

GROWING YOUNG ADVENTISTS

PRAYER GUIDE

2018



We invite you to a personal season of prayer as we aspire to grow the vitality and vibrancy of our church. The desire to reach all generations, younger and older, cannot be accomplished by good aspirations, but by the power and might of the Trinity, in prayer. Let's spend the next seven days in conversation with Christ, asking for the Holy Spirit to bring this Scripture to fruition:

"IN THE LAST DAYS, GOD SAYS, I WILL POUR MY SPIRIT ON EVERYONE. YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL SPEAK WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED. YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS. YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS. IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR MY SPIRIT ON MY SERVANTS, ON BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. THEY WILL SPEAK WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED."

—ACTS 2:17-18 [GW]

We're praying for all our young people—children through young adults—and for those with whom God has trusted them, our parents through senior adults.

It is the heartfelt desire of our whole church to unleash the spiritual passion of young people, empower the ministry legacy of the faithful and the wise—All for the sake of GOD's glory in our generation.

To augment our week of prayer, you can also sign up to receive daily reminders from Fuller Youth Institute: <https://goo.gl/pgW9Lq>

**The #GYA Prayer Guide is adapted from the Fuller Youth Institute's Praying Young email series.*



#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY ONE: DREAM

Dreams may die, but they also come back to life.

We all have incredible dreams when we are younger, but as time passes, so do the dreams. We get busy, reoriented in new directions, face challenges, and even quit.

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But when a dream is a God sized dream, it doesn't leave, no matter the years that pass. God is still at work in us, in the church, no matter the trying journey. His dreams for us never die, He is ever working, just as Paul writes, "He who began a good work in you will complete it on the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). Are you ready to dream again?

DREAM

What is your biggest dream for our church?

What would you fearlessly ask the Lord for if you knew that anything was possible?

Will you trust Him with that dream? Will you invite GOD to help you dream bigger?

In our church, we believe in high hopes and big dreams. And we've seen with our own eyes what GOD has done and is doing among His people, in His church.



LET US APPROACH
THE THRONE OF
GRACE WITH
CONFIDENCE

HEBREWS 4:16

TOGETHER. DREAM.



#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY TWO: BROKENHEARTED

Church can be messy.

We've all experienced the unfortunate interaction of well-intentioned hearts and tainted human nature. Sometimes it tears congregations apart.

Here in our church, we're passionate about broken hearts. We know that while many young people appear hostile to faith and the church, the truth is that they wrestle with questions of identity, belonging, and purpose. Just like we did, and like we often still do through adulthood.

And all too often, the answers they find leave them brokenhearted.

BROKENHEARTED

How might the term brokenhearted change our perspective on those hardest for us to love?

How might it change our understanding of what it means to be a young person in need of a faith community?

For us, it makes all the difference.

Because even if we struggle to be close to those who are hurting, God is close to them. Psalm 34 reminds us, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"

—Psalm 34:18 [NIV]

Pray for the brokenhearted today. Pray that our church would become a place of healing for broken hearts, young and old.



THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, THE ETERNAL, IS ON ME. THE LORD HAS APPOINTED ME FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE. HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO REPAIR BROKEN HEARTS, AND TO DECLARE TO THOSE WHO ARE HELD CAPTIVE AND BOUND IN PRISON, "BE FREE FROM YOUR IMPRISONMENT!"

—ISAIAH 61:1 [VOICE]



We've all lost friends.

By a thoughtless word, a careless act, or a moment of fury, relationships crumble on our watch. Then, our inability to reconcile offenses can turn what was once a warm interaction into a distant memory.

Our relational strife has also seeped into our congregations. As we know all too well, the history of the global church is fraught with division.

It would not be too bold to believe that Jesus saw this coming. When he prayed for us, he asked that we would be one, just as God is one.

ONE

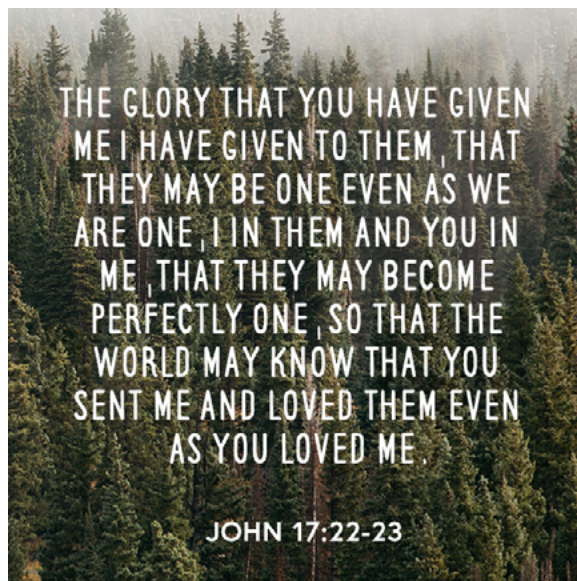
Elementary, singular, and yet miraculously dynamic, this is the God we serve.

As we pray for oneness, we ask for healing in our own congregation.

We pray for reconciliation between neighborhoods, cities, nations, and peoples.

We pray that the stacking of hands for the sake of today's young people will reflect the vibrant oneness of our triune God.

May we be one in heart and spirit.





#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY FOUR: GIFTS

Gifts are God's grace manifest in the kingdom.

We do not earn them. We do not deserve them. They are provided by the Spirit for the building of His church.

Have you ever found yourself thinking of gifts in a very different way? Perhaps you feel that certain gifts are lacking in our congregation. Or, your friend's church seems to be bursting at the seams with gifts, while ours experiences gift-poverty.

There is nothing easy about understanding gifts and how or why we receive them. Often, the seemingly uneven distribution of gifts feels unfair.

In the overview of churches, there are ones immensely gifted—but maybe not in the way you would expect. In churches there is a wide range of diversity in financial and human resources. Some are richer, others poorer. Some are large, others small. In churches, there is an array of gifts in action, just as God has promised. We're tempted sometimes to focus on the gift, however may there be merit rather to give attention to the Giver and the gifted?

GIFTS

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” –Romans 12:4-6a [NIV]

If you find yourself doubting the ability of our own congregation to engage young people, you are not alone. Not every believer receives the same gifts. Not every church exhibits the same strengths. But today speak thanks to God for those gifts present in your church, and what can be accomplished.

What we know, though, is that the Lord of the harvest provides for us in this endeavor. We can ask our God for what we need. Pray for gifts not yet, and ones on the way. Pray for a receptive heart for the gifts that look strange to diverse generations, and ask the Lord to magnify them for His glory.





#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY FIVE: GENERATION

Generations are powerful conduits.

In an oral tradition of storytelling, each generation is given the task of passing on vital cultural truths. These tales keep alive the identity of a nation, even as older generations pass away. Listen to the mighty power through generations,

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” –Psalm 145:3-4 [NIV]

But what about today? Information is disseminated through channels so efficient, they do not require the physical presence of another person. Knowledge and wisdom have been severed from relationships. Questions are answered in the privacy of personal electronics. Relationally disconnected and disengaged, we’ve lost sight of the value of intergenerational friendships. Instead, each era claims its identifying—and often isolating—traits.

And yet, we know this is not the way it’s supposed to be. We are bothered by the silos of age and life stage. We eschew virtual reality as not reality. We dream of deeper connections. We hunger for meaningful relationships.

In our church, we hold dear the meaning and potential of intergenerational relationships. We believe that every generation brings value to the church. And we know that young people—who often struggling to find their voice—are vital to the church.

GENERATION

So, as we allow the word generation to rest heavily on our hearts, let’s pray for all generations.

Let’s pray for healing that revives the relationships between young and old.

Let’s pray for a deep desire to understand one another.

Let’s pray for courage that overcomes generational rifts.

Let’s pray that the church will lead our world of silos into a harmony it has never experienced before.



ONE GENERATION
COMMENDS YOUR
WORKS TO ANOTHER

PSALM 145:4



#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY SIX: UNLESS

Who's presence do we really need?

Some things easily get skewed. As we think about growing our church—missionally, emotionally, spiritually, and numerically—it's easy for us to strap on our work boots and try to pull this off on our own or simply get things moving.

Do you have a streak of independence in you as well? We all understand. Especially for adults—as members, ministers, and church leaders—we turn quickly to statistics, methodology, proven strategies and action plans.

UNLESS

Before we jump into action, we are reminded to set our perspectives in context. Through out our endeavors let's be inspired by Psalm 127:1 which says,

“Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.”

Let us be humbled by these words as we pray through them. We hope you too will pray through them. May the Lord build a true home in our congregation as He pleases.

Start by praying for your personal home, i.e. your heart and your family. Is Jesus running that? Then, pray for your church members and leaders, that their lives would be in turn be connected to Christ. Finally, pray for young people God rests on your heart, to submit their lives to Christ.





#GYA SEASON OF PRAYER DAY SEVEN: ALWAYS

Always means always.

We have prayed over these words during our season of prayer:

DREAM: With confidence in God, we can dream God-sized dreams.

BROKENHEARTED: We long to be close to the brokenhearted, just as God is.

ONE: We seek to experience the church as one.

GIFTS: We trust that God will abundantly provide and use the gifts of young and old in our communities.

GENERATION: We root for this generation of young people, and all who go before them.

UNLESS: We know we labor in vain unless the Lord builds our ministry house.

As we conclude this week of prayer, know that it is God's intent that our prayers never end. He delights in our relationship with Him and our reliance on Him for all things. May this week of prayer lead into another, and yet another.

ALWAYS

God's will for us is to continually rely on Jesus through thick and thin.

We hope that you will continue praying through the journey ahead. As we endeavor to grow young, may we be encouraged by what God has already done, be eager to join God in what He is doing, and be inspired by the work that God will do in and through us.

Pray for an always kind of persistence in your life, that going forward your life would emulate always leading young and old to Jesus. Next, pray for persistence in your church's efforts, don't give up, always look to Jesus. Always.



“CELEBRATE ALWAYS, PRAY CONSTANTLY, AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD NO MATTER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES YOU FIND YOURSELF IN. (THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR ALL OF YOU IN JESUS THE ANOINTED.)”

—1THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 [VOICE]



#GrowingYoungAdventists is part of an array of resources from
Young Adult Life helping us love next generations well.

YoungAdultLife.com