

## Leader's Guide – Unleashed!

Each day of the 10 Days of Prayer will include three parts:

### 1. Time Alone with God (Personal Devotions)

Enjoy this daily section during your solo time with God. Each child old enough to read, each young person, and each adult is invited to meet God in the written Word, to pray, and to walk with Jesus.

### 2. Family/Friend Circle (Family Worship)

Invite your family or friends to share this time with you. Whoever you count as your family may be part of this time. Pray for them first, and then gather them for this precious time in God's Word and prayer.

### 3. Church Family (Daily Evening Meeting)

Invite your congregation, neighbors, and community friends to gather once daily for these prayers and activities. Pray earnestly for God to reveal who you should invite in addition to the active members of your church. Prayerfully consider personally inviting inactive members, former members, classmates, work associates, and pastors of other denominations.

### Principles for Making the 10 Days of Prayer Intergenerational

1. Our prayer group will gather and organize prayer partners to pray for every child, youth, and adult by name every day. If possible, we will do this for months before beginning the 10 Days of Prayer. We will recruit prayer partners to pray for 10 people by name before and during the 10 Days of Prayer. We will pray that the Holy Spirit prepares each heart to receive the written Word of God and to be unleashed by the Holy Spirit.
2. We will use the written Word of God as our primary source of inspiration. We will do everything possible to make a Bible available to all adults and children old enough to read. We will also be blessed each day with words of inspiration from Ellen G. White.
3. We who commit to calling our church family to prayer will first of all commit to:
  - Investing daily time alone with God in prayer and His Word.
  - Surrendering to Jesus as Lord.
  - Asking for and receiving by faith the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
4. We will include all ages in small groups of six or fewer led by one student and one adult for each church family session.
5. We will select these small-group leaders (two for each group: one adult and one child/youth) through earnest prayer and waiting on God and will equip these leaders to lead their people as disciple-makers.
6. We will include all ages possible in every part of leading this 10 Days of Prayer and will seek to make each part understandable to a 10-year-old child.
7. We will keep our prayers short so that more in our group can participate. Generally, a one- or two-sentence prayer is sufficient and will keep the prayer time engaging for children and youth.
8. We will seek to lead each person to participate actively in the 10 Days of Prayer, rather than being a spectator.
9. We will sing songs that reflect all generations and help each child, youth, and adult to know they have a voice in worship.

10. We will surrender our plans for each meeting to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
11. We will provide a simple, light supper before each church family meeting to encourage the fellowship of the believers as in the book of Acts (see Acts 2:42).

## How to Lead 10 Days of Prayer for Maximum Impact

1. Ten days before 10 Days of Prayer begins: Read and pray through all sections of the daily guides: Time Alone with God, Family/Friend Circle, and Church Family.
2. During 10 Days of Prayer: Read and pray through each daily guide again. We hope you will personally experience the power of God's Word coupled with the Holy Spirit *before* calling your church to do the same.
3. Make the Time Alone with God and Family/Friend sections available each day to everyone who attends the evening Church Family session.
4. For the Church Family session each day:
  - Pray with all small-group leaders, prayer leaders, and song leaders 30 minutes before the meeting begins.
  - Lead all small groups from up front with prayer and instruction from the Word so the small groups are activated and united in their prayer and study of the Word.
  - Do the 24-Hour Challenge yourself each day so you can be authentic in asking what everyone did with the challenge the next day.
  - Prayerfully share the suggested appeal from your heart. Do not read it. Pray with those who respond and those who do not.
  - Prepare to share your own testimony about how the Scripture passage for each meeting impacts the way you live. Share your testimony before the appeal—highlighting Christ's life-changing power by the Holy Spirit, not your own power.
  - Close the meeting by thanking everyone for being part of what God is doing during the 10 Days of Prayer.
  - After each meeting, make yourself available for divine appointments with those who have questions or need prayer.
5. Plan a "What's Next?" Meeting to immediately follow the 10 Days of Prayer. These 10 days of prayer are not an end in themselves. The Holy Spirit is more than ready to make these meetings a catalyst for personal, family, and church family mission to your community and to the world! (See the included outline for a "What's Next?" Meeting.)

## Here's What You Need for the Evening Church Family Meetings:

- A meeting area large enough to hold all participants seated in small groups of six.
- An adaptable prayer leader to guide the evening Church Family sessions from up front.
- Additional prayer team members to plan and prepare songs for group prayer times.
- Two leaders (one adult and one young person) for each small group of six.
- Bibles for all participants (they can bring their own, or you may provide Bibles).
- Copies of daily prayer guides for participants (or offer digital access if preferred).
- For the What's Next? Meeting: a large dry erase board, markers, sticky notes OR paper/tape.

**Recommended Flow for Evening Church Family Meetings (with suggested time frame)**

- 6:00 Light Supper
- 6:30 Prayer with all small-group leaders, prayer leaders, and song leaders
- 7:00 Welcome (from up front first and then in small groups)
- 7:03 Worship in Prayer
  - Thanks/Praise (one or the other)
  - Confess/Repent (one or the other)
  - Ask
- 7:25 Testify
  - (share in your groups what God has helped you do with the 24-Hour Challenge)
- 7:30 Connect Activity
- 7:35 Worship in Word (Scripture and discussion)
- 7:45 Prayer Focus
- 7:55 Appeal/Prayer/Share 24-Hour Challenge
- 8:00 Thank the people for coming and dismiss

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## Introduction

Welcome to UNLEASHED! We believe Jesus is coming soon. That's why this year's 10 Days of Prayer theme is all about inviting the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and our world. Join us as we seek God for 10 days of Spirit-led revival.

Before He died, Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His followers: "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17). Later, just before leaving this earth to prepare a place for us in eternity, Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and "wait for the Promise of the Father," which was the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4, 5).

However, this promised Gift is still largely unopened by God's people. We talk about this Gift. We study and analyze this Gift. But too often we never get around to opening this Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Without a doubt, only the Holy Spirit can renew our sinful hearts: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you" (Ezek. 36:26).

Only the Holy Spirit can transform our children: "I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring" (Isa. 44:3).

And only the Holy Spirit connects us to God's heavenly family: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:16).

Best of all, God is more than willing to give us the Holy Spirit: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

The promise is already there, waiting for us to claim it. Ellen White writes, "If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death." She also asks, "Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it?" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50).

The indwelling Holy Spirit fills us with the Father's love and empowers us to be fearless and effective witnesses for Christ. Why not ask for this Gift?

## Watch the Ground Tremble

In 1 Samuel 14 we find the inspiring story of Jonathan and his armor bearer. While his dad, King Saul, was doing nothing under a pomegranate tree, Jonathan and his faithful armor bearer stepped away from their safe-zone to reach for the glory of God. The Philistine army had been terrorizing Israel; now their huge army was encamped across a deep gorge, waiting to engage Israel in battle.

Moved by faith in God, Jonathan and his armor bearer scrambled down into the gorge and up the steep cliffs on the other side to face the enemy army alone. Fearlessly, these two warriors faced the Philistines with the strength of the Lord. They battled the entire garrison of soldiers, and God Himself intervened. The Bible says a "trembling of God" rattled the camp, field, and all the people (1 Sam. 14:15, *Young's Literal Translation*). It was Jonathan's faith that gave God a reason to make the ground tremble before these two young heroes. If God had not intervened by providing an earthquake, Jonathan and his armor bearer would have been easily defeated.

God still moves the earth today. Join us in praying, "O God, what would give You a reason, 10 days in a row, to make the ground tremble?"

Two thousand years ago about 120 believers pressed into a room on the second floor of a home above the crowded streets of Jerusalem. They dared to believe in Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit. They dared to obey Jesus' command to wait for this Gift (Acts 1, 2).

So they gathered, and they waited. And when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, the believers were unleashed as living witnesses to the resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ! They loved their families and their family of faith like never before. They gave sacrificially like never before. They stood up and dared to speak up for Christ like never before.

The Holy Spirit loves to work from the inside out! We invite you to experience 10 Days of Prayer not as a program but as a new lifestyle.

UNLEASHED! includes three daily sections:

**1. Time Alone with God**

Begin each of the 10 days in private prayer and Bible study.

**2. Family/Friend Circle**

Invest the time to gather your family or friendship circle in daily prayer.

**3. Church Family**

Join your church family for a multi-generational daily prayer session.

Gather your friends, church members, coworkers, youth, and children of all ages for 10 days of spiritual revival. It's time to be fully unleashed by the Holy Spirit again!

## Final Meeting: "What's Next?"

### Helpful Items, if Available:

- 1 large dry erase board or other surface, divided into 4 sections, OR 4 small boards placed on stands
- Sticky notes (if available) OR small pieces of paper with tape for attaching to the board
- Dry erase markers for writing titles on each section OR paper, markers, and tape if attaching titles to another surface

### Why?

The Holy Spirit has been moving in your life and in your church! Immediately follow up the 10 Days of Prayer by gathering God's people together to pray and seek His agenda. The danger is falling back into old routines and losing the momentum that God created during these days of life-transforming prayer. Plan to meet together soon!

### What?

This is a meeting to seek what God is calling us to do next in four areas:

1. Personal
2. Family/Friend Circle
3. Church Family
4. Community/World

### How?

Here is one suggestion for how to run a meeting. Pray and ask God if He has anything to add or subtract from this outline for your church.

### Final Meeting Outline

As the meeting begins, have families or couples sit together. Ask others to form small friend groups, making sure to include everyone. Have leaders ready to help include everyone in a group.

#### Welcome and Prayer

#### Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Discuss these questions with your family/friend group.

1. Name one life event that you felt most prepared for.
2. Next, name one life event that you felt least prepared for.

**Worship God with Thanksgiving**

(EVERYONE)

1. Sing a song of thanksgiving with the entire group.
2. Invite volunteers to share what Jesus Christ did in their lives during the 10 Days of Prayer.
3. Sing another song of thanksgiving together.
4. Have one person pray for the Holy Spirit to come and direct this meeting.
5. Have someone read Ephesians 3:20, 21 to the entire group. How should this verse influence the church as we prepare for what comes next? Ask for volunteers to share their thoughts.

Have a large dry erase board divided into four sections (or place four small boards on stands up front for everyone to see). Mark the four sections PERSONAL, FAMILY/FRIENDS, CHURCH FAMILY, and COMMUNITY/WORLD.

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** We are asking God to show us specific steps to take next in four areas. We are not asking for general ideas but rather for specific ideas that are measurable. (Example: NOT “Be more spiritual,” but rather, “Have unrushed time alone with God in His Word and prayer BEFORE breakfast every day.”)

**Personal**

1. Give everyone a sticky note page and a pen. Include all ages.
2. Invite all to have a moment of silent prayer. Ask God for one thing He is calling you to do personally as a next step in your own ongoing revival with Jesus.
3. Write it down in one short phrase or sentence. Invite all participants to stick their notes up on the board under “Personal.”(They may also choose to keep these notes private.)

**Family/Friends**

1. Now give each family/friend group one sticky note page.
2. Invite them to pray together. Ask God for one thing that would most help their family or church to grow and experience daily revival in Jesus.
3. Discuss.
4. Write it down in one short phrase or sentence and invite each family/group to post their note on the “Family/Friends” section.

**Church Family**

1. Ask people to move and form themselves into their original small groups of six or fewer from the 10 Days of Prayer. (If any new participants do not have a group, assign them to existing groups. Have prayer team members ready to help groups move and reposition chairs if needed.)
2. Invite the small groups to pray together. They should ask God for one thing that would most help the church family experience daily revival with Jesus.
3. Discuss.
4. Write down the “one thing” and post it on the “Church Family” board.

**Community/World**

1. Give one more sticky note to every small group.
2. Invite them to pray. They should ask God to show them one way to reach out to the community and world with the good news of Jesus. Try to think of something timely and relevant.
3. Discuss.
4. Write down the “one thing” in one sentence and post it on the “Community/World” board.

**(EVERYONE)**

Make a circle and pray for God to bless these next steps.

Tell 10 Days of Prayer participants that the pastors and/or elders will study the input, pray over it, and make recommendations to the church board and members for the next steps your church can take together. Commit together to a renewed lifestyle of prayer. Watch for the Holy Spirit to be unleashed with power in your home and church!

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## DAY 1— Know Jesus as Our Living Savior

Acts 1:1-3

### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

Claim Psalm 119:105 in prayer. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to make the written Word a light for your faith walk.

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Acts 1:1–3. What does this passage teach you about Jesus?
2. Explore the four Gospels to see how many times Jesus revealed Himself ALIVE to His followers after His resurrection. (See Matt. 28:9–20; Mark 16:9–20; Luke 24:13–53; John 20:14 to 21:25.)

#### Insights from Ellen White:

For forty days Christ remained on the earth, preparing the disciples for the work before them and explaining that which heretofore they had been unable to comprehend. He spoke of the prophecies concerning His advent, His rejection by the Jews, and His death, showing that every specification of these prophecies had been fulfilled. He told them that they were to regard this fulfillment of prophecy as an assurance of the power that would attend them in their future labors. "Then opened He their understanding," we read, "that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." And He added, "Ye are witnesses of these things."

During these days that Christ spent with His disciples, they gained a new experience. As they heard their beloved Master explaining the Scriptures in the light of all that had happened, their faith in Him was fully established. They reached the place where they could say, "I know whom I have believed." 2 Timothy 1:12. They began to realize the nature and extent of their work, to see that they were to proclaim to the world the truths entrusted to them. The events of Christ's life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies pointing to these events, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins—to all these things they had been witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world. They were to proclaim the gospel of peace and salvation through repentance and the power of the Saviour. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 26, 27)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Take a few moments to think over your life. Tell God some ways Jesus has shown you that He is alive! Thank God that Jesus Christ has revealed Himself through answers to prayer as the living Savior.

#### **Family/Friend Circle**

#### **Connect Activity**

Invite each friend or family member to briefly describe something without naming what it is. Give one reason why you know it is alive. Everyone should try guessing what you are describing. (For example: It has wings and is attracted to beauty in the fields. I know that it is alive because it flutters without a breeze!)

## Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Pray together for the Holy Spirit. Claim the promise of Luke 11:13.

## Explore the Word

1. Read Luke 1:1–4 and Acts 1:1–3. Why did Luke write the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts?
2. How does Luke's account in Luke 24:36–43 illustrate Acts 1:3?

Insights from Ellen White:

Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins, I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 27, 28)

## Prayer Focus

Pray together that each person in your family and friendship circle will know Jesus as the living Savior. After praying this for each other, pray by name for family and friends who do not know Jesus in a personal, living way.

## Church Family

### Procedure for First Evening Meeting

On the first night of 10 Days of Prayer, form participants into multi-generational groups of six or fewer people. Each group will be led by one adult and one young person, as described in the leader's guide. Participants can remain in the same groups for all 10 days. (If new people attend on later nights, help them get connected to an existing group, or start a new group if necessary.)

Each night, participants can sit with their groups while a prayer leader guides everyone through prayer and activities from up front. Small-group leaders will facilitate discussion in their own groups when prompted. Sometimes all participants will interact together, sometimes they will pray and discuss with members of their small group, and sometimes they will be prompted to pray silently. A flexible, tactful prayer leader can move smoothly between activities and adapt material for local needs.

## Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

## Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) With your Bibles open to Isaiah 53, look for specific qualities of Jesus. Give God praise for each quality of Jesus.

2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

Confess:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Isaiah 53:5. Take time for private confession of sins.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of God's grace.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read John 16:13. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and teach us the truth.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

### Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Team up in twos or threes. Ask each other, "What three things would you like people to know about you?" Share with each other for several minutes. We all have many interesting facts we could learn about one another. After Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected from the grave, He had something special He wanted everyone to know about Himself.

### Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 1:1–3. Please notice in verse 3 something that Jesus wanted everyone to know. Jesus "presented Himself ALIVE after His suffering, by many convincing proofs."
2. Read Luke 24:13–32. Especially notice verse 27. What did Jesus do to reveal Himself to the two disciples?
3. Notice verse 32. What was the personal testimony of the two disciples after they realized they had been with the living Savior?

Insights from Ellen White:

Thus Christ discoursed to His disciples, opening their minds that they might understand the Scriptures. The disciples were weary, but the conversation did not flag. Words of life and assurance fell from the Saviour's lips. But still their eyes were holden. As He told them of the overthrow of Jerusalem, they looked upon the doomed city with weeping. But little did they yet suspect who their traveling companion was. They did not think that the subject of their conversation was walking by their side; for Christ referred to Himself as though He were another person. They thought that He was one of those who had been in attendance at the great feast, and who was now returning to his home. He walked as carefully as they over the rough stones, now and then halting with them for a little rest. Thus they proceeded along the mountainous road, while the One who was soon to take His position at God's right hand, and who could say, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," walked beside them. Matthew 28:18. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 800)

### Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sometimes as Christians, we act as if Jesus Christ were still in the grave! Jesus spent 40 days after His resurrection personally reassuring His faithful followers that He was the LIVING Savior.

Let's pray in our groups that we will not be blind to our living Savior. Let's pray that God would open our eyes to know Jesus is alive and present in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is convicted of their need to recommit their hearts to the living Savior and to know Him more each day? I invite all who want to recommit their hearts to Jesus as the living Savior to kneel right where you are.

**24-Hour Challenge**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sometime in the next 24 hours, turn off all electronics for 10 minutes. Read Psalm 46 privately—just you and God. Praise Jesus Christ for being the living God! Ask the Holy Spirit to put one person on your heart, and share with that person one reason that you know Jesus is alive. Read Acts 1:6-8 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 2— Align with Kingdom Priorities

Acts 1:6-8

### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Acts 1:6–8. What priority did the disciples have on their minds?
2. What priority did Jesus have for His disciples?
3. What priorities take up most of your energy?

#### Insights from Ellen White:

Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins, I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 27, 28)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Surrender your personal priorities to Jesus as Lord. Ask God to make His kingdom your priority!

### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

Invite everyone to stand up and close their eyes. With all eyes closed, organize yourselves in a straight line without touching each other. You may use only your voices to form a line. After you form your line, open your eyes. How did you do?

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

Pray together, "Oh Lord, open our eyes by the Holy Spirit so we can be united in Your mission for us."

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Acts 1:6–8. Compare James and John's request in Mark 10:35–37 with the disciples' question in Acts 1:6. What theme occupied the disciples' minds?
2. Read Acts 1:7. What does Jesus' response to the disciples say to your family about your concerns for the future?

## Insights from Ellen White:

The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28)

## Prayer Focus

Make a circle on your knees in prayer. Unite in asking God to give you His heart for His priorities. Ask for His promise of the Holy Spirit so that you may be His witnesses wherever you go.

## Church Family

### Welcome

#### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

#### Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) With your Bibles open to Luke 19:10, think of names for Jesus that describe His priorities (for example: Shepherd). Praise Him for these names!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

#### Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Luke 19:8. Zacchaeus repented from his sins. Ask God to help you live a life of repentance.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

#### Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read John 14:16. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and be our Helper.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

#### Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Sometime in the next 24 hours, turn off all electronics for 10 minutes. Read Psalm 46 privately—just you and God. Praise Jesus Christ for being the living God! Ask the Holy Spirit to put one person on your heart, and share with that person one reason that you know Jesus is alive. Read Acts 1:6-8 in preparation for tomorrow.)

#### Connect Activity

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Stand in a circle with your small group. Think of one important chore that is currently on your to-do list (such as paying bills, jogging, or repairing a car). Take turns silently acting out that activity while others guess what it is. We all have many priorities—both urgent and important—but what are God's priorities for us?

## **Worship in Word**

### **(SMALL GROUPS)**

1. Read Acts 1:6, 7 and Matthew 6:33. How do Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33 give meaning to His words in Acts 1:6, 7?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. What can we learn in this passage about the gift of time and priorities?

### **Insights from Ellen White:**

The disciples were to carry their work forward in Christ's name. Their every word and act was to fasten attention on His name, as possessing that vital power by which sinners may be saved. Their faith was to center in Him who is the source of mercy and power. In His name they were to present their petitions to the Father, and they would receive answer. They were to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christ's name was to be their **watchword**, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success. Nothing was to be recognized in His kingdom that did not bear His name and superscription. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28)

## **Prayer Focus**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Pray for the priorities of Christ's kingdom. Pray for Christ's heart for the lost to become your heart.

## **Appeal**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Who here tonight is convicted that their life priorities in these last days are not the priorities of Jesus Christ? I invite you to join me in asking God to re-order our priorities to match His Kingdom priorities.

## **24-Hour Challenge**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** List your four top priorities in life right now—being honest about the present reality of where your heart and focus are. Pray and read James 1:5–8. Ask God what He wants your top four priorities to be. Make a list and place it where you will see it every day. With God's help, take a faith step now to live according to His priorities for your life! Read Acts 1:9–11 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 3— Meet Jesus When He Surprises Us

Acts 1:9-11

### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read John 14:1–3. What is Jesus personally preparing before He returns?
2. Read Acts 1:9–11. How will Jesus return?

#### **Insights from Ellen White:**

When the time came for Christ to ascend to His Father, He led the disciples out as far as Bethany. Here He paused, and they gathered about Him. With hands outstretched in blessing, as if in assurance of His protecting care, He slowly ascended from among them. "It came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Luke 24:51. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 32)

While the disciples were gazing upward to catch the last glimpse of their ascending Lord, He was received into the rejoicing ranks of heavenly angels. As these angels escorted Him to the courts above, they sang in triumph, "Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord, to Him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens. . . . Ascribe ye strength unto God: His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the heavens." Psalm 68:32–34, margin. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 32, 33)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to prepare your heart to meet Jesus soon.

### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

1. Invite everyone to think about how many minutes you like to arrive before or after a scheduled appointment.
2. Ask everyone who likes to arrive early to raise their fingers indicating how many minutes they like to arrive early.
3. Ask everyone who is comfortable arriving later to raise their fingers indicating how many minutes they are willing to arrive late.

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Matthew 24:42–44. How will Jesus' second coming be like a thief?
2. How may we best prepare for Jesus to return?

## Insights from Ellen White:

The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service. The same voice that had said to them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end," would bid them welcome to His presence in the heavenly kingdom. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 33)

## Prayer Focus

Pray together that the Holy Spirit will prepare each person in your circle to meet Jesus when He returns.

## Church Family

### Welcome

#### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

#### Praise Jesus for His coming!

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Revelation 22:7, 12, 13, 20. Choose one of these promises and praise Jesus for what the promise says about Him.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song about Jesus' second coming.

#### Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Revelation 22:10, 11. Pray for God to call us all to repentance while we have time to turn to Him.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

#### Ask for the Holy Spirit:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Revelation 22:17. Ask to receive the Holy Spirit to meet our spiritual thirst. Pray to find our joy, peace, and love in the Holy Spirit.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

## Testify

### (SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: List your four top priorities in life right now—being honest about the present reality of where your heart and focus are. Pray and read James 1:5–8. Ask God what He wants your top four priorities to be. Make a list and place it where you will see it every day. With God's help, take a faith step now to live according to His priorities for your life! Read Acts 1:9–11 in preparation for tomorrow.)

## Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Stand in a circle with your small group. Ask each person to take turns acting out something that is difficult to wait for in life. Group members may guess what each person is acting out.

## Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18. What is it that will make Jesus' coming the best day on this planet?
2. Read Matthew 25:1–13. What can we learn from this parable about preparing for Jesus' soon coming?

Insights from Ellen White:

After the Saviour's ascension, the sense of the divine presence, full of love and light, was still with them. It was a personal presence. Jesus, the Saviour, who had walked and talked and prayed with them, who had spoken hope and comfort to their hearts, had, while the message of peace was upon His lips, been taken from them into heaven. As the chariot of angels received Him, His words had come to them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end." Matthew 28:20. He had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. They knew that He was before the throne of God, their Friend and Saviour still; that His sympathies were unchanged; that He would forever be identified with suffering humanity. They knew that He was presenting before God the merit of His blood, showing His wounded hands and feet as a remembrance of the price He had paid for His redeemed ones; and this thought strengthened them to endure reproach for His sake. Their union with Him was stronger now than when He was with them in person. The light and love and power of an indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding, marveled. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 65)

## Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Pray together for God to give us urgency in preparing to meet Jesus face to face at His second coming.

## Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Jesus is preparing a place for you to live with Him in eternity. Who here tonight needs the Holy Spirit to help you prepare for Jesus' soon coming? Please come and join me in prayer.

## 24-Hour Challenge

Ask God, "What do You need to do in my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him in person when He comes?" Open your heart to whatever God wants to do in you. If He impresses you to do something, take that step in your relationship with Him. Read Acts 1:12–14 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 4— Humbly Come Together in the Mind of Christ

Acts 1:12-14

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Acts 1:12–14. In the list of those who were in the upper room, who surprises you most? Why?
2. Read Romans 3:23. How does this truth call us all to have humility in how we view each other?

#### **Insights from Ellen White:**

As the disciples waited for the fulfillment of the promise, they humbled their hearts in true repentance and confessed their unbelief. As they called to remembrance the words that Christ had spoken to them before His death they understood more fully their meaning. Truths which had passed from their memory were again brought to their minds, and these they repeated to one another. They reproached themselves for their misapprehension of the Saviour. Like a procession, scene after scene of His wonderful life passed before them. As they meditated upon His pure, holy life they felt that no toil would be too hard, no sacrifice too great, if only they could bear witness in their lives to the loveliness of Christ's character. Oh, if they could but have the past three years to live over, they thought, how differently they would act! If they could only see the Master again, how earnestly they would strive to show Him how deeply they loved Him, and how sincerely they sorrowed for having ever grieved Him by a word or an act of unbelief! But they were comforted by the thought that they were forgiven. And they determined that, so far as possible, they would atone for their unbelief by bravely confessing Him before the world. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 36)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for nothing to stand in the way of how you value and appreciate your family, friends, and church family.

### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

With your family/friends, form a circle with your backs toward each other. Ask, "In this circle, what attitudes do the most to draw us toward each other?" Take one answer from each person in the circle. When they answer, invite them to turn facing the circle—until all are facing each other.

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Philippians 2:5–8. What does it mean to have the mind and attitude of Christ? How should this affect the way we treat each other in our family and friendship circle?

## Insights from Ellen White:

These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37)

## Prayer Focus

Pray for the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ. Pray to have the humility of Jesus in interacting with each person in your circle of family and friends.

## *Church Family*

### Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

### Thanks:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 11:28, 29. Pray prayers of thanksgiving for the gentle and humble heart of Jesus.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of thanksgiving.

### Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 11:29, which says that Jesus is humble in heart. Pray for the humility of Jesus to confront pride in your heart. Confess your pride and ask for the heart of Jesus.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

### Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 11:30, where Jesus testifies that His yoke is easy and light. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that makes Jesus' yoke light for each one of us. Ask for the Holy Spirit to bless the Word and give His rest to each person.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

### Testify

#### (SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God, "What do You need to do in my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him in person when He comes?" Open your heart to whatever God wants to do in you. If He impresses you to do something, take that step in your relationship with Him. Read Acts 1:12–14 in preparation for tomorrow.)

## Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Stand in a circle with your small groups. Ask each person in the group to share the best illustration they can think of for the word "UNITY."

## Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 1:12–14. Which people listed in the upper room could have caused doubts and concern? Why?
2. Read John 17:20–23. What was Jesus asking God the Father to do for all of us as His followers?
3. Read Ephesians 4:30–32. To what degree should we forgive each other?

Insights from Ellen White:

The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37)

## Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: With your small group, pray for the humility of Jesus in how we view and treat each other.

## Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight needs the heart of Jesus in order to forgive and find complete unity with everyone in this church? I invite you to come forward as we pray for God to work miracles in our hearts.

## 24-Hour Challenge

Ask God which person in your life most needs your love, kindness, respect, or forgiveness. Follow the Holy Spirit's lead in reaching out to that person. Read Acts 1:4, 5 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 5— Repent and be Saturated with the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4, 5; 2:1–4; 2:37–39; 3:19

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

1. Read Acts 1:4, 5. What did Jesus promise His disciples if they would wait for it?
2. Read Luke 11:11–13. How much does God want you to have the Holy Spirit?

#### **Insights from Ellen White:**

So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace. The men and women who through the long centuries of persecution and trial enjoyed a large measure of the presence of the Spirit in their lives, have stood as signs and wonders in the world. Before angels and men they have revealed the transforming power of redeeming love. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 49)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for God to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit beyond what you have ever received.

#### **Family/Friend Circle**

#### **Connect Activity**

Ask each person to describe a memorable gift they received from a family member or friend and why it was special to them. What do you think God wants to give you?

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Luke 11:13 and Matthew 7:7, 8. What does Jesus invite us to do?

Insights from Ellen White:

The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50)

## Prayer Focus

Pray together for God to send the Gift of the Holy Spirit to each family member and friend in your circle.

## Church Family

### Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

### Thanks:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read James 1:17. Give God prayers of thanksgiving for being the Giver of all good gifts. Thank God for the gifts that fill your heart with gratitude!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of thanksgiving.

### Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read James 1:21. Ask God to give you the humility and power to turn from all wickedness.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

### Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Luke 11:13 and James 1:22. Ask God to pour out His Spirit on His Word and on our lives. Ask for a heart of obedience to follow Him.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

### Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God which person in your life most needs your love, kindness, respect, or forgiveness. Follow the Holy Spirit's lead in reaching out to that person. Read Acts 1:4, 5 in preparation for tomorrow.)

### Connect Activity

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** In your small groups, have each person briefly describe a time that they saw something become completely "saturated" by something else. Today we will pray to become completely saturated by the Holy Spirit.

### Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 1:4, 5. What word does Jesus use to promise the coming of the Holy Spirit?
2. Read Acts 2:1–4. What words are used in this passage to describe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
3. Read Acts 2:37–39. What is essential in order to have the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Insights from Ellen White:

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 50, 51)

It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 51)

### Prayer Focus

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Pray in twos or threes for the Holy Spirit to empower us to repent fully of anything that compromises our connection to God.

### Appeal

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Who here tonight longs to be completely saturated by the Holy Spirit? I invite you to come and join me as we humble ourselves and pray for the full baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**24-Hour Challenge**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Pray daily to receive the fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. If possible, go to your knees today and cry out to God for this precious Gift! Repent of anything that the Holy Spirit convicts you to leave behind. Read Acts 2:14 and 4:1–31 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 6— Boldly Stand for Christ and Follow Him Fully

Acts 2:14; 4:1–31

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 1:13; 2:1–5, 11. Was Peter in the upper room? What did the Holy Spirit do through him and the others in the room at Pentecost?

#### **Insights from Ellen White:**

The scene is one full of interest. Behold the people coming from all directions to hear the disciples witness to the truth as it is in Jesus. They press in, crowding the temple. Priests and rulers are there, the dark scowl of malignity still on their faces, their hearts still filled with abiding hatred against Christ, their hands uncleansed from the blood shed when they crucified the world's Redeemer. They had thought to find the apostles cowed with fear under the strong hand of oppression and murder, but they find them lifted above all fear and filled with the Spirit, proclaiming with power the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth. They hear them declaring with boldness that the One so recently humiliated, derided, smitten by cruel hands, and crucified, is the Prince of life, now exalted to the right hand of God. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 42)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for holy boldness to be who the Holy Spirit has called you to be!

#### **Family/Friend Circle**

#### **Connect Activity**

Ask your family/friend group, "When and where do you feel the most confident to speak?" Give everyone a chance to share. Today we will explore Holy Spirit-led confidence.

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 2:14. Considering that Peter had publicly declared he did not know Jesus about seven weeks before Pentecost, what surprising steps did Peter take when filled with the Holy Spirit?

**Insights from Ellen White:**

They could speak the name of Jesus with assurance; for was He not their Friend and Elder Brother? Brought into close communion with Christ, they sat with Him in heavenly places. With what burning language they clothed their ideas as they bore witness for Him! Their hearts were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying to the power of Christ. They were filled with an intense longing to carry forward the work He had begun. They realized the greatness of their debt to heaven and the responsibility of their work. Strengthened by the endowment of the Holy Spirit, they went forth filled with zeal to extend the triumphs of the cross. The Spirit animated them and spoke through them. The peace of Christ shone from their faces. They had consecrated their lives to Him for service, and their very features bore evidence to the surrender they had made. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 46)

**Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to free each person in your family and friendship circle to be able to share the good news of Jesus with anyone.

***Church Family*****Welcome****Worship in Prayer**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

**Praise:**

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Revelation 1 is filled with many names for Jesus. Praise Jesus for one of His names found in this chapter.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

**Confess:**

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Revelation 1:5 (last part). Invite group members to take private time for confession. Find your forgiveness in Jesus, the One "who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood."
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of confession.

**Ask:**

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Ask God the Father in the name of Jesus, who is "alive forevermore" (Rev. 1:18), to send the Holy Spirit to bless His Word.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

**Testify**

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Pray daily to receive the fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. If possible, go to your knees today and cry out to God for this precious Gift! Repent of anything that the Holy Spirit convicts you to leave behind. Read Acts 2:14 and 4:1–31 in preparation for tomorrow.)

### Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Would you stand up by yourself in a room full of people IF—  
(stand if the statement is YES for you)

- everyone standing would be given a free airline ticket to anywhere in the world
- the first one to stand would be given \$1,000
- the first one to stand would be given three minutes to say anything to everyone in the room

Today let's explore what the Word says about risking all to stand up for Jesus Christ.

### Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 4:1–13. What are two reasons Peter was so fearless for Christ? (Notice Acts 4:8, 13.)
2. Read Acts 4:21–31. What did the believers pray for?

Insights from Ellen White:

Those present who remembered the part that Peter had acted at the trial of his Master, flattered themselves that he could now be intimidated by the threat of imprisonment and death. But the Peter who denied Christ in the hour of His greatest need was impulsive and self-confident, differing widely from the Peter who was brought before the Sanhedrin for examination. Since his fall he had been converted. He was no longer proud and boastful, but modest and self-distrustful. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and by the help of this power he was resolved to remove the stain of his apostasy by honoring the name he had once disowned. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 62, 63)

### Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: With your small group, pray for the Holy Spirit to help each person in your group to speak the Word of God with holy boldness and the great love of God.

### Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is convicted that fear stands in the way of sharing the good news of Jesus with family, friends, classmates, neighbors, work associates, or strangers? Come and join me in praying for the holy boldness of the Holy Spirit to share Jesus anywhere, anytime, at any cost.

### 24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God for the courage of Christ to share with others what He is doing in your life. Pray. Ask God to lead you by the Holy Spirit to someone who needs to hear your own story of what Jesus is doing in your life. Share Jesus with that person! In preparation for tomorrow, read Acts 2:17, 18; 4:24–31.

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## DAY 7— Disciple Children and All Generations to Speak for Jesus

Acts 2:17,18

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Joel 2:28, 29. What was prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this passage?

#### **Insights from Ellen White:**

God's purpose for the children growing up beside our hearths is wider, deeper, higher, than our restricted vision has comprehended. From the humblest lot those whom He has seen faithful have in time past been called to witness for Him in the world's highest places. And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts as a witness for the King of kings.

Multitudes will be called to a wider ministry. The whole world is opening to the gospel. . . . From every quarter of this world of ours comes the cry of sin-stricken hearts for a knowledge of the God of love. . . . It rests with us who have received the knowledge, with our children to whom we may impart it, to answer their cry. To every household and every school, to every parent, teacher, and child upon whom has shone the light of the gospel, comes at this crisis the question put to Esther the queen at that momentous crisis in Israel's history, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 484)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for God to make your life a fulfillment of this ancient prophecy.

#### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

Look around at your circle of family/friends. Have each person name a hobby or skill that they would like to learn from someone in the circle. Just as we pass on talents to our family and friends, we can also pass on faith, courage, and a missionary spirit.

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

## Explore the Word

Read Acts 2:17, 18 and Malachi 4:5, 6. How does the message in Malachi prepare the hearts of families to be part of the last-day prophecy described in Acts 2:17, 18?

Insights from Ellen White:

Parents should in a special sense regard themselves as agents of God to instruct their children, as did Abraham, to keep the way of the Lord. They need to search the Scriptures diligently, to know what is the way of the Lord, that they may teach it to their household. Micah says, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" [Micah 6:8.] In order to be teachers, parents must be learners, gathering light constantly from the oracles of God and by precept and example bringing this precious light into the education of their children.

From the light that God has given me, I know that the husband and the wife are to be in the home minister, physician, nurse, and teacher, binding their children to themselves and to God, training them to avoid every habit that will in any way militate against God's work in the body, and teaching them to care for every part of the living organism. (*The Adventist Home*, p. 184)

## Prayer Focus

Ask God to fill you with extra love and turn your heart back toward any family member with whom you need healing.

## Church Family

### Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

### Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:1. Praise God for Jesus' second coming, in this verse called "the day of the Lord." Jesus is coming again!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

### Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:12, 13. Plead with God to turn your heart fully back to Him.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

### Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:15–17. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to gather all generations to His Son Jesus Christ while there is still time.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

## Testify

### (SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God for the courage of Christ to share with others what He is doing in your life. Pray. Ask God to lead you by the Holy Spirit to someone who needs to hear your own story of what Jesus is doing in your life. Share Jesus with that person! In preparation for tomorrow, read Acts 2:17, 18; 4:24-31.)

## Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Team up in groups of two or three. Tell your partner about someone who mentored you to trust, follow, and share Jesus when you were a child or youth. How can we be that kind of mentor to someone else?

## Worship in Word

### (SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 2:17, 18. When is this prophecy to be fulfilled? What will each generation be doing as they are filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. How does God's plan in this passage prepare children and youth for doing their part in the Acts 2:17, 18 prophecy about the last days?

Insights from Ellen White:

In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control. The educational influences of the home are a decided power for good or for evil. They are in many respects silent and gradual, but if exerted on the right side, they become a far-reaching power for truth and righteousness. If the child is not instructed aright here, Satan will educate him through agencies of his choosing. How important, then, is the school in the home! Look upon the family circle as a training school, where you are preparing your children for the performance of their duties at home, in society, and in the church. (*The Adventist Home*, p. 182)

## Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Pray together in your small groups for:

1. Parents to intentionally mentor the children and youth in their homes to trust, follow, and share Jesus.
2. Young and old to partner in sharing Jesus in their community and around the world.

## Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is under conviction that they should invest their time and energy in mentoring young people to trust, follow, and share Jesus with Holy Spirit power? Please come and join me for prayer.

**24-Hour Challenge**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God how to best affirm and encourage the faith journey of your own children or those in your family/friendship circle. Before tomorrow's meeting, act immediately on the idea God gives you for reaching out to one of these children. Read Acts 2:41-47 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 8— Love Our Family of Faith as Jesus Does

Acts 2:41-47

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 2:41. How would this huge addition to the early church have challenged the love of the early believers?

Insights from Ellen White:

When the grace of Christ is expressed in the words and works of the believers, light will shine forth to those who are in darkness; for while the lips are speaking to the praise of God, the hand will be stretched out in beneficence for the help of the perishing. We read that on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, no man said that aught that he possessed was his own. All they owned was held for the advance of the wonderful reformation. And thousands were converted in a day. When the same spirit actuates believers today, and they give back to God of His own with the same liberality, a wide and far-reaching work will be accomplished. (Manuscript 95, 1907, par. 17)

The first angel's message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God's judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding. In this message, God has sent to the church a warning, which, had it been accepted, would have corrected the evils that were shutting them away from Him. Had they received the message from heaven, humbling their hearts before the Lord and seeking in sincerity a preparation to stand in His presence, the Spirit and power of God would have been manifested among them. The church would again have reached that blessed state of unity, faith, and love which existed in apostolic days, when the believers "were of one heart and of one soul," and "spake the word of God with boldness," when "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 4:32, 31; 2:47 (*The Great Controversy*, p. 379)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to fill your heart with the love you need to care for people He is calling into this last-day prophetic movement.

## *Family/Friend Circle*

### **Connect Activity**

Take turns thinking of one thing that someone in your family/friend circle has done that showed you in a practical way how much you are loved. Act it out and see if your family/friends can guess what it is.

### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 2:42–44. How did the Holy Spirit transform the way the early church loved one another?

Insights from Ellen White:

The believers were ever to cherish the love that filled the hearts of the apostles after the descent of the Holy Spirit. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment: "As I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34. So closely were they to be united to Christ that they would be enabled to fulfill His requirements. The power of a Saviour who could justify them by His righteousness was to be magnified. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 241)

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help each person in your family/friendship circle to love each other in word and in deed.

## *Church Family*

### **Welcome**

### **Worship in Prayer**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Thanks:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read 1 John 4:9, 10. Thank God for revealing His love by sending us Jesus so we could find life in Him!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of thanksgiving.

Confess:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read 1 John 4:11. Confess that we have not loved each other as God has called us to do.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of confession.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read 1 John 4:19. Ask God to help you love others in your church by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

### Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God how to best affirm and encourage the faith journey of your own children or those in your family/friendship circle. Before tomorrow's meeting, act immediately on the idea God gives you for reaching out to one of these children. Read Acts 2:41-47 in preparation for tomorrow.)

### Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Team up in twos or threes. Tell your partner about a meaningful time that a church member did something to care for you or someone else in the congregation.

### Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

Read Acts 2:41–45. In what ways did the first-century believers love each other sacrificially?

Insights from Ellen White:

After the descent of the Holy Spirit the disciples went forth to proclaim a risen Saviour, their one desire the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of the communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth's sake. In their daily association with one another they revealed the love that Christ had commanded them to reveal. By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 547)

### Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: With your small group, pray that the Holy Spirit will confront our careless attitudes toward those in our church family who are needy.

### Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is willing to ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to love your church family as you have never loved them before? To care for your family of faith as you have never cared for them before? If this is your conviction, please come and join me in prayer.

### 24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God to show you one thing that He would love for you to do to meet a need for someone in your church family. Sacrifice to do that act of love before tomorrow's meeting. Read Ac 3:1–10 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 9— See and Care for the Forgotten

Acts 3: 1-10

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Matthew 25:31–46. Who does Jesus challenge us to care for? How is Jesus personally impacted by the way we care for these forgotten people?

Insights from Ellen White:

Every kind act done to them in the name of Jesus, is accepted by Him as if done to Himself, for He identifies His interest with that of suffering humanity, and He has entrusted to His church the grand work of ministering to Jesus by helping and blessing the needy and suffering. On all who shall minister to them with willing hearts, the blessing of the Lord will rest. (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 164)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for eyes to see people in need as if they were Jesus Himself—and to care for them as if they were Jesus.

### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

Invite each person in your family/friend circle to tell about someone in the local community who is needy in some way. Why do we not all notice the same needy people?

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 3:1–4. Peter and John had come to the temple many times. Never before is it mentioned that they stopped by someone in need. What made them SEE a person in need this time? (See Acts 2:4, first part.)

Insights from Ellen White:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

## Prayer Focus

Pray for Jesus' heart for forgotten people in need.

## Church Family

### Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Thanks:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Mathew 9:35. Thank God for Jesus' personal ministry with people, not just programs.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of thanksgiving.

Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 9:36. Confess our lack of love for people. Ask God to forgive us for not having the compassion of Jesus for people in need.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 9:37, 38. Ask God to throw you out into His harvest to care for people in need.
2. (SMALL GROUPS) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

### Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God to show you one thing that He would love for you to do to meet a need for someone in your church family. Sacrifice to do that act of love before tomorrow's meeting. Read Ac 3:1-10 in preparation for tomorrow.)

### Connect Activity

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Team up in twos or threes. Tell your partner about a time when a stranger had compassion for your need and helped you. How did that impact your life at that time? Pray together for the Holy Spirit to bless the Word.

## **Worship in Word**

### **(SMALL GROUPS)**

Read Acts 3:1–10. How did “seeing” the cripple lead to Peter and John caring for him?

Insights from Ellen White:

There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit. (*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 143, 144)

## **Prayer Focus**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: In your small group, pray to see people as Jesus sees them. Pray to have your heart moved by compassion when you see people with unmet needs.

## **Appeal**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight needs the heart of Jesus for the forgotten in your community? Come and join me in praying for Jesus' compassion for those in need.

## **24-Hour Challenge**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God to show you someone who is forgotten in your community. Ask Him what that forgotten person needs from you and from the Lord Jesus. Go minister to that person in Jesus' name before tomorrow's meeting. Read Acts 4:32-37 in preparation for tomorrow.

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## DAY 10— Practice Radical Generosity

Acts 4: 32-37

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### ***Time Alone with God***

#### **Prayer**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 4:32. How would you describe the believers in the book of Acts?

Insights from Ellen White:

This liberality on the part of the believers was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit. The converts to the gospel were “of one heart and of one soul.” One common interest controlled them—the success of the mission entrusted to them; and covetousness had no place in their lives. Their love for their brethren and the cause they had espoused, was greater than their love of money and possessions. Their works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70, 71)

#### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to give you a generous heart and a desire for true unity with fellow believers.

### ***Family/Friend Circle***

#### **Connect Activity**

Gather everyone in a circle. Take turns briefly acting out a sacrificial gift that someone gave you. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless His Word.

#### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

#### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 4:32, 33. What is the connection between great generosity and great power from the Holy Spirit?

Insights from Ellen White:

Of the apostolic church, in those bright days when the glory of the risen Christ shone upon them, it is written that no man said “that aught of the things which he possessed was his own.” “Neither was there any among them that lacked.” “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and

having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 4:32, 34, 33; 2:46, 47.

Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times. (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 137)

## Prayer Focus

Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill each family member and friend with the joy of Jesus in giving sacrificially to advance His mission to the world.

## *Church Family*

### Welcome

### Worship in Prayer

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Tell:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Psalm 78:4. Share with your group about the precious things you have seen God do in your life during the 10 Days of Prayer.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of gratitude for blessings.

Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Psalm 78:5–7, 11. Confess in prayer that we have forgotten how much God has done for us. Ask for His forgiveness.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of forgiveness or redemption.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Psalm 78:23, 24. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the heart of our Father God. Help us to give generously as He gives to us.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of consecration or willingness.

## Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God to show you someone who is forgotten in your community. Ask Him what that forgotten person needs from you and from the Lord Jesus. Go minister to that person in Jesus' name before tomorrow's meeting. Read Acts 4:32-37 in preparation for tomorrow.)

### **Connect Activity**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Ask the people in your small group, "What would be an easy (yet meaningful) thing for you to give away?" Let everyone answer. Next ask everyone, "What would be the most difficult thing for you to give away?"

### **Worship in Word**

#### **(SMALL GROUPS)**

Read Acts 4:32-37. What motivated the generosity of these church members in Acts? In what ways would our community and church family change if we practiced the kind of sharing described in this passage?

Insights from Ellen White:

Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church; and when in the church of today it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have taken their affections from the things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 71)

### **Prayer Focus**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** In your small groups, ask God to fill you with His deep love for the lost. Pray for God to replace our selfish hearts with generous, sacrificial hearts so we can carry out the final mission to reach every soul before He returns.

### **Appeal**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Who here tonight is convicted by the Holy Spirit to offer all that God has given you to be used to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ? Come and join me as we surrender our time, talents, possessions, and influence to Christ.

### **24-Hour Challenge**

**LEADER TO EVERYONE:** Ask God what specific gift you could give Him of your time, talent, or money that would greatly further the gospel right now. When He tells you what that is, give it joyfully, sacrificially, and swiftly for the glory of Jesus alone!