



## **Seven Days of United Prayer**

A global prayer initiative for the EMC in 2017

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Thank you for making the commitment to become a more intentional intercessor in prayer. The Holy Spirit is calling us to pray, just as he has always done. Our privilege, and responsibility is to respond so that we may experience personal renewal, corporate revival, and a global harvest of souls.

### **Prayer is the seed-bed and incubator for revival.**

“... if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 nlt

**The EMC is encouraging a world-wide answer to God’s call to prayer ... a commitment to intentional, focused intercession for 7 days that culminate on Palm Sunday 2017.**

**Two prayer themes for these days: Engaging in Spiritual Warfare, and the Lord’s Prayer**

During Seven Days of United Prayer 2017, we will be walking devotionally through some of the closing thoughts in Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesian church. He encourages us to be equipped for the spiritual battle that rages around us, putting on the armor of God to protect ourselves, and also to take ground for Christ through the use of His powerful Word, and through devoted prayer.

Then, as a template or structure for an hour of intentional prayer, we will be praying through what is often called the Lord’s Prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4.

Jesus’ life was totally saturated in prayer. In daily fellowship with God, He found strength, comfort, power, and joy. In what seems an evident pattern, often His early morning hours were spent in intentional communion with His Father, worshipping and seeking guidance for the day.

The disciples were impressed by Jesus’ habit of prayer and asked Him to teach them to pray. In answer, He encouraged the pattern of prayer He had given in the Sermon on the Mount. There is so much more to this simple prayer than we at first understand.

Followed as a guideline (rather than simply recited as a ritual), it turns our attention away from ourselves, and properly focuses us on our Father God. As we align ourselves with Him and His kingdom and will, we can then ask him to meet our needs, both corporately and individually.

# Day One

## “Into the Spiritual Battle”



**Ephesians 6:10-11** - “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

Life is a struggle, both spiritual (within) and physical, and if we hope to be victorious, we must equip ourselves with the armor of God. Every battle has two aspects – offensive (on the attack) and defensive (defending from an attack). God has provided us with equipment for all the battles we will face. The Apostle Paul described our “equipment” using the analogy of what a soldier of his day would have worn. He described God’s equipment as “The full armor of God.” His armor includes:

1. A Belt (Truth);
2. A Breastplate (Righteousness);
3. Steady Shoes (Sharing the good news);
4. A Shield (Faith);
5. A Helmet (Salvation);
- and 6. A Sword (The Word of God in the Spirit’s power).

God offers us protection from head to toe. Successful Christian living requires us to be fully prepared and fully protected. Our lives depend on it. We must know what we are doing. We cannot stand around and hope ... no, we must be prepared to defend, to charge, and to win. As we enter these 7 Days of Prayer let us remember that we are God’s servants, and His power is great, so if we are fully prepared and fully believing, we will experience real victories as a result of these days of devoted prayer. May God bless you in this special time of going into the battle with Him!

### Suggested format for united prayer

*“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)*

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13)*

The model of the Lord’s prayer reminds us to focus on who God is (sovereign, holy, and powerful), and who we are (needy, sinful, and targeted) rather than to just think prayer is giving over a list of requests to a heavenly dispensary. Prayer is aligning our will and life to God. When we do so, we can intercede with the confidence ... HIS “will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

The acronym A.C.T.S. forms an easy way to remember key elements of prayer. Four steps ...

#### **Adoration**

#### **Confession**

#### **Thanksgiving**

#### **Supplication and Intercession**

For each of the seven days of prayer, we encourage the same approach for ADORATION, CONFESSION, AND THANKSGIVING. Then each of the seven days prayer guide will encourage a unique set of SUPPLICATIONS or requests as we seek God for revival and global evangelization.

# Day One - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

## Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Begin your prayer time by praising God just for who He is (His character) and for all He has done.
- Take time to joyfully worship God, and praise Him for teaching us to pray more effectively.

## Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- Certainly confess any known sin, but also take time to ask God to reveal any attitudes or actions in your life that may be hindering your relationship with Him or with others; then take time to silently listen for His answer. Ask His forgiveness and joyfully accept His mercy.
- You may feel the need to confess a lack of prayer (both personal and corporate), asking God to forgive the failure to commune with Him in prayer and intercession. Old Testament Samuel equated a failure to pray with sin ... "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23).

## Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- Rejoice that God hears and answers our prayers. (Jeremiah 33:2-3)
- Take an adequate time to thank Him for specific blessings, graces, and answers to prayer in your own life.

## Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- Pray for a passion for prayer, a conviction of how much we need to pray, and a realization of the power available to us through prayer.
- Pray for prayer groups to spring up everywhere. Ask God how to have more prayer in your church.
- Pray that we will learn to pray for God's guidance before making plans.
- Ask God to bring five people to your mind out of your own circles of influence that you can consistently pray for during these days and beyond.
- Pray for other requests that are on your heart.
- Pray for the spread of the gospel around the world, and for a global harvest of souls ... For the true church of Jesus Christ to swell with new disciples from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

## Day Two “Defensive Posture”



**Ephesians 6:13** – “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

As we examine Ephesians 6:10-20, we see very quickly that a key word in this passage is “stand.” In keeping with the military theme, the word Paul uses refers to holding a critical position while under attack. It is a posture of defense. Holding our position. Keeping the enemy out. Protecting territory.

This is very much the posture of the Believer when waging the spiritual war we find ourselves. We must protect ourselves from the enemy. We don’t allow him to gain ground in our minds, by holding every thought in captivity (2 Corinthians 10). We are diligent in protecting the vineyard from little foxes who can ruin it (Song of Solomon 2:15). We must “be on our guard” by “standing firm” in our faith (1 Corinthians 16:13). We have to be alert and sober-minded so that we can spot the enemy, a roaring lion looking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8).

Perhaps you feel as though you have been losing when it comes to defending your territory from the enemy. There is good news! God has provided armor, His armor, to protect you.

### Suggested format for united prayer

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## Day Two - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

### Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Begin your prayer time by worshipping God for His bountiful grace and mercy.
- Meditate on what it means to "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." (Psalm 96:9)

### Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- Let us confess our need for the victory over sin that the work of Christ made possible. Paul writes, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ... For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." (Romans 6:12, 14)
- In Charles Wesley's hymn, "O for a thousand tongues," he writes, "He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free ..." Augustus Toplady in "Rock of Ages" says it this way, "... Be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure." The work of the cross not only makes forgiveness possible, it breaks the addictive power of sin. Let us confess our need to fully appropriate the power of the cross.

### Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- Honor the Lord with a thankful heart for relationships - family, friends, work and/or school peers.
- "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ... and be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

### Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- Continue to pray for a deeper passion for prayer. Renowned intercessor Rees Howells believed that one of the greatest answers to prayer was more prayer.
- Pray for physical and mental healing over your church and family members.
- Continue in prayer for the five people you asked the Lord for a burden of prayer for. Spend adequate time lifting each one of them to the Lord by name and by need (as best you know them.)
- Pray for other requests that are on your heart.
- Pray specifically for the ongoing work of the EMC around the world. Jesus said that we would be witnesses in Jerusalem (our home), Judea (our region), Samaria (cross-culturally), and to the uttermost parts of the world. We began on day one praying for the church universal around the world, continue today by praying for the work of the EMC in those parts of the world farthest from your home. Pray for churches, pastors, and believers in Africa, the Philippines, Myanmar, Mexico, Europe, Canada, and the United States of America.

# Day Three

## “Defensive Armor”



**Ephesians 6:14-17** – “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We are encouraged to take up the whole armor of God. Armor is for protection. God provides defensive armor to help protect us from the spiritual enemy.

**The Breastplate of Righteousness** - a tough piece of armor covering everything except a soldier’s head and limbs, protecting his heart, lungs, intestines and vital organs. Paul is describing our spiritual protection against the enemy's attempt to undermine pure living and replacing it with immorality, greed, envy, hate, and every other sin. Righteousness is taken up and is our protection for our whole being, just as ancient soldiers covered themselves with armor breastplates.

**The Shield of Faith** - The kind of shield Paul refers to here was about two-and-a-half feet wide and high, and was designed to protect the entire body of the soldier. The faith Paul is speaking of is faith in God and not the practical, everyday faith we live by. The Christian Faith is powerful because the object of our faith is Jesus Christ, the all-powerful One. Our faith never fails because the One in who we place our faith never fails.

**The Helmet of Salvation** - A soldier would never enter battle without his helmet, made of heavily molded metal with cheek plates to protect his face. The armor is being picked up by Believers so this is not speaking of receiving Christ as our Savior. But instead, it is dealing with protecting us from the enemy’s attacks of doubt and discouragement. Our helmet of salvation protects us from doubts of God’s provision, His promises, and His power in our lives. It protects us from discouragement of failures, poor health, or anything else negative in our life. We are protected in battle knowing that our salvation is sure, no matter what is going on around us or how we may feel.

### Suggested format for united prayer

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**Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication and Intercession**

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## Day Three - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

### Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Read a worship Psalm out loud to the Lord in praise. (Consider one of Psalms 95-101)
- Play a favorite worship song, sing one yourself, or think through a favorite song or hymn, and spend time worshipping the Lord through the lyrics.

Suggestions might be Matt Redman's, "Heart of Worship" or "10,000 reasons"; or Stuart Townend's, "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"; or Charles Wesley's, "And Can it Be?"; or Isaac Watts', "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"; or Martin Luther's, "A Mighty Fortress is our God"; or Fanny Crosby's, "To God be the Glory."

### Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- Jesus said, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 30-31) Walk through an examination of conscience with these commands in mind, and then spend time confessing whatever shortcomings the Lord impresses upon you.

### Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4)

### Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- Seek for a passion for prayer that will far outlast these 7 days. Ask for creativity and inspiration ... ideas for how to kindle new circles of prayer in your church or community.
- Pray for national, state, and local leaders.
- Continue in prayer for the five people in your close circle of influence.
- Pray earnestly for the work of the EMC in other cultures, tribes and languages. Jesus said that we would be witnesses in Jerusalem (our home), Judea (our region), Samaria (cross-culturally), and to the uttermost parts of the world. On day one, we prayed for the church universal, and day two we focused on the the global EMC. Today, pray for the cross-cultural ministries in and out of your home country ... efforts to reach people of different languages and tribes. For example, pray for Spanish-speaking churches in the US; for European outreaches by our Congolese churches in London and Paris; and for tribal missions outreaches in Paletwa in Myanmar.

## Day Four “Offensive Posture”



**Ephesians 6:10** – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

We have already established that the key word “stand,” that Paul uses four times in our passage is referring to defense. It means that we are to hold a critical position while under attack. But if we look more closely at the armor that God provides for us, we see something interesting. Not all of the armor is for defense. Some is for offense. Much like natural military forces in a battle, not only is there a defensive strategy, there must be an offensive component too. If a nation is to win the battle against their enemies, they must protect their territory and they must take territory.

We can look at sports as an example as well. In order for a team to win, they must not only protect their goal and do their best to keep the other team from scoring, but they must play offense and score too. And the posture of each side is different too. The defense usually has their back to the goal and are pushing away or blocking. They are trying to keep the other team from advancing. In contrast, the offense is moving forward, pushing and gaining ground, trying to score points against the defense that is fighting them.

Many Believers are good at “playing defense”. They protect. They guard against. They hold captive. But sadly, they never experience the joy of defeating our spiritual foe by taking ground away from him. They never experience the pure joy, of seeing others rescued from his deceit. They never experience the victory of knowing that they have gained ground in their faith.

God provides for us defensive armor to protect us, but He has also provided offensive weapons to be used against the devil.

### Suggested format for united prayer

*“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)*

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The model of the Lords prayer reminds us to focus on who God is (sovereign, holy, and powerful), and who we are (needy, sinful, and targeted) rather than to just think prayer is giving over a list of requests to a heavenly dispensary. Prayer is aligning our will and life to God. When we do so, we can intercede with the confidence ... HIS “will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

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## Day Four - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

### Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Read a different worship Psalm out loud to the Lord in praise. (Psalms 95-101)
- "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together." (Psalm 34:3) How do WE magnify the Lord. We cannot make Him larger, nor more attractive. But we can enlarge our view of Him, by meditating on who He is ... His character, His work, and His way.

### Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- Pray your way through Psalm 51, King David's great prayer of repentance. "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (vss 2, 10)

### Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- Mentally recount your own faith story, remembering large and small ways the Lord reached out to you through someone's kindness, or miraculously provided for, or protected you on your way to Him.

### Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- Continue to ask for a kindling of prayer in your life, and the life of your family, friends, and church.
- Pray for your pastor, and the leaders of your church. Pray for wisdom and insight for each of them. Pray for their success and protection. Pray for Christ to increase in their lives, and for each of them to decrease. Pray for evil to be kept far from them, and for a hedge of protection around them so high, thick, and deep that the enemy cannot even find them.
- Pray for school administrators, teachers, and students.
- Pray for a birth of true righteousness in government. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12)
- Continue to pray for the five people you have been burdened for.
- Pray for the work of the EMC in your own country. Pray for every pastor and church. Pray for revival, and for new believers. Pray for churches to be planted, and lives to be changed. Jesus said that we would be witnesses in Jerusalem (our home), Judea (our region), Samaria (cross-culturally), and to the uttermost parts of the world. On day one, we prayed for the church universal, and on day two we focused on the the global EMC. On day three, we prayed for cross-cultural efforts. Today, pray for your "Judea" ... your home country.

# Day Five

## “Offensive Armor”



**Ephesians 6:14-17** – “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We are encouraged to take up the whole armor of God. God provides offensive weapons as part of our armor in battling our spiritual enemy.

**The Belt of Truth** - The belt was what the soldier tucked their tunic into in order that it would not encumber them in battle. This Belt of Truth demonstrates the believer's readiness for war and stands for truth. The Greek word translated "truth" basically refers to the content of that which is true. Knowing the content of God's truth is absolutely essential for the believer if he is to battle successfully against the schemes of Satan.

**The Shoes of the Gospel** - A good pair of boots allowed the soldier to march, climb, fight and do whatever was necessary while in battle. These shoes of the Gospel of peace are fitted with readiness. Christ instructed that we be ready to share the Gospel of peace with others. The enemy is trying to keep us from sharing the Gospel. We have been given shoes that allow us to carry that peace with God to others.

**The Sword of the Spirit** - The sword was carried by Roman foot soldiers in a sheath and was attached to their belt always ready to use. It was the principal weapon in hand-to-hand combat. Paul describes this Sword of the Spirit as the Word of God. This sword is both a defensive weapon used to deflect the blows of the enemy and also an offensive weapon used to attack the enemy. It is the primary weapon that Jesus used against the devil when he was being tempted in the wilderness. Jesus used Scripture specifically to counter the temptations of the devil. We must know the Word of God in order to use it to protect and attack our spiritual enemy, the devil.

### Suggested format for united prayer

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## Day Five - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

### Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Ponder the character and beauty of God that is conveyed through a survey of some of the names ascribed to Him in the Old Testament.

*El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty), El Elyon (The Most High God), Adonai (Lord, Master), Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah), Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner), Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd), Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals), Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There), Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness), Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You), El Olam (The Everlasting God), Elohim (God), Qanna (Jealous), Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide), Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace), Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts).*

### Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- John the Baptist confessed, "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." ... "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 1:27 and 3:30)
- Think through the kinds of things that need to decrease in your life, so that Christ might increase. Confess those things and make plans to re-evaluate or re-order your priorities.

### Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- The Apostle Paul gave this instruction ... "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Give thanks today for both good things and bad.

### Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- As you near the end of the seven days, ask for a passion for ongoing prayer in your life.
- Pray for true revival to be poured out on believers, and churches across the body of Christ.
- Pray for friends, and family. Pray for those things that are closest to your heart, asking for God's perfect will to be done in every situation.
- Continue to pray for the five people you have been burdened for.
- Jesus said that we would be witnesses in Jerusalem (our home), Judea (our region), Samaria (cross-culturally), and to the uttermost parts of the world. On day one, we prayed for the church universal, and on day two we focused on the the global EMC. On day three, we prayed for cross-cultural efforts. Then on day four, we, prayed for our "Judea" or home country. Today, we begin to pray for our Jerusalem or close circle. Pray for your region, district, or section of churches in the EMC, and specifically and earnestly for your local church.



# Days Six and Seven - Suggested format for united prayer

continued

## Adoration (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"*

- Ponder the majesty and glory of Christ that is conveyed through a survey of some of the names and descriptions of Him in the New Testament.

*The Lamb of God, the Only Begotten Son, the Bread of Life, the Word, the Door, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Vine, Our Peace, the Chief Corner Stone, the Head of the Church, our Mediator, the Captain of our Salvation, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, the Great Shepherd, the Daystar, the First Begotten of the Father, the Alpha and Omega, the Faithful and True Witness, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Bright and Morning Star.*

## Confession (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- On these days, return to the basics of the discipline of confession. After a prayerful examination of conscience, confess any known sin, as well as any attitudes or actions in your life that may be hindering your relationship with God. Ask for His gracious forgiveness, and then joyfully accept His mercy and forgiveness. He is a gracious beyond and merciful, and eager to forgive confessed sin.

## Thanksgiving (Approx. 10 minutes)

*"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

- We will never be able to adequately thank God for His amazing provisions to us. Continue to practice the discipline of being thankful TO God before ever asking anything FROM God.

## Supplication and Intercession (Approx. 30 minutes)

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ... Give us this day ... and do no lead us into temptation, but deliver us ..."*

- The end of these seven days should not be the end of your prayer time. Pray for God to give you a deep hunger for an ongoing discipline of prayer.
- Pray for new believers in all of our churches this coming weekend. Pray for the five people you have been consistently lifting up, and that each of them would one day be saved.
- Continue to pray for your community, your friends, and your family. Pray for the person you know that needs God the most, and for the one who thinks they need Him the least.
- Jesus said that we would be witnesses in Jerusalem (our home), Judea (our region), Samaria (cross-culturally), and to the uttermost parts of the world. On day one, we prayed for the church universal, and on day two we focused on the the global EMC. On day three, we prayed for cross-cultural efforts, and then on day four, we, prayed for our "Judea" or home country. On day five, we prayed for our region, district, or section of churches. These last two days of the seven, pray for your family, and for your own personal discipleship. Ask God to make you a winsome witness and an effective disciple. Pray for God to share with you what you can do right in your own family, or your own church, or your own community to make a significant impact for Him.



## Seven Days of United Prayer Suggestions

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It is our great hope that during these days in April of 2017, every believer and every church will truly experience wave after wave of revival and spiritual growth. In preparation for this week, seek to unlock creativity regarding your church's specific response. If you have a prayer ministry leader, invite them into a brain-storming process as to what kinds of corporate meetings you might plan to organize as kick-off, week-long, or culminating events. If you don't have a formal prayer leader, host a meeting of other key leaders (EMW or EMM leaders, Board of Stewards chairpersons, etc.) to discuss and plan your involvement.

### General Suggestions:

**PRAYING IN AGREEMENT:** When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together; this is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed about the request that no one else needs to. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 18:19, KJV). How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer!

**FASTING:** Invite those joining you in Seven Days of Prayer to consider some type of fasting, such as fasting from TV, secular music, movies, the Internet, or sweets. Use the extra time to pray and study the Bible, asking God to reveal Himself to you and your congregation.

**PRAY SCRIPTURE:** Reading or praying a short portion of Scripture is a wonderful way to ensure you are praying God's will. Praying God's promises back to Him is an incredible faith builder. God loves for us to pray His Word in expressions of praise or promise. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). You'll be amazed at how long a group can pray and enjoy it!

**SENTENCE PRAYERS:** Prayers should be short and to the point. This gives others an opportunity to pray as well. Try to limit your prayers to a few sentences. Each person can pray multiple times. Short sentence prayers keep the prayer time interesting and allow the Holy Spirit to impress the group how to pray. You don't need to open and close each short sentence prayer with phrases such as "Dear God" and "Amen." It is an ongoing conversation with God.

**SILENCE:** As a leader, don't dominate public prayer times. The goal is to get others praying. Times of silence are wonderful, as they give God time to speak to our hearts. Allow the Holy Spirit to work and give everyone time to pray.

**SINGING:** Spontaneous group songs, mingled between prayers, add beauty to a prayer meeting. Appropriate songs are listed at the end of each daily leader's guide. Do not feel that you need to use all the songs; these are simply suggestions. Singing is also a good way to transition from one prayer section to another.