

The High Priest

LEADER'S GUIDE

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2018! God has worked many miracles through the Ten Days of Prayer program since it began as Operation Global Rain in 2006. The Holy Spirit has wrought revival, conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, and healed relationships. Truly, prayer is the birthplace of revival!

These guidelines are meant to help you as a leader. The first section covers topics related to Ten Days of Prayer 2018, and the second part includes pointers that will help you and your prayer group. Remember that these are just resources and ideas. Feel free to change things as the Spirit leads you.

During the Ten Days of Prayer, January 10-20, 2018, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. The eleventh day, January 20, falls on Sabbath. This day is a celebration of all God has done in answer to united prayer. We hope these ideas and suggestions will help to make Ten Days of Prayer 2018 a powerful experience for your small group or church family.

As you embark on this journey, take time to read the testimonies of those who participated in Ten Days of Prayer 2017:

SHADRECK CHARUMBIRA

"Thank you! Our congregation has been revived, and we have witnessed great unity where there was once division. We have seen Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and our prayer is to continue to abide in Him. Unity is the marked answer to prayer we've seen so far, and I will send other individual testimonies as they come."

GWEN PAKUA, SARAKOLOK KIMBE, WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE, PNG

"Thank you for the wonderful program. I was elected assistant prayer ministry leader in our little church. We started our program with a Sabbath of fasting and prayer, then Ten Days of Prayer began on Wednesday. We had a good membership attendance. In answer to our prayers, our local mission appointed a pastor for our congregation, after several years of not having one. Please pray for me and our little church!"

DANNY MOONIE, DES BARRAS, ST. LUCIA

"Our church arranged for a bus to pick up church members nightly for Ten Days of Prayer. This particular driver had often brought members to our usual Sunday and Wednesday night services, then he would return to pick them up afterward. On the first night of our program, someone invited the driver to remain for the service. He did! That night he went home and shared his experience with his fiancée and encouraged her to attend the next night. They both attended the following evening and were present every night after. Toward the end of Ten Days of Prayer, they spoke with the first elder about their plans to marry soon and follow the Lord. Please keep them in prayer. Every night of these ten days was a blessing. We followed the nightly outline supplied, with the addition of one item. We read episodes from the Scriptures from the life of Christ from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. Every night was Spirit-filled. There were nights when we had a total of 40 in attendance, with 20 of them being visitors from the community. We felt the presence of God, and I know people were praying for us during that time. May God continue to pour out His Spirit on His church."

DORIS JOHNSON, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, USA

"The Ten Days of Prayer was a blessing. We experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our speakers, participants, and all who called in on the prayer line. Callers were from five different states and varied denominations. We thank God for using this ministry to reach many souls for His kingdom."

BEAULITY DUBE

"What a wonderful experience I had during the Ten Days of Prayer. I prayed for the Lord to provide my school fees—I had no idea where they would come from. We serve a living God! My request was answered the

second day, and I will forever praise the Lord for His faithfulness to His people."

ELIJAH MWAKIO, KENYA COAST FIELD

"Near the beginning of the year, Justin was very depressed, especially when it came to finances and his family. After Ten Days of Prayer, he has found peace and contentment. This is something he had never experienced in his life, and he admits that God is surely good and great."

RONNIE NAIDOO,
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
“Our church (Northside SDA) has been participating in the Ten Days of Prayer program for the past six years. This year our group gathered as usual to continue in prayer and praise, concluded the service, and went home. We received a message that night that one of our members was

highjacked outside his home and driven to a deserted place. Usually situations like this end with fatal results. Our church members got on their knees and prayer ascended to the God of glory—that no harm would come to His child. After an hour, we received news that Wesley had been freed, unharmed. I do not know how to explain this miracle other than that God summoned His angels to the

aid of His child. The car was recovered, and Wesley was shaken, but his faith in God has been doubled. He was able to fulfill his Sabbath duties as scheduled, just two days after the incident! To God be the glory, and may this story be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters scattered around the globe.”

General Ten Days of Prayer Items

Why Study the Apparel of the High Priest?

Everything God makes has a purpose. Every detail has a meaning and a reason for existing. This includes the apparel of the high priest. In the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* we read that “everything connected with the apparel and deportment of the priests was to be such as to impress the beholder with a sense of the holiness of God, the sacredness of His worship, and the purity required of those who came into His presence” (p. 351). Let’s examine the symbols of the priestly apparel to see what can we learn for ourselves in the twenty-first century.

Daily Theme Sheets

A theme sheet has been prepared for each of the ten days. The first page gives a suggested plan for the prayer time and includes ideas for specific prayer items and songs to sing together. The second page contains passages from the Bible and Ellen White that add insight to the theme. We recommend that you copy the theme sheets so each participant can have one to follow during the prayer time. These could be copied front to back.

Churches around the world will unite in praying about each day’s theme. Join them in praying through the Scriptures, quotes, and prayer requests on each theme sheet. However, don’t feel that you must rush through the entire list of prayer suggestions. You may want to divide into small groups and have each group pray for a portion of the list.

Some of the prayer requests relate specifically to the world Adventist Church. It’s important to pray together for our church family, but you may want to adapt your prayer time and use more general prayer themes if your group includes visitors from the community. Pray about how you can best welcome visitors and make them feel a part of your group.

Ellen White Passages on the Symbolism of the Priestly Apparel

We have included passages from Ellen White and several Bible verses for each of the ten days. These explain what is represented by the different pieces of priestly apparel. We suggest that you read these together with the group. This could be done at the beginning of the prayer time, to set the stage for the theme, or somewhere halfway through the prayer time.

Suggested Times for Each Prayer Section

How much time you spend on each section of prayer will probably vary somewhat each time you pray together. The following timeframes are suggestions for what typically works well:

- **Welcome/Introduction:** 2-5 minutes
- **Reading of Scripture and Ellen White Passages:** 3 minutes
- **Praising God in the Prayer Time:** 10 minutes
- **Confession and Claiming Victory over Sin in the Prayer Time:** 3-5 minutes
- **Supplication and Intercession in the Prayer Time:** 30-35 minutes
- **Thanksgiving in the Prayer Time:** 10 minutes

Intercede for Seven

Encourage each person to ask God to show them seven people to pray for during the ten days. These may be family members, friends, coworkers, church members, etc. Encourage them to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead these seven people to abide in Christ. Group members should also ask God to show them how they can pray for specific needs and reach out to their seven people during the ten days.

Sabbath Services During Ten Days of Prayer 2018

Have a special prayer focus and share testimonies of answered prayer during the church services on both Sabbaths. Be creative—there are many ways to share with the church family what is happening during the daily prayer meetings.

Final Sabbath Celebration

The final Sabbath, especially, should be designed as a time of great rejoicing in all that God has done throughout the ten days. Include ample time for testimonies of answered prayer, biblical teaching/preaching on prayer, and singing. Lead the congregation in a time of prayer so that those who have not attended the daily meetings can experience the joy of praying with others. See the Day 11 materials for more ideas.

Follow-up to Ten Days of Prayer 2018

Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what He has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2018. Perhaps you will continue with a weekly prayer meeting. Or perhaps God wants you to begin a new ministry in your church or an outreach to the community. Be open and follow where God leads. You're sure to be amazed as you walk with Him.

Testimonies

Please share stories of how God has worked through Ten Days of Prayer 2018! Your stories will be an encouragement to many others. Testimonies may be sent to stories@ministerialassociation.org or submitted online at www.tendaysofprayer.org.

United Prayer Pointers

Agree Together

When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together—this is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed about the request, no one else needs to. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 18:19). How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer!

Claiming God's Promises

We have prepared a document with different promises that can be claimed in prayer. Encourage the group to claim God's promises as they pray. It is so easy to focus on our problems. But when we claim God's promises, we increase our faith and remind ourselves that nothing is impossible with God. The promises help us take our eyes off of our weaknesses and difficulties and set them on Jesus. For every weakness and every struggle we can find Bible promises to claim. Encourage people to search for more promises and write them down so they can claim them in the future.

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

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

Fasting

Invite those joining you in Ten Days of Prayer to consider some type of fasting, such as fasting from TV, secular music, movies, the Internet, sweets, or other types of food that are hard to digest. Use the extra time to pray and study the Bible, asking God to help you and your congregation to abide more fully in Christ. By adopting a simple diet, group members will allow their minds to be more receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit

Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how or what you should pray for in a person's life or in a particular situation. The Bible tells us that we do not know what to pray for and that the Holy Spirit is the one making intercession for us.

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

Physical Togetherness

As you begin a united prayer session, invite everyone to come close together. When people move close together to form a tight circle, it helps to promote a spirit of unity, which is very important for united prayer. If people are spread out in a room, it is also difficult to hear each other's prayers.

Journaling

Keeping a prayer journal during the Ten Days of Prayer can be a good way for participants to internalize the daily prayer theme, make concrete commitments to God, and recognize His blessings to them. Writing out our prayers and keeping a record of God's answers is a proven path to encouragement.

If you desire, journaling could be included in the Ten Days of Prayer in several ways. You could provide time during the prayer meeting for people to journal their responses to God in their private prayer journals. Or you could keep a group journal of prayer requests and answers—either in a notebook, on a large poster, or online. A simple way to do this is to draw a line down the middle of the paper. Write requests in the left column and answers in the right. It is exciting and faith-building to look back and see how God has answered prayers!

Reverence

Encourage and model a reverent attitude. We are approaching the throne room of the King of the universe. Let's not treat this prayer time carelessly in our posture or mannerisms. However, it is not necessary that everyone kneel continuously. You want people to be comfortable for an hour, so encourage people to kneel or sit or stand as God leads and as they are comfortable.

Sentence Prayers

Prayers should be short and to the point. This gives others an opportunity to pray as well. Try to limit your prayers to a few sentences. Each person can pray multiple times. Short sentence prayers keep the prayer time interesting and allow the Holy Spirit to impress the group how to pray. You don't need to open and close each short sentence prayer with phrases such as "Dear God" and "Amen." It is an ongoing conversation with God.

Silence

As a leader, don't dominate the prayer time. The goal is to get others praying. Times of silence are wonderful, as they give God time to speak to our hearts. Allow the Holy Spirit to work, and give everyone time to pray.

Singing

Spontaneous group songs, mingled between prayers, add beauty to the prayer meeting. Appropriate songs are listed at the end of each theme sheet. Do not feel that you need to use all the songs—these are simply suggestions. Singing is also a good way to transition from one prayer section to another.

Taking Prayer Requests

Don't ask for prayer requests from the group. Instead, tell people to pray their requests and encourage others to join in agreement and prayer for those requests. Here's why: time! Talking about the requests will take up most of your prayer time. Satan is thrilled if he can keep us talking about the problem instead of praying about the problem. Group members will often begin counseling and suggesting solutions. The power is from God! The more we pray, the more His power is unleashed.

Your Daily Time

This is so important! Make sure that you as a leader are spending time daily at the feet of Jesus, talking with Him and reading His Word. If you will make knowing God a first priority in your life, it will open such a beautiful experience to you. "From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 210).