the General Conference Steering Committee made up of leaders who will be deciding how each day's agenda falls into place during Session. (Claim Ps. 32:8)
4. **Pray that** God will lead as votes take place and new leadership decisions are made that will impact future generations. (Claim James 1:5)
5. **Pray for** the Women's meetings, the Back to the Altar revival sessions in the prayer room, and the business session discussion and agenda. Pray that everything will fall into place for the glory and honor of God. (Claim Romans 16:27)
6. **Pray for** the youth and young adults that will attend the GC meetings, that they will see Jesus displayed in the lives of our leaders and long to follow and know Jesus more. (Claim Ps. 115:1)
7. **Pray that** the theme “Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO” would take on a new significance for all Seventh-day Adventist during this General Conference Session, and that we would be compelled to step out in faith and spread the gospel far and wide while we still have the ability to share. (Claim Isa. 6:8)
8. **Pray that** we as a church will embrace the mission God has for us, and move forward by faith, no matter what we face in the future. Pray that we would stand boldly for the truth of God's Word and be ready for Jesus' soon coming! (Claim 2 Chron. 16:9)