

10 Days of Prayer 2016

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Leader's Guide

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2016!

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2016! 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 2016, 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 6-16, 2016, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. The eleventh day, January 16, 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 2016 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 2015:

"The power of the Holy Spirit is working through in our church. Some of our backsliders are coming back to church, plus some of our members are making a total commitment this 2015 to walk with the Lord. Thank you and God bless all of you." *Joe Kin, Kanudi SDA Church, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea*

"God is blessing immensely as our church is gathering to pray during these ten days of prayer. There's a young man who has not been in church for a long time. His wife came to the prayer gathering Friday night, and the group joined her in praying for her husband to return to church. On Sabbath morning he was there! We praise God for how He is working in our midst!" *Peggy Casebier, Oregon, USA*

"The Ten Days of Prayer revived Southend SDA Church and Friday prayer meetings, which no longer existed in my church. This ten-day session taught us that the power rests in prayer and brought unity amongst church members and a zeal to work for the Lord." *Tafadzwa Katsota, Southend SDA Church, Zimbabwe*

"We did our ten days from January 1-10. Our pastor, Bill McClendon, had a protective prayer for everyone involved on the prayer list. That very day, January 7, I was in traffic going to work and the car in the center lane took off in the messed-up snow lane and began to spin over and over again, finally stopping in my lane, facing my car. His car stopped about two feet in front of mine. I said, "Thank you, Jesus!" He saw my face and then tried to turn his car around and then took off. A tow truck behind me expected business from this car, but there was none! I called our pastor at church and told him what happened. God is with us all the time; I personally know this forever." *Charmaine Ridgely, Baltimore First SDA Church, Ellicott City, Maryland, USA*

"I am grateful to our heavenly Father. He did something special. I had my young brother (age 10) who had heart problems, and doctors decided to undergo heart surgery in India. When I started to pray for him, he recovered very quickly, within a few days. Meanwhile, the doctors were estimating that he would recover after two weeks. God decided to save his life once again, and tomorrow he will be back from India. I am still waiting for great things to happen in the remaining days." *Yoel Asaph, Mwanza, Tanzania*

General Ten Days of Prayer Items

Why Pray for an Abiding Relationship with Christ and Life More Abundant?

As followers of Christ, we want to be witnesses for Him. We want to represent Him. But we cannot do this if we do not abide in Christ. We cannot be witnesses in our own strength, and we cannot be happy and have life more abundant outside of Him.

Christ has invited us to abide in Him, so it is very important to learn *how* to do this. Throughout these ten days we will see why and how to abide in Him, and we will find out how this can change our lives. Let us pray together that God will teach us “this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

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 night’s 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 suggestions on each theme sheet. The more focused you stay on the theme, the more meaningful the prayer time will be. However, you are not constrained to stick solely to the theme sheet; simply let it guide you. You don’t have to pray through each point in order—they are just suggested items to include.

Ellen White Passages on Abiding in Christ and Life More Abundant

We have included passages from the pen of Ellen G. White and several Bible verses for each night. These are taken from different books written by Ellen White and talk about the importance of abiding in Christ and how this will affect others. 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 day’s prayer 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:** 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 2016

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 2016

Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what He has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2016. 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 2016! 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, KJV). 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.

There are several ways journaling could be included in the Ten Days of Prayer if you desire. 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).