



Quarterly Day of Prayer and Fasting

Rebuilding the Altar:

Praying to Become an Intercessor for a World in Need

Handbook and Resources

3rd Quarter 2023

Sabbath, July 1

Prepared for church group and individual use by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in coordination with the Revival and Reformation Committee. Written by Melody Mason for the Day of Prayer and Fasting global initiative. Visit www.revivalandreformation.org for more information.

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An Invitation to Pray

We invite you and your church to join us for this third quarterly Day of Prayer. This time we will focus specifically on asking God to help us become world-changing intercessors! We will also practice being intercessors for each other.

The ideas, themes, and scriptures in this packet will help you plan. However, go as the Holy Spirit leads. Above all, make sure you schedule plenty of time to *pray together unitedly* as a church family. Inspiration tells us, "More prayer and less talk is what God desires, and it would make His people a tower of strength" (*Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897, par. 13).

Prayer matters. Intercessory prayer really matters!

"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).

"Persevering prayers will bring souls to the cross. In cooperation with their self-sacrificing efforts, Jesus will move upon hearts, working miracles in the conversion of souls" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 27).

Sabbath Theme and Prayer Program Suggestions

Theme: Rebuilding the Altar: Praying to Become an Intercessor for a World in Need

Our theme for 2023 is "Rebuilding the Altar"—a time to focus on rebuilding our altar of worship with God. As we rebuild that altar through unrushed time in personal prayer, our hearts will burn for a world in need. In Isaiah 59:16 we read, "He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor." Today God is asking, "Where are the intercessors in my church? Where are the prayer warriors who will fight and not let go until the prodigals and the lost sheep are brought home?"

Pray that God will wake us up to our calling as intercessors for a world in need!

"When the church awakes to the sense of her holy calling, many more fervent and effective prayers will ascend to heaven for the Holy Spirit to point out the work and duty of God's people regarding the salvation of souls. We have a standing promise that God will draw near to every seeking soul" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 116).

Goal: We hope all participants will rebuild their altars of worship and communication with God through prayer. May we catch the joy of active intercession as we pray for one another.

Sabbath Morning: We suggest you build your entire Sabbath service based on the theme above, including your song selections, children's story, sermon focus, study questions, personal testimonies, and invitations to prayer. The following scriptures may be helpful in planning.

Scriptures for Program Planning:

- Isa. 59:16—God wondered that there was no intercessor
- Ezek. 22:30—God is looking for someone to stand in the gap
- Isa. 58:12—Called to be repairers of the breach
- Ps. 2:8—Ask of Me, and I will give you nations
- Jer. 33:3—Call to Me, and I will show you things you do not know
- Matt. 7:7, 8—The progression of asking, seeking, knocking
- 1 John 5:14, 15—If we ask anything according to His will, He hears
- Eph. 3:20—He is able to do far beyond what we ask or think
- James 4:2—We don't have because we don't ask God
- Isa. 59:1, 2; Ps. 66:18—Put away things that hinder our prayers
- John 16:24—Ask and receive that our joy may be full

Afternoon Prayer Program: Meet wherever members are most comfortable and you have the fewest distractions. We recommend 2–6 hours for this afternoon program based on the following outline, with additional prayer activities as the Holy Spirit leads.

Time Breakdown for Afternoon Prayer Session:

- **Time for Praise** Singing together (15–30 min.)
- **Prayer Devotional** Sharing God's Word to focus the prayer time (10–15 min.)
- **Time of Worship** Worship via united prayer as a group (15–30 min.)
- **Confession** Private, small-group, or group prayer (15–30 min.)
- **Praying the Word** Pray all together to become intercessors (30 min.–1 hour)
- **Circle of Blessings*** Intercede for one another as a group (1–3 hours)
- **Personal Intercession** Groups of 2–4 people intercede for one another (1 hour)
- **Closing Thanksgiving** Praise and thanksgiving all together (10–15 min.)
- **Agape Supper** Enjoy a special meal to end the Sabbath (1–3 hours)

***Circle of Blessings:** Have members take turns coming into the center of the prayer circle and *briefly* sharing a significant prayer need, then have 2–3 people pray for them (**be the intercessor**) as the entire group surrounds them. Take turns standing in the gap for one another. This is great practice at learning to intercede for the needs of others and also breaks down barriers and bonds members together.

Praying the Word: Pray the Word throughout the afternoon. Make it personal and practical. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead. **Here are some Scriptures to pray through:** Matt. 18:19, 20; Jer. 33:3; Jer. 31:16, 17; Jer. 24:7; Isa. 49:25; Ps. 72:4; Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17; Ps. 20:7; 2 Pet. 3:9; John 6:37; 1 John 5:14; 2 Chron. 16:9; Mark 10:27; 1 Thess. 5:24; Ezek. 22:30; 2 Chron 7:14; Matt. 7:7, 8; John 17:17-20. **Provide members with QR code sheet to scan for more promises to pray.**

The following links and QR codes contain inspiration for anyone who wants to go deeper in prayer. Join us in interceding for the world!

**Becoming an Earnest Intercessor
(Quotes and Inspiration)**

<https://bit.ly/EarnestIntercessors>



**Powerful Promises
For a Day of Prayer!**

<https://bit.ly/PowerfulPrayerPromises>

**Praying the Word
Prayer Promise Cards**

<https://bit.ly/PrayingThePromises>



**Clearing the Way
For the Holy Spirit**

<https://bit.ly/ClearingTheWayforTheHolySpirit>

**Quick Guidelines for
Leading United Prayer**

<https://bit.ly/QuickGuide-UnitedPrayer>



**Praying for Rain:
Full Handbook
for United Prayer!**

<https://bit.ly/PrayingForRain7>

**Growing a Prayer Ministry
(Resource for Prayer Ministry leaders)**

<https://www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer/>

