

10 Days of Prayer 2017

www.tendaysofprayer.org

Leader's Guide

Welcome!

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2017! 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 2017, 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 11-21, 2017, your group should meet daily in person or by phone for an hour of united prayer. If your church cannot hold the Ten Days of Prayer between January 11 and 21, then we encourage you to choose another time more suitable. The eleventh day, January 21, 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 2017 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 2016:

“As a church we started to pray for rain because our country was facing drought. It was hectic and everyone was panicking, but I want to thank God that after three days, He answered our prayers. Now it is raining every day, and I want to thank God for an answered prayer.” *Lee Moyo*

“I’m praising God for what He has done at our church of Njiro SDA in Arusha, Tanzania. One Muslim lady attended the Ten Days of Prayer on Sabbath, and she came back on Monday confessing that she had been depending on magicians’ medicines and witchcraft to get a job, but now after attending the Sabbath sermon she decided to throw them away and depend on Jesus only. Two days after throwing away the witchcraft medicines, she was called for a job as a logistics manager in a very big transport company in Dar es Salaam, and now she is preparing for baptism next Sabbath.” *Alexis Nzitonda, Tanzania*

“We started our Ten Days of Prayer on the 10th of this month, and we have been experiencing the peace that Christ gives in our hearts despite the challenges we have. One of our group members has seen God blessing her life in providing a new job located in our capital town. God has blessed another sister who is a single mother with two young children by speaking to the wife of a teacher to buy some groceries for her. God also answered the prayers of a grandmother for her granddaughter who is still a toddler but was sick and in the hospital. On the 14th of this month the child was healed. We continue our prayer sessions every 4:00 in the morning in our small church in the village of Tanoliu, located in the northern part of the island of Efate in Vanuatu. We are all blessed by joining in the Ten Days of Prayer by His Spirit.” *Sharon Timothy, Vanuatu*

“I have been praying for my son during these ten days of prayer, and he has been blessed with a new job that he loves.” *Marianne McFeeters*

“I asked for help with the time I spend on all sorts of media, especially television, and during the first day of prayer I was led to fast from all commercial television during the ten days and was shown ways to fill my mind with spiritual food instead of corrupting media. The ten days were such a blessing that we intend to set up regular, longer prayer times.” *John Weston*

General Ten Days of Prayer Items

Why a Prayer Journey Through the Sanctuary?

The subject of the sanctuary should be carefully studied, as it is one of the foundation stones of our faith and hope. It shows us the work that Christ is doing for us. It reveals to us His character. It also tells us what Christ expects from us and how we should live on earth. It reminds us that we should live with a view of eternity and that we cannot do anything in our own power. It is only because of Christ and His sacrifice that our sins can be forgiven and His righteousness given to us.

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.

Sanctuary Background

Make sure your group is familiar with the wilderness sanctuary built by Moses according to God's instructions. Read Exodus 40 together or encourage group members to review it at home. If possible, bring a picture or diagram of the sanctuary to each meeting so the group can visualize the layout.

You may have group members who have not previously studied the relationship between the earthly sanctuary, the heavenly sanctuary, and the plan of salvation. If so, you may want to meet together before the Ten Days of Prayer to introduce the topic with a simple Bible study.

Ellen White Passages on the Different Parts of the Sanctuary

We have included several Bible verses and passages from Ellen White for each night. These passages talk about different parts of the sanctuary and why they are relevant to us. 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 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 be converted to Jesus. 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 2017

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 2017—Total Member Involvement

Pray much about how God wants your church/group to continue what He has begun during Ten Days of Prayer 2017. 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 especially encourage you to do something practical for others. We should not only pray for people but also reach out in tangible ways. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has launched a wonderful initiative called Total Member Involvement, and we invite every member and church to join in this outreach. People are hungry for something better, for something we have that they do not have. Let's not keep God's gifts for ourselves but share them. Let's use our talents to tell others about our loving Savior!

We have included a document with suggested activities. Prayerfully choose one or several activities that are suitable for your group, then choose a day, and be the hands and feet of Jesus. If we only pray and do not share Jesus with others, sooner or later we will stop praying. So ask God to show you how to be a witness to those who need Him.

Testimonies

Please share stories of how God has worked through Ten Days of Prayer 2017! 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).

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 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.

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 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).