

## Seeking God's Spirit

### LEADER'S GUIDE

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2020! We are so thankful that we can start this year with prayer. God has worked many miracles in past years as we have sought Him in prayer and fasting. The Holy Spirit has wrought revival, conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, and healed relationships. Truly, prayer is the birthplace of revival!

We believe your life and the lives of those you pray for will be changed as you join fellow church members in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has promised to give to those who ask Him. Here are just three responses from those who participated in the last Ten Days of Prayer:

#### **N.K. from Zambia:**

During the third day of 10 Days of Prayer, I was praying from the front of our congregation when I was convicted to plead for God's divine intervention. "Someone is in the process of committing suicide," I prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't allow them to succeed. Please intervene." The next day I was shocked to find out that my very own aunt tried to commit suicide. But because of our prayers, God intervened and saved her life. As I write this testimony, she is doing well and God is at work in her life. We are all praising the Lord for His miraculous answer to our prayer.

#### **J.J. from North Carolina, U.S.A.:**

Back in 2018 during the Ten Days of Prayer, my friend Alicia had prayed for five specific individuals to come to Christ. God answered many of her prayers, but still one name on her list, that of her sister, had not responded. However, this year during the Ten Days of Prayer, Alicia's sister came to the prayer meetings and surrendered herself to Jesus. Now she is taking Bible studies and preparing for baptism. Also, two other individuals that attended the Ten Days of Prayer meetings have committed to baptism. We just praise God for His work and for the Ten Days of Prayer ministry. We all truly experienced a deeper experience with Jesus as we came together to pray.

#### **A Believer in Asia:**

While Ten Days of Prayer was running, I prayed to our Heavenly Father to give me an opportunity to spread the Adventist message. . . . After praying during Ten Days of Prayer, I gave the Adventist message to a big group without a Christian background, and they have accepted my message. I received the answer to my prayer. It is my great testimony after this Ten Days of Prayer. Praise to the Lord.

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## General Ten Days of Prayer Items

### Daily Theme Sheets

A theme sheet has been prepared for each of the ten days. This includes a Bible passage, devotional testimony, Bible texts to pray about, prayer suggestions, and song suggestions. We recommend that you copy the theme sheets so each participant can have one to follow during the prayer time. All daily theme sheets are also directly accessible for any computer or mobile device at [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org).

Churches around the world will unite in praying about each day's theme. Join them in praying through the verses, 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 Seventh-day Adventist World 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 guests and make them feel a part of your group.

### **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 "Testimony" (see theme sheets):** 3 - 5 minutes
- **Praying Through "Bible Texts to Pray About" (see theme sheets):** 3 - 5 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 (see "Suggested Prayers" on theme sheets):** 20 - 30 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. You may want to provide some cards or pieces of paper on which people can record the seven names they will be praying for.

### **Sabbath Services During Ten Days of Prayer 2020**

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. Please see the Sabbath Celebration handout for more information.

### **Follow-up to Ten Days of Prayer 2020**

Pray about how God wants your church/group to continue what He has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2020. 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. We've included an outreach challenge with suggestions at the end of this Leader's Guide.

### **Testimonies**

Please share stories of how God has worked through Ten Days of Prayer! Your stories will be an encouragement to many others. Testimonies may be sent to [stories@ministerialassociation.org](mailto:stories@ministerialassociation.org) or submitted online at [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org).

## United Prayer Pointers

### **Agree Together**

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

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

You'll find topic-specific Bible promises included on each handout. 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 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.

### **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, we allow our minds to become more receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

### **Holy Spirit**

Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to 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 one another'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 a large piece of 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).

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## Ten Days of Prayer Outreach Challenge

**Everyone can do something to hasten the coming of Jesus through Total Member Involvement.**

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" (Matthew 25:35, 36).

In *The Ministry of Healing* we read, "We must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work" (p. 512). It is our privilege to show others the love of Jesus. We have received so much love from our Savior; let's not keep it for ourselves. Let's share His love with others.

We encourage you and your church to ask God in prayer how you can reach out to others after the Ten Days of Prayer. Choose one or several activities, choose a day, and be the hands and feet of Jesus. As you work to organize everything, avoid letting these arrangements distract you from praying. "Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people" (*Prayer*, p. 313).

We have prepared a list of ways you can help others. Choose whatever fits the needs of the people you are going to serve. Feel free to do something that it is not listed.

- Cook a meal for someone who has been sick.
- Invite a neighbor/co-worker to a social gathering.
- Give food to a homeless person.
- Donate clothing that you would want donated to you.
- "Adopt" an elderly person. Visit the person on a regular basis and help with chores, shopping, cooking, or garden work.
- Bake some bread and share a loaf with a neighbor.
- Help with neighborhood projects.
- Offer to stay with a sick or disabled person so their caretakers can run an errand.
- Participate in neighborhood projects.
- Introduce yourself to a new neighbor by taking them a meal. Make them feel welcome in the neighborhood.
- Buy groceries and deliver them to a needy family.
- Donate your old eyeglasses.
- Offer to give a Bible study.
- Visit people in nursing homes.
- Give some "food" money to a student.
- Collect clothing for the needy. You might start a clothes closet at your church for sharing with those in need.
- Donate your old laptop or other electronics.
- Donate a used car.
- Organize a "Health Expo."
- Send a card to a shut-in.
- Organize an evangelistic series.
- Call your neighbors and ask how they're doing.
- Give someone a book you think they'd like.
- Pass out GLOW tracts (available to order here: [www.glowonline.org/glow](http://www.glowonline.org/glow)).
- Invite someone to accept Jesus.
- Hold a cooking school.
- Do the "28 Literature Project." In Week One, give away one book. Week Two, give away two books. Week Three, give away three books. Continue until you have given away 28 books.
- Take some food to someone who has lost a loved one.
- Visit someone in the hospital to encourage them or help them in some way.
- Read to an elderly person.
- Visit a children's home and offer your help to the staff.
- Start a sewing/knitting/crocheting group to make clothes for those in need.
- Read the Bible aloud for someone who can't see or read.
- Host a youth night at your home.
- Volunteer at a shelter for abused persons.

- Donate some books to a children's home or shelter.
- Take children from your church to visit a home for elderly people. Present a program for them.
- Plan and host a fun day for special needs kids and their families.
- Have a community clean-up day.
- Start a health club in your church. Invite friends and neighbors.
- Ask someone if they would like to join you in watching a DVD with a spiritual message. As you watch together, pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to the person's heart.
- Design your own project.

For more resources on witnessing, visit [www.revivalandreformation.org/resources/witnessing](http://www.revivalandreformation.org/resources/witnessing).