



Day of Prayer

Rebuilding the Altar:

Praying to Love the Word, Live the Word,
and Share the Word

Handbook and Resources

2nd Quarter 2023

Sabbath, April 1

Prepared for church, group, and individual use by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in coordination with the Revival and Reformation Committee. Written by Melody Mason for the Day of Prayer global initiative. Visit www.revivalandreformation.org/prayerdays for more information.

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An Invitation to Pray

We invite you and your church to join us for this second quarterly Day of Prayer. You will notice that this prayer packet is much shorter than usual. From now on thru 2023 and beyond, we will offer a condensed outline giving a theme, goal, prayer focus, and brief program ideas. We will also include links to additional resources. Feel free to be as creative as the Holy Spirit leads you as you plan this day of prayer. Make sure you schedule plenty of time to pray together unitedly as a church family. Inspiration tells us, "More prayer and less talk is what God desires, and would make His people a tower of strength." (GCB, Jan. 1, 1900, par. 4)

While private prayer is the foundation, nothing equals the power of united prayer!

"We are encouraged to pray for success, with the divine assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered. . . . The promise [of Matthew 18:19-20] is made on the condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers, there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another." (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 303, Letter 32, 1903, p. 5)

Remember, as a church family, "The family that prays together stays together."

Sabbath Theme and Prayer Program Suggestions

Theme: Rebuilding the Altar: Praying to Love the Word, Live the Word, and Share the Word!

For 2023, our theme is "Rebuilding the Altar"—In other words, rebuilding our altar of worship with God. In 1 Kings 18:30, we read, "Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down." We have many broken-down altars that need to be repaired. One altar that needs to be repaired is how we honor God's Word, thus the theme for this 2nd Quarterly Day of Prayer.

Goal: The goal during this special day of prayer is that all participants will desire to rebuild their altars of worship in how they honor God and His Word. We pray they will fall in love with God's Word afresh (love is worship), desire to live by it (obedience expresses worship), and desire to share it with others (sharing is calling others to worship).

Sabbath Morning: We suggest you build your entire Sabbath program based on the theme above, including your song selections, children's story, sermon focus, study questions, personal testimonies, and invitations to prayer. The following scriptures may be helpful!

- Scriptures for Reference: 1 Kings 18:30, Deut. 6:5-9, Jn. 1:14, Heb. 4:12, Rev. 19:13, Matt. 4:4, Jas. 1:22, Jn. 14:23, 1 Jn. 2:5, Isa. 43:10,12, 1 Pet. 3:15, Mark 5:19, Acts 1:8, 2 Tim. 2:2

Afternoon Prayer Program: Meet outside or inside, where you are most comfortable and where you have the least distractions as you pray. If meeting in person is not possible, consider meeting via Zoom or by telephone. We recommend 2-6 hours for this afternoon program following the outline below with additional prayer activities as the Holy Spirit leads.

- **Time Breakdown for the Afternoon Program:**

- **Time for Praise** Corporate singing (15-30 minutes)
- **Prayer Devotional** Sharing time in the Word to focus the prayer time (10-15 mins)
- **Time of Worship** Corporate worship via united prayer (15 – 30 minutes)
- **Confession** Private/small group/or corporate prayer (15 – 30 minutes)
- **Supplication** Corporate prayer (30 minutes – 2 hours)
- **Circle of Blessings*** Corporate prayer (1 – 3 hours)
- **Closing Thanksgiving** Corporate prayer (10 – 15 minutes)
- **Closing Testimonies** Short 1-2 minute testimonies (30 minutes – 1 hr)
- **Agape Supper** Enjoy a special fellowship meal to end the Sabbath (1-3 hrs)

***Circle of Blessings:** Members take turns coming into the center of the prayer circle where they briefly share a spiritual prayer need; then, have 2-3 people pray for them as the entire group surrounds them. Then bring the next person into the circle that desires special prayer. This can last for hours and breaks down barriers, and bonds members together heart-to-heart as they share their personal needs.

Praying the Word Prayer Focus: Pray the Word as you pray thru the afternoon. Make it personal and practical! Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and search hearts. Here are some starting Scriptures:

- **Pray the Word in Praise:** Pray thru Ps. 34, 96, 99, or 100. Make the Psalms your own!
- **Pray thru Psalm 119,** taking special note of where the “Word” is mentioned.
- **Pray the Word in Confession:** Pray thru Ps. 51 together. Pray through Rev. 3:14-22, the appeal to Laodicea. Pray through 2 Chron. 7:14 and Joel 2.
- **Pray the Word in Supplication:** Pray through Ps. 23 or Ps. 91. Pray any other Scriptures that God brings to mind.
- **Pray the Word in Faith:** Pray through Ps. 46 and Eph. 3 as you give your requests to God.
- **Pray the Word for your home and children:** Pray Deut. 30:6, Isa. 44:3, Jer. 24:7, Luke 1:17, Isa. 49:25
- **Pray to Love God’s Word:** Pray through 1 Kings 18:30, Deut. 6:5-9, Jn. 1:14, Heb. 4:12, Rev. 19:13, Matt. 4:4, Jas. 1:22, Jn. 14:23, 1 Jn. 2:5, Isa. 43:10,12, 1 Pet. 3:15, Mark 5:19, Acts 1:8, and 2 Tim. 2:2

At the end of the day of prayer, encourage members to join the ‘24/7 United Prayer’ Online Prayer activities. 24/7 United Prayer has zoom calls around the clock for those hungering for additional prayer fellowship. Calls are in multiple languages. To learn more about this General Conference-endorsed prayer ministry, visit <https://247unitedprayer.org>.

Links and QR Codes for Additional Resources to Grow Your
Prayer Life and Love of God's Word



**Quick Guidelines for
Leading United Prayer - For Leaders**

<https://bit.ly/QuickGuide-UnitedPrayer>

**Praying for Rain:
Mini-Handbook
for United Prayer**

<https://bit.ly/PrayingForRain7>



**Powerful Prayer Promises
For a Day of Prayer**

<https://bit.ly/PowerfulPrayerPromises>

**Daring to Live
By Every Word
(Testimony)**

<https://bit.ly/LivingByEveryWord>



**As Light Lingers:
Basking in the Word of God**

<https://bit.ly/AsLightLingers>

**Clearing the Way
For the Holy Spirit**

<https://bit.ly/ClearingTheWayforTheHolySpirit>

