

## ***24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL***

One of the most critical responsibilities of the Prayer group is to plan for the 24-hour prayer vigil to be offered at the church. This prayer chain would begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday and continue until 5 p.m. on Friday of the Weekend. The Prayer group will publicize the prayer chain, encourage the membership to be involved and provide a method for participants to commit to the vigil.

The Prayer group will select a place in the church for the 24-hour vigil and publicize its location. The room may be set up with soft lighting and soft instrumental music and have tables with Bibles, copies of the prayer list, copies of "One Hour Alone with God - Prayer Study Guide" (provided by the Coordinator) other helpful prayer materials and a clock. Post instructions to enter in silence so as not to disturb other intercessors. Have enough room and materials to allow more people than the number who signed up to be praying, or meditating. Leave a notice that intercessors may remain in the prayer room longer than the hour they planned.

Many churches have found it wise to plan a method of keeping the chain of prayer going after it begins. Outside the place of prayer, display the list of people who have signed up to pray, with their designated times and telephone numbers. Arrange for a telephone to be available. Before going in to pray, each intercessor would call to remind the person who follows the next hour. This is especially helpful for those who will be coming to the church in the middle of the night.

Several methods have been used to secure a good number of intercessors for the vigil. Small churches have displayed a poster with a circle divided into 24 "slices" and the membership is encouraged to sign their names in one of the hour slots. Larger churches have designated Sunday School classes or departments to take specific periods.

More than one person should be praying for each hour. Couples are encouraged to come together. If the person who is scheduled does not come, or is late, encourage people to remain until another intercessor arrives.

The men should take the nighttime hours, with women and young people the daytime or early evening hours. Encourage senior citizens and others who cannot come to the church to schedule a time they wish to commit to pray at home for the renewal of the church.

Seniors could all be given copies of the One Hour Alone With God - Prayer Study Guide and sign up to pray at their homes for their hour. However, this should not replace an adult person from coming to the church for prayer during that hour.

The youth of the church could be invited to participate in the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil and recruit youth for each hour. They would be in addition to the adults and should not take an adult's hour. Youth could participate during certain day light hours only.

## *CHECK LIST FOR 24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Make preparations for the 24-hour prayer vigil to be at the church the day preceding the Weekend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicize the event and encourage participation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan a method for participants to sign up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secure needed printed materials for each participant (One Hour Alone with God-Prayer Study Guides)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer list and Bibles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan the location for the vigil and notify the participants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work with Youth Group to see if youth will also participate in 24-Hour Prayer Vigil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recruit several deacons to come on shifts for security during late to early hours

# **QUIET TIME ALONE WITH GOD PRAYER GUIDE**

## **“HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?”**

*Spend the next hour and read slowly through this "Prayer Meditation for Renewal"  
Before you start, ask God to speak to you during this next hour.*

If we are to have Renewal, Renewal must begin with me!

I must be willing to lay my life, talents, time, money, and all that I am on God's altar.

Renewals come from God Almighty alone. They come to his people through soul searching, confession of sins, and emptying of self. These make ready for the filling with the Holy Spirit.

Am I willing to be filled with the Spirit?

Have I faith enough just to let God do with me as He wills?

Confess all known sin to the Lord.

Read Proverbs 28:13; 2 Samuel 12:13; 1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 51:1-6

Three kinds of sin that must be confessed:

1. Private—sins against God alone. These must be confessed to God Alone.
2. Personal—sins against others. There can be no peace until this sin is confessed to God.  
Disturbed fellowship!
3. Public—sins against the church, the Body of Christ (all gossip, tale-bearing, wrongful attitudes, whisperings “You know what?”) and sins against society (lack of involvement, wrong attitudes, “I was thirsty and you. . .”).

If these are not confessed, we cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit.

There must be cleansing “then filling; power “then witnessing; self-prepared “then others.”

Give God your best and “make room for God's best.” Ask God.

In a quiet time alone with God

Take time to examine your own heart, turn the pages slowly, consider each question, Let God grade you, lay bare every sin and ask God's forgiveness.

Remember, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say, ‘We have not sinned,’ we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:9-10, HCSB).

Am I really concerned about renewal?

Am I willing to pay the price?

Will I do anything God wants me to do?

Is renewal first in my plans?

Am I sinning the sin of prayerlessness? “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2, HCSB).

Have I neglected the Word of God?

Have I forgiven anyone?

Is all resentment out of my heart?

Am I willing to ask forgiveness from anyone I have wronged in any way?

Am I impatient? Irritable?

Am I offended easily?

Do my “hurt feelings” keep me from serving God?

Do I get angry?

Bear grudges?

Do I blow up?

Do I swell up with resentment?

Have I enmity toward anyone?

Am I willing “here and now “to ask God to help me put it out of my heart? Read Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-37

Have I been dishonest with God? With my church?

Have I broken any promise or pledge made to God?

Since my emergency is over, have I kept my promise made in prayer?

Am I dishonest with others?

Do I try to leave a wrong impression if I can—without falsehood?

Am I covetous?

Am I too concerned about things?

Have I sought blessings more than spiritual blessings?

Have I paid all my debt to others?

Do I have anything in my possession that does not rightly belong to me?

Have I any habits that I should forsake?

Have I asked God's help?

Is there jealousy in my heart?

Do I have sinful pride in my heart?

Have I wronged anyone and failed to make restitution?

Did I pray for those involved?

Is my mind honest and clean in the sight of God?

Are my thoughts pure?

Am I faithful to my wedding vows? In deeds and thoughts? Read Matthew 5:28.

Am I willing and ready to forgive any wrong against me? Against my family?

Do I have a secret sin which I excuse but should forsake?

Have I worried and been anxious about things over which I have no control?

Do I fret? Complain? Toward the leaders in the church?

Does my pastor know that he can count on me?

Am I a minister of reconciliation and an ambassador of Christ in the marketplace and in the community where I live, work, and play? Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Am I guilty of the sin of unbelief?

Am I salt and light in my world? Read Matthew 5:13-16

Do I really believe in the power of God to cleanse any sinner? Change my life? Take care of any situation? Guide me in my decisions?

Remember now the marvelous grace of God.

God has promised to forgive every confessed sin. Read Isaiah 1:18; 44:21-22; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17; 1 John 1:7, 9

Do not despair, God loves you!

Pray for yourself—for cleansing, for strength, and courage to forsake sin.

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Trust God, fear not!

Surrender all— all self, will, ambition, desire, plans, hopes, time, and talent.

You are giving yourself to one who loves you, who knows you, the future, the past, all about you. God's way is best for you!

Pray for your church, your pastor, for other leaders and weak Christians. Pray for unity and love in the church. Be sure you are a helper, not a problem.

Worship God! Suggested Bible readings: Psalm 95:6; John 4:24; Revelation 14:7; Isaiah 6:1-8

Praise the Lord! Thank God for the blessings you have received. Read Psalms 9:11; 67:3; Hebrews 13:15

Four-fold reason for praise: Read 1 Peter 2:9.

THANK GOD! For your cleansing, for God's forgiveness, for the Holy Spirit, for victory! For renewal! For the opportunity God is going to give you to witness before this renewal weekend is over!

Expect great things from God!

Do not be afraid, to go where God leads, to give "your testimony," your impressions, your dedications, your concern.

How has God impressed you through this meditation?

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The Scriptures used are great to help us give honor and glory to Christ and to know we can trust Him to lead us every step of the way. Read: Revelation 3:19-22

If there were absolutely no limitations to what you could ask the Holy Spirit to do during the Lay Renewal Weekend, write down what would you ask Him to do (1) for the Church and (2) for you personally?

1. For your Church \_\_\_\_\_

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2. For yourself \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Matthew 7:7-11

Pray, asking the Father for the things you listed above for your Church and for you personally.

May God bless you and His church and the world through you.

## *TABLETOP PRAYER TENT GROUP*

The Prayer group should design a tabletop prayer reminder card to be given to each church family. These may include some of the practical needs for the Weekend as well as encouragement for daily prayer for renewal. These may be distributed through the Sunday School, available in the entry of the worship center or mailed to each home.

Develop a prayer list with needs and burdens of the church family. Special emphasis should be placed on those who are not saved and the backslidden. This may be done through the Sunday School by using a prayer request form. A master list could be printed and made available for people who are committed to intercessory prayer. This list could be mailed to the visiting team to allow them to pray for these burdens.

Team members will be responding to the church's invitation to be a part of the Weekend. As their responses are received, their names could be given to individuals who will agree to pray for them daily prior to the Weekend.

## *CHECK LIST FOR PRAYER TENT GROUP*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Design a tabletop prayer reminder Prayer Card or Prayer Tent to be given to each church family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include practical needs and goals for the Acts 1:8 Weekend and daily prayer for needs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a prayer list with needs and burdens of the church family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Create a special prayer list for unsaved or backslidden.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a list of those responding to invitations to come as Visiting Team Members for the weekend and have church members begin praying for them.

## ***PRAYER SEMINAR GROUP***

The Prayer Seminar group should work with the pastor to determine if plans for preparing the church for the Acts 1:8 Weekend could include a prayer seminar. Churches that have initiated Renewal Weekends with a strong emphasis on the prayer life of the church, testify that “renewal” truly begins at that point.

The Prayer Seminar could be a church-wide Wednesday night event or a special Sunday Service. This prayer time should be devoted to praying for the church to rekindle the fire for lost souls around the local church, in the state and nation as well as those at the ends of the earth.

A Prayer Seminar could be lead by a "prayer warrior" church member or someone from outside the church could be invited to come and lead. The pastor should be able to assist in locating a person for this event.

You might want to highlight one of the specific areas listed above on several Wednesday nights and invite a person who ministers in that area to come and lead in prayer and explain some of their specific prayer needs. This could be the Associational Director of Missions, or a Mission Service Corps Missionary serving in the area. Someone from your state convention could be invited to share prayer needs and requests for state ministries, and etc.

If you are inviting someone from outside the church to come, they will need to be invited early enough to get this on their schedule. The church may also need to cover their travel and an honorarium.

In addition to the formal prayer seminar, prayer groups may be formed to pray for renewal in the church. These can be implemented through existing ministries of the church, such as the Sunday School, Baptist Men, Baptist Women, etc. Informal prayer meetings may be scheduled in homes prior to the Weekend. Groups could gather immediately following the Sunday evening worship time to pray for the Acts 1:8 Weekend.

The Prayer group chairperson could attend a deacon’s meeting and ask them to commit to pray for each church family by name. If the church does not already have a Deacon Family Ministry, divide the church membership, giving a number of families to each deacon. They should pray that God will renew spiritually each person on their list as they pray daily for them. In a similar way, the church staff could commit to pray daily for a number of deacons and their families

## *CHECK LIST FOR PRAYER SEMINAR GROUP*

- \_\_\_ Check with the pastor and decide if the Prayer Seminar for the Acts 1:8 Weekend can be scheduled
- \_\_\_ Check the church calendar for an appropriate time for a prayer event
- \_\_\_ If it is to be a churchwide event, check with schedules of other affected church events
- \_\_\_ Check with pastor for assistance to decide who would lead the Prayer Seminar or Event
- \_\_\_ Will travel and honorarium be needed for an outside person to come
- \_\_\_ Should a church member be asked to lead the Prayer Seminar
- \_\_\_ How would the Seminar be promoted and publicized to church members
- \_\_\_ Could the Seminar be done over several Wednesday nights with several different leaders

## *Acts in Prayer Booklet*

Included in the preparation materials given to the church by the Coordinator, is a sample of a booklet entitled *Acts in Prayer*. This booklet can be a great help for those seeking to begin or improve their daily prayer time. It is recommended that a copy of this booklet be given to each church family to encourage them to commit to daily praying during the church preparation for the Acts 1:8 Weekend.

The booklet could be given out during Sunday school or it could be included in the Pastor's second letter to the congregation.

Some churches will teach this booklet during Sunday school or as a Wednesday night Services.

Copies of this booklet can be ordered from LifeWay (ISBN 080549209-7) for \$1.29 each or from North Carolina Baptist Men (800 395-5102 ext 5599 for \$.75 each.

## *CHECK LIST FOR ACTS IN PRAYER BOOKLET*

- Determine if Acts in Prayer Booklets will be distributed to each church family and how many will be needed.
- Check for method for purchasing booklets
- Decide how Acts in Prayer booklet will be distributed.
  - Given out in Sunday School Class
  - Included in Pastor's second letter to congregation
- Will booklet be taught during
  - Sunday School
  - Wednesday night Service

## ***Praying Your Friends to Christ Booklet***

Included in the preparation materials given to the church by the Coordinator, is a sample of a booklet entitled Praying Your Friends to Christ. This booklet can be a great help for those seeking to begin or improve their daily prayer time. It is recommended that a copy of this booklet be given to each church family to encourage them to commit to daily praying during the church preparation for the Acts 1:8 Weekend.

The booklet could be given out during Sunday school or it could be included in the Pastor's second letter to the congregation.

Some churches will teach this booklet during Sunday school or as a Wednesday night Services.

Copies of this booklet can be ordered from Baptist State Convention of North Carolina 800 395-5102 ext 5513 and ask for Devon Bagwell.

## ***CHECK LIST FOR PRAYING Your Friends to Christ BOOKLET***

- Determine if Praying your friends to Christ Booklets will be distributed to each church family and how many will be needed.
- Check for method for purchasing booklets
- Decide how booklet will be distributed.
  - Given out in Sunday School Class
  - Included in Pastor's second letter to congregation
- Will booklet be taught during
  - Sunday School
  - Wednesday night Service