

A REASON FOR COURAGE

PRAISE & PRAYER SESSION

INTRODUCTION

God calls us to come to Him in prayer.

He wants our praises and petitions.

He listens to the concerns of our hearts.

He invites us to pray.

- “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall **ask**, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:19, 20, KJV).
- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your **requests** to God” (Philippians 4:6, NIV).
- Continue earnestly in **prayer**, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2, NKJV).
- If you believe, you will receive whatever you **ask** for in prayer” (Matthew 21:22, NIV).
- **Ask** and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7, 8, NKJV).
- “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we **ask** anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14, NIV).

WELCOMING THE LORD

Pray out loud in unison:

A psalm of David.

"I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;
hear me when I call to you.

May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:1-2,
NIV).

Light a candle. (optional)

Recite out loud in unison:

I invite you into this place, Lord, to receive my praise and thanksgiving and to hear my prayers. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14, NKJV).

SINGING PRAISES

Now, dear Lord, as we pray,
take our hearts and minds far away
from the press of the world all around
to your throne where grace does abound.
May our lives be transformed by Your love,
may our souls be refreshed from above.
At this moment, let people everywhere
join us now as we come to You in prayer.

[SDA HYMNAL 671 - Now Dear Lord as We Pray]

WELCOMING THE WORD

Take turns reading each verse out loud.

The Proclamations of Three Angels (Revelation 14:6-13, NKJV)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon^[a] is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

¹² Here is the ^[b]patience of the saints; here^[c] are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying ^[d]to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' "

"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

PRAYING TOGETHER

Instead of each one praying a long prayer moving from person to person, have each one pray only two or three sentences at a time.

- Short, spontaneous prayers don't allow listeners time to lose concentration. And the Holy Spirit is given time to impress each one with what He is guiding hearts to pray. Also try popcorn sentence prayers, which is the spontaneous sequence of whomever wants to pray.
- God loves for us to read His word back to Him in expressions of praise and promises.
 - "O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you" (1 Chronicles 17:20, NKJV).
 - "And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father" (1 Kings 8:26, NKJV).
 - "Arise, O LORD! Do not let mere mortals defy you!" (Psalm 9:19, NLT).

- Also, during the prayer time do not be afraid to recite a verse of scripture or sing a chorus or song with the group joining in. You'll be amazed at how long a group can enjoy praying together. It is a beautiful experience!
 - "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, NKJV).
 - "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 89:1, NKJV)
 - "Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147:7, NKJV).

PRAYERS FOR...

1. COURAGE TO BELIEVE

- "Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, NIV).
- "Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just **believe**" (Mark 5:36, NIV).
- "Then they **believed** in his promises and sang his praise" (Psalm 106:12, NIV).
- "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24, NIV).

Group Discussion and Prayer: *How can we respond to God's desire for us to be prepared for the remarkable events He is preparing for our world? How can we keep our faith? How do we have assurance that our salvation is in Jesus? What is the best way to share what we believe?*

–Pray at the end of the discussion time.

2. COURAGE TO CHOOSE

- "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So **choose** life in order, that you may live, you and your descendants" (Deuteronomy 30:19, NASB).

- **“Choose** for yourselves this day whom you will serve But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15, NKJV).
- “You did not **choose** me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name” (John 15:16, NKJV).

Group Discussion and Prayer: *What kinds of influences impact our life that could be spiritually compromising and eternally dangerous? How can we choose life in the middle of so many distractions? How can we keep our eyes on Jesus? What the best way to influence people to choose Jesus? What does it mean to you that Jesus has already chosen you?*

–Pray at the end of the discussion time.

3. COURAGE TO STAND

- “Be on guard. **Stand firm** in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13, NLT).
- “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm**. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV).
- “Resist him, **standing firm** in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:9, NIV).
- “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who **stands firm** to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22, NIV).

Group Discussion and Prayer: *How can we openly express our loyalty to our Creator, and what helps us to refuse to identify in any way with the enemy of our soul? How can we stand firm till the end?*

–Pray at the end of the discussion time.

“I WILL GO” AND TELL

COMMITMENT SONG

I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above
Of Jesus and his glory
Of Jesus and his love

I love to tell the story
Because I know 'tis true
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love
[SDA HYMNAL 457 - I Love to Tell the Story]

COMMITMENT PRAYER

“May the God of hope fill [us] with all joy and peace as [we] trust in him, so that [we] may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13, NIV). Lord, give us Courage to Believe, Courage to Choose, and Courage to Stand until the end, even as we GO and REACH MY WORLD for Jesus. Amen.

Women’s prayer stations ideas:

You can set up three stations, or prayer areas for: *Believe, Choose, Stand*. Throughout the program you can encourage women to participate in these separate prayer areas. Give some focus on living righteously today as well as courageously sharing the three angels’ messages and faithfully worshipping God throughout the last days.

You may provide verses written above (and many others not included) as prayer prompts. As appropriate for the theme, consider prayer prompts using with song lyrics, as well as quotations from Ellen G. White. Verbal silence, soft lighting, and worship music played softly in the background also enhance the personal experience at prayer stations.