

# Seven-Day Prayer Card based on Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation

## A Seven-Day Cycle of Prayer

*Based on the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations*

**Living God, we give you thanks and praise for the new things you are doing among us...**

<b>Sunday</b>	for the transforming presence of Christ
<b>Monday</b>	for your call to follow the way of Jesus
<b>Tuesday</b>	for the gift of your Word made flesh
<b>Wednesday</b>	for the good news of your holy realm
<b>Thursday</b>	for Jesus' example of humble service
<b>Friday</b>	for your great love for all the world
<b>Saturday</b>	for our common ministry in Jesus' name

*Other joys and thanksgivings may be added.*

**Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord ...**

<b>Sunday</b>	proclaiming the good news of salvation
<b>Monday</b>	growing in the image of Christ
<b>Tuesday</b>	offering your grace to others
<b>Wednesday</b>	sharing the hope that is within us
<b>Thursday</b>	loving and serving one another
<b>Friday</b>	extending your compassion to all
<b>Saturday</b>	building up the body of Christ

*Other concerns and petitions may be added.*

**Living God, in the great mystery of our faith receive us each night and revive us each day, that we may be dead to sin and alive to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SUN = Spirit-filled worship; MON = Lifelong discipleship; TUE = Outward incarnational focus; WED = Intentional authentic evangelism; THU = Servant-leader development; FRI = Caring relationships; SAT = Ecclesial health

## 2

### **Intentional Authentic Evangelism vs.** *“Jesus freaks”; “Christian” hypocrisy; a committee responsibility*

Evangelism is simply sharing the Good News. It is authentic and it is intentional, not merely expressions of kindness or good moral ethics. We all have Good News to share in our lives; it is a part of our identity. And when we share this news, it is with intentionality and with people with whom we have relationships. We don't have to be trained to share the good news of a new job, baby or puppy! We simply share what is beautiful and dear to us. Therefore, evangelism must be connected to lifelong Christian formation. It is through intentional spiritual practices in the faith community that we meld God's story with our story, and we share that story with people in our daily lives.

#### **A. Biblical References:**

John 4:1–41; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Galatians 2:19b–20; Mark 4:1–20; 1 Peter 3:13–22; Matthew 4:19–20; Psalm 96; John 3:11–21; Romans 10:1–17

#### **B. Objectives:**

- To recognize that all disciples are called to Evangelism, not just committees and leaders; it is an authentic part of their life
- To empower and equip all people to enter relationships unashamed and unafraid to share the Good News
- The church recognizes that evangelism should be need-based (meets needs of un-churched/de-churched)
- The church develops practices for people to share their story and give witness to Good News in their lives

#### **C. Potential Outcomes**

- Hospitality is not viewed as a substitute for evangelism
- Evangelism is viewed as a way of life, not as a program or function of a few
- The mission focuses on sharing the Good News
- The people of God meld and claim God's story within their lives; living unafraid to share it
- Develop authentic relationships founded in Christ; image of Christ is shared

#### **D. Reflection Questions:**

- When did the news of Christ become Good News in your life?
- Does your church authentically allow individuals to come as they are, with their particular stories, and hear the Good News? Why or why not?
- In your church, how do people share their stories and connect it to the Story of God's redeeming love?

- How is your congregation equipped, empowered, and encouraged to intentionally share the Good News in daily life?
- Do you have an evangelism committee? If so, what are they tasked to do? How do you practice sharing the good news vs. growing membership?
- What keeps us from sharing the Good News in our daily relationships?
- Can we call it “Good News” if we do not share it in our authentic relationships?
- Name a time when sharing the Good News was good for someone who needed to hear it.

## 3

### **Outward Incarnational Focus vs.** *inward institutional survival; closed communities of assimilation/exclusion*

If discipleship formation is about learning/ understanding/living the Good News, and authentic evangelism is about intentionally sharing the Good News in relationships, then outward incarnation is about not limiting where and to whom we share the Good News. Outward incarnational focus is about being the gathered community of Christ sent out! We go not because we have a strategy for new membership; we go because we have a Savior who commanded us to be on God's mission. We go because God's saving love in Christ, cannot be inwardly contained in our buildings when we live with neighbors in need and a hurting world. The Good News is meant to transform and transcend. The church is meant to be a beacon of Christ's grace, justice, freedom, and love. Outward incarnational focus means we daily take up our cross and follow to the marginalized of society, the poor among us, the suffering and sick, the stranger and enemy, the down-trodden and “the least of these.” We do not just focus on bringing similar or like-minded people inside to assimilate to our way of doing things; nor do we just go to people and places that are familiar and comfortable. Outward incarnational focus, requires an emboldened faith, that goes because Christ is already present, and calls us to join.

#### **A. Biblical References:**

Matthew 25:31–46; Romans 12:1–21; Matthew 7:14; Luke 19:1–10; Matthew 8:18–23; Luke 6:27–36; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Luke 9:1–6, 23–27; Luke 10:1–12

#### **B. Objectives:**

- Conduct community analysis to ascertain the needs, fears, hopes, and pressure points in the community, so that the church's ministry and mission can address them.
- The church practices genuine hospitality (more than being warm and friendly, it is about attempting to