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**Pray Daily: Igniting our Passion for God**  
A Ninety-Day Adventure in Celebrating Prayer

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“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.  
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,  
‘Lord, teach us to pray.’”

Luke 11.1 NIV

**Behold, I am about to do a new thing!  
Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
Isaiah 43:19**

God is doing a new thing in our church, and that new thing is us! Our Lord wants to make us new creatures, to transform us into the very likeness of Jesus so that we may be completely awakened to God and awakened to do God's work in the world.

God invites us to pursue God's presence through prayer. God responds to such seeking with an unmistakeable presence in our lives, an experience known as an "awakening." The work of the Holy Spirit in our awareness of sin, our enjoyment of grace and our alertness to the presence of God are heightened and intensified.

i

Rather than simply being a set of doctrines, religious practices and denominational loyalties, faith begins to shine through the hearts and lives of Christians, and they become a vibrant community irresistible to outsiders. Like Jesus, they love the world with God's love, which brings new life. Surrounding communities are transformed, social injustices are overturned and the Kingdom of God spreads. This is the missional work of God.

In our yearning to become such a community – a joyful, contagious, Christ-centered community devoted to loving and serving God and our neighbors – we have been given the opportunity to seek after God's presence through ninety days of concerted prayer.

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Imagine an entire church community committed to praying wherever they are each day for ninety days to enter into God's presence!

What would happen if everyone connected with two others for a time of reflection and prayer? What would that community learn about God and God's mission in the world? About themselves? Their loved ones? How would that community be changed? What impact would that leave on the surrounding community? In the wider world?

Our culture exalts the individual and self-reliance. Self-centeredness is our natural condition. We believe we can accomplish anything through our own efforts, a notion contrary to what we learn in Scripture. God is the prime mover and all we do that is fruitful happens as we are connected to Jesus, the Vine, and dependent on our Lord's blessing.

God, who has already called us with the whole church into relationship, desires for us to go deeper.

- This depth results in transformed lives when we surrender to God, seek God's truth, and receive God's grace, peace, and joy as disciples. Prayer is central to that process.
- God desires to transform us into the people of God, a reflection of Jesus. Prayer is central to that process.
- God, who sends us into the world just as Jesus was sent, desires that we seek God's will and God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Prayer is central to that process.

The framework for this ninety days of prayer experience is based on Jesus' response to his disciples' appeal, "Lord teach us to pray!"

Prayer is a conversation with God and God's beloved people. Jesus instructs us to pray the pattern of the Lord's Prayer for a purpose – we come before our loving God, not as equals, but as children who praise and honor God first.

During the first six weeks, one week will be spent focusing on each aspect of the pattern Jesus teaches: Our Father...Your Kingdom come...Your will be done... Give us this day...Forgive us as...Lead us not into temptation.

During the second six weeks, the pattern is turned into a daily rhythm for prayer:

Sunday	Worship and Rest
Monday	Praise and Adoration
Tuesday	God's Work in the World
Wednesday	God's Work in Us
Thursday	Petitions
Friday	Forgiveness and Confession
Saturday	Protection

We will learn how to read, reflect and respond to God's word as we pray about the issues on our hearts. St. Augustine saw meditation as "the soul's ascent into God." When we meditate on scripture, we pray the truth until it holds us personally, shapes our thinking, changes our emotions and drives our actions. We move from knowing "about" God to knowing God directly from the heart. We adore, marvel, rest in God. We are humbled, troubled, changed and given peace as we pray.

This ninety-day adventure will offer you the opportunity to experience new dimensions in your personal prayer life. You will also experience the joy of praying with two other people for an extended period of time and discover the new depth in personal friendship that takes root.

This booklet is designed for personal, ministry team and congregational use.

**For Personal Use:** Use the daily guide to pray every day for the ninety days. The guide will offer you a biblical text to read and reflect on, encourage you to respond to that text in your life, and invite you to identify prayer requests and to pray.

**For Ministry Team Use:** Ask the members of the group, committee, board or ministry team to get into trios – groups of three who will pray for each other daily using this booklet as a guide. For the greatest spiritual impact ask these trios to meet weekly for one hour of Word-Share-Prayer (described in detail on page ix).

Minimally, ask the members of the trios to spend a few minutes after every gathering to touch base and offer updates on previous prayer requests and suggest new prayer requests to their trio members.

**For Congregational Use:** Dedicating ninety days to prayer is a wonderful way to involve a significant proportion of your congregation in an experience in prayer and in prayer partnerships. This involves three simple steps with appropriate leadership and publicity for each step.

**Step One:** Conduct an opening celebration for the ninety-day experience (typically Sunday evening).

**Step Two:** At the gathering form prayer trios – groups of three – which meet weekly for Word-Share-Prayer.

**Step Three:** Conduct a closing gathering for all participants to celebrate this committed experience to prayer and praying together (typically Sunday evening).

Select a date to celebrate the beginning of the ninety days of prayer.

**Step One: Affirmation of Prayer (a one-hour gathering to begin the adventure).**

For the month before the opening celebration, lift up the coming ninety days experience with prayer during worship and gatherings using additional publicity as well. Invite people publicly and personally to attend the opening one-hour gathering.

Host the affirmation of prayer on a Sunday evening (or at a good time for the congregation). Begin with hymns and worship songs. Explain the vision of the prayer trios and affirm the privilege, power and joy of praying with other Christians. Explain what the prayer trios will do during the coming ninety days (see Step Two). Ask people to stand and get into trios (helping one another to do so as needed).

Encourage participants to seek trio partners who are different. Wonderful trios have people of differing ages, mixed genders, people who are not already best friends or are related to each other. While this is not always possible, the goal is to connect with a wider circle of people. As the old Girl Scout song says, "Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold." Trios move people from silver to gold!

When the trios have formed, ask them to sit, share a prayer request, pray for each other and then set the date of their first trio gathering.

**Step Two: Prayer Trios (one hour a week).**

Each trio meets every week for one hour at a time mutually agreeable to everyone. The format of the gathering is "Word-Share-Prayer."

"Word" – each one of the trio speaks about the Scripture reading from the last week that has been most meaningful and why.

"Share" – each one shares a blessing from the last week which affirms God's work in their lives and shares a prayer request where the blessing of God is sought.

"Prayer" – each one has the opportunity to pray out loud for at least one other member of the trio, although no one is required to pray out loud.

**Step Three: Celebration of Prayer for the participants and congregation (one hour close to the end of the ninety days).**

Opening music – select hymns and worship songs appropriate for a celebration of prayer.

Two or three people share how God answered prayer and how the experience affected them.

Words from the pastor or another leader.

Closing music.

For more Word-Share-Prayer studies that are especially useful for small groups, committees, ministry teams and boards, please go to "Resources" at [www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com](http://www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com).

We are grateful to the ministry of the Vienna Presbyterian Church of Vienna, Virginia, where the basic studies of this booklet were first used in the adventure of Ninety Days of Prayer!

Thine Is the Kingdom and the Glory Forever.



Weekly Reflections

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

Our Father Who Art in Heaven

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness; Come into his presence with singing.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us and we are his;  
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, And his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever.  
Psalm 100

Monday | Day 2

...Hallowed Be Thy Name.

Tuesday | Day 3

reflect

respond

What does it mean to know that you belong to God?

Gladly praise God for his goodness. Thank him for three things he has done for you this week. Share your thoughts with another.

Lift to God that which is on your heart today.

pray

For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:36

reflect

respond

Everything I am and everything I have is from God. Do you believe this?

Seek and find your identity and purpose in God alone.

pray

Our Father Who Art in Heaven

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in splendor, doing wonders?  
You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.  
In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
You guided them by your strength to your holy abode.  
Exodus 15:11-13

## reflect

How has God demonstrated his steadfast love and led you by his strength to his holy abode? What comes to your mind?

## respond

Praise God for his holiness, faithfulness and power in your life. Notice how God is working around you. Tell someone.

Lift to God that which is on your heart today.

## pray

Wednesday | Day 4

...Hallowed Be Thy Name.

Thursday | Day 5

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

I Timothy 1:17

## reflect

How is God different from earthly kings?

## respond

Give God honor and glory for who he is, the King of kings. What kind of action could you take to do this?

Lift to God that which is on your heart today.

## pray

Our Father Who Art in Heaven

Friday | Day 6

David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name."

I Chronicles 29:10-13

## reflect

All riches and honor come from God's glory in you! How does this thought make you feel?

## respond

Identify the affections of your heart. Ask God to remove those which detract from God's glory in you.

Lift to God that which is on your heart today.

## pray

...Hallowed Be Thy Name.

Saturday | Day 7

...the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Revelation 4:10-11

## reflect

Jesus Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit created all things, and by his will they exist. What does this mean to you?

## respond

In what ordinary ways can you give God glory, honor and power in your life?

Lift to God that which is on your heart today.

## pray