

Seeking God's Spirit

SABBATH CELEBRATION, JANUARY 18

Suggested Format for the Final Sabbath

This final Sabbath should be a time of great rejoicing in all that God has done for you and your church during the Ten Days of Prayer. Design your day to celebrate God's goodness and mighty power. Consider how you have experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the past ten days. This Sabbath is an opportunity to rejoice in what He has done, is doing, and will do.

The needs of each congregation are unique, so please work with local leaders to develop a specific plan for your church. Here are some possible items to include in your final Sabbath church service.

Suggested Order of Service

- 10:30 Gathering songs.
- 10:45 Welcome, announcements, and explanation of events.
- 11:00 Hymn of praise (suggestion: "Praise to the Lord," SDA Hymnal #1). People stand.
- 11:05 Responsive reading ("I Will Extol the Lord," SDA Hymnal #696). People stand.
- 11:10 Congregational prayer. Led by pastor or elder. This is a prayer of praise, not requests or supplication. People kneel.
- 11:15 Prayer of confession. People still kneeling. The congregation prays silently, then a prayer leader thanks God for hearing our prayers and forgiving our sins according to 1 John 1:9. After prayer, the people may be seated.
- 11:20 Offering call and collection, followed by prayer thanking God for His provision and asking Him to bless the tithes and offerings.
- 11:25 Special music. Choose a song related to prayer theme.
- 11:30 Pastor or another leader gives a short message about importance of prayer in our lives.
- 11:40 Pastor or another leader calls for people to come forward if they have a special prayer burden. Give time for people to share if they want. Then someone leads out in prayer of supplication, presenting the requests to God. People may return to seats after.
- 11:55 Prayers for specific ministries and concerns. Examples: prayers for the community, for people who need Jesus, for the local Christian school and youth ministries, for the conference and world church, for marriages and families. Each segment could be led by someone involved with that specific ministry; for example, a student could pray for the school.
- 12:10 Closing hymn of dedication (suggestion: "Take My Life and Let It Be," SDA Hymnal # 330).
- 12:15 Benediction.

Optional Program Ideas:

- Testimonies of answered prayer
- Small-group prayer time
- Announcement of future prayer activities
- Children's story about prayer
- Presentation by youth