



Purpose: To challenge the Youth Alive club to be more effective in prayer, discuss prayer, be challenged to pray, and spend time in prayer for your school and pre-Christian friends.

## INCLUDE (WEEK 1) SMALL GROUPS—PRAYER

Purpose: To make every student feel a part of the club and to discuss the issue of prayer at school.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 3 chairs set up at the front of the room (or easily-visible location) for each one in the "Great Small Group Debate."
- Refreshments

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Inspire week speaker
  - Invest week outreach
  - Outreach assignments (hang up posters, invite friends, etc.)
  - Other
4. Icebreaker
5. Discussion
6. Biblical support and application
7. Prayer/dismiss



## ICEBREAKER: "THE GREAT SMALL GROUP DEBATE"

Prior to the meeting, select someone to chair the debate. He or she should be prepared to start the discussion by asking the first question.

Ask for volunteers for three teams. They will debate the issue of prayer in school. Give them three to five minutes to prepare their main arguments in support of the following view:

Team 1: No prayer in public school

Team 2: Teacher-led prayer in public school

Team 3: A moment of silence at the beginning of each school day

All members of the teams should have a part in creating their statements. While they are preparing, ask the others to share their opinions in groups of two or three. When the preparation time is over, each team should take its place, panel style, before the group and make its "opening statements." The audience may ask questions or give opposing arguments.

Keep an eye on the time, so the debate doesn't take the entire time.



**DISCUSSION:**

Divide the members into groups of three to five students and ask them to discuss the following questions. (To make it easier, they can remain in their "debate" teams.) You may want to select a facilitator for each group to keep the discussion moving. You may also wish to provide each facilitator or each group with a list of the questions and comments to be discussed.

1. What does the First Amendment to the Constitution say?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Comment: "The government cannot create or inhibit religion, ban most types of speech, restrict the press, stop people from gathering peacefully, or bar citizens from asking the government for reform" ("Constitution of the United States," Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia, 1999).

The Constitution does not mention "separation of church and state." It is taken from the Federalist papers by Thomas Jefferson, where he interprets the First Amendment statement, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." to mean religion should be protected from the state, not the state from religion.



2. Do you think the separation of church and state was intended to apply to prayer in school? If so, why is God mentioned in the Pledge of Allegiance, 'In God We Trust' printed on money, and prayer said at the beginning of congressional sessions, etc.? If not, does this mean someone should be allowed to pray to Allah or Buddha in American schools?
3. Imagine a rule was passed at our school giving teachers the option to pray before class. What kind of effect would this have?
4. What if a moment of silence was strictly enforced to give students an opportunity to either pray or meditate? What effect would it have?

**BIBLICAL SUPPORT AND APPLICATION:**

1. A nation that forgets God is headed for trouble. (Read Proverbs 14:34; 11:11,14; Psalm 9:15-17.)
2. Outward acts of "lip service" do not impress God, nor do they change an individual's heart (Matthew 15:8-19).



3. Application: External acts don't help your standing with God any more than than "lip service" will save a nation.

(Read Colossians 2:23.) We need an internal cleansing of our souls, something only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can give us.

4. What our nation needs is for the hearts of its people to turn in repentance to God.

***If time allows, discuss the following in your small groups:***

1. What can you apply from today's discussion to your life?
2. Do you have daily time alone with God in prayer and His Word?
3. What have you learned from God's Word this week?
4. Did you attend church or youth service this past week?
5. What did you learn from the message/lesson?

**PRAYER/DISMISS**





## INSPIRE (WEEK 2) GUEST SPEAKER—PRAYER

Purpose: To inspire the club to prayer through the teaching of a guest speaker.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Invite the speaker at least two weeks in advance and give him or her the topic (prayer). See suggested outline.
- Instruct the speaker how and when to wrap up his or her time.
- Instruct the speaker what time and where to meet the day of the club.
- Select a student to meet the speaker at the office, help him or her sign in as a visitor, and take him or her to the meeting room.
- Select a student to introduce the speaker. You will need to get background information prior to the meeting. Give the information to the student who will introduce the speaker. Instruct him or her to practice the introduction before the meeting.
- Contact your guest speaker again a day or two before the meeting to reconfirm everything. (This is also a good time to verify your facts for the introduction.)
- Remember the goal is to motivate students, not to share denominational issues.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Speaker (Christian businessperson, teacher, sponsoring youth pastor, senior pastor, or another Christian leader known for his or her prayer life.)
- Refreshments

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Invest week outreach event
  - Follow-up on or assign outreach assignments
  - Other
4. Introduce speaker
5. Guest speaker
6. Prayer/dismiss

### ICEBREAKER:

No icebreaker is listed due to time limitations. Give your guest speaker as much time as possible to speak; if time allows, a human video or short drama can be effective. The presentation should be inspirational and based upon the theme for the meeting.

### PRAYER/DISMISS

Note: Be sure to send a thank you card to the speaker the day of your meeting.



## SAMPLE SPEAKER OUTLINE FOR WEEK TWO

### STAYING IN TOUCH (MATTHEW 6:5–13; 21:12,13)

#### *Introduction:*

Prayer has been the subject of many teachings throughout the years, but there is still a great need for many to learn to pray. Sometimes the easy or simple things are often the hardest for us to learn and do. A person cannot have a powerful, effective, or real relationship with God without prayer. Prayer has always been part of God's plan for our lives. God desires this relationship with us. Just as God came, walked, and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden, He wants to do the same with us. We communicate with God through prayer; it's the way we stay in touch with God. If we're not in touch, then we're out of touch. If we're not praying, we're missing out on the best friendship of our lives.

Matthew 21:12,13

Why did Jesus throw out the moneychangers? His house (the temple) was to be a place of fellowship and communion with God, not for making money. The moneychangers turned it into something other than what God intended it to be.

1 Corinthians 6:19

We are God's temple. God no longer dwells in a temple made with human hands. He now lives in human hearts. We are His dwelling place. Our lives are to be lives of prayer. Our temple (body) is to be a place of prayer and communion with God.

#### A. The Benefits of Prayer

1. It keeps our walk with Christ alive and current.
2. It puts us in a position to receive what God has for us.
3. It changes us.
4. It changes things.
  - a. Circumstances
  - b. People
5. It changes our youth groups, churches, and nation.
6. It draws us close to God.
7. It helps us win the battles in our lives.
8. It allows us to release our problems.
9. It keeps our minds pure and gives us strength against temptation.

#### B. "Teach us to pray"

1. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. (See Luke 11:1.)
2. The Lord's Prayer (See Matthew 6:9–13.)
  - a. Prayer of praise and worship—"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."



- It recognizes who God is.
- The starting point of faith.
- b. Prayer of submission and obedience—"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
  - Submit to His purpose, will, and kingdom.
- c. Prayer of petition and provision—"Give us today our daily bread."
  - Depend upon God daily.
- d. Prayer of forgiveness and release—"Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors."
  - Receive forgiveness and give forgiveness. They go hand in hand.
- e. Prayer of protection and deliverance—"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."
  - God brings deliverance through our trials and temptations.
- f. Prayer of adoration and celebration—"For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
  - Put total trust and confidence in Him.
  - We can close our prayer time with assurance. "Amen" means "so be it."

### C. Marks of genuine prayer

1. It puts away distraction (Matthew 6:5,6).
2. It is personal (Matthew 6:8).
3. It is persistent (Luke 11:5-10).
4. It is powerful and earnest (James 5:16-18).
5. It is according to the will of God (1 John 5:14,15).
6. It is full of faith (Mark 11:20-24).

### **Conclusion:**

God waits and wants to be in touch with you. Make a personal effort to place prayer high on your priority list. Your spiritual health depends on it. Don't allow the enemy to distract you. Let prayer change your life!





## INVOLVE (WEEK 3) STUDENT SPEAKERS—PRAYER

Purpose: To share the importance of personal prayer.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Ask two to three students to be prepared to speak using the outline on the next page or develop an outline of their own that features the subject, "How prayer has affected/changed my life." If you choose to use the provided outline, you may want to ask each student to take a specific section of the outline and develop it.
- Ask a youth pastor to review the written testimonies, if necessary, and give suggestions.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Refreshments

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Invest week outreach event
  - Follow-up on or assign outreach assignments
  - Other
4. Introduce student speakers (name and grade)
5. Student speakers
6. Questions and answers
7. Prayer/dismiss

### PRAYER/DISMISS:

Spend at least five minutes in prayer. Announce next week's speaker. Challenge the group to bring friends who are in personal need of prayer to Invest week next week (e.g., students whose families are in crisis, students who have problems in school, who struggle with life, etc.)

### SUGGESTED OUTLINE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

- I. Power
  - A. Definition: great in strength or influence; to be effective.
  - B. Prayer is crucial to a victorious Christian life. God does things when we pray that would not happen otherwise.



- II. Request—"Ask and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7, NIV).  
God desires daily fellowship with Him (prayer, petition, and praise).
- III. Accept—"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:22, NIV).
  - A. Sometimes Christians fail to receive because they lack faith.
  - B. We must ask with expectancy, accepting God's blessings by faith (Mark 11:24).
- IV. Yield—"...not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42, NIV).
  - A. Christ is the perfect example.
  - B. Prayers are answered, burdens are lifted, broken hearts are mended, and souls are won when we yield to God's will.
- V. Effective—"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16, NIV).  
Our prayers can turn around an impossible situation, here and around the world.
- VI. Rejoice—"Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:24, NIV).
  - A. We can rejoice as we pray, knowing as we pray for God's will, the answer is already on the way. (See Psalm 91:15 and Daniel 9:22,23.)
  - B. Rejoicing as we pray gives praise to the One who truly deserves our praise. We do not take credit for answers to prayer; only God deserves the glory.





## INVEST (WEEK 4) OUTREACH EVENT—PRAYER

Purpose: To invest the Message of hope, Jesus Christ, in your friends and on your campus.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Think creatively. What can you do that would make your pre-Christian friends want to come to Youth Alive this week?
- Secure the speaker at least two weeks in advance. Give your speaker the following guidelines as he or she prepares:
  1. Be prepared to ask the students to respond to the message and receive Christ as their Savior and Lord.
  2. Speak confidently; clearly and energetically tell everyone about Jesus, then lead those who are willing in a prayer of repentance and faith.
  3. Keep in mind the purpose for the week. Response cards will be given out.
  4. This should not be a story of one's church, but of the Lord who wants a relationship with each person.
  5. Don't use religious terms (like "sanctified" or "redeemed"); visitors who have never been to church do not understand the lingo.
  6. Stay away from abstract, hard-to-define concepts and stick to the practical. What is applicable?
  7. Allow enough time at the end to pass out and collect response cards.
- Select members to be responsible for distributing and collecting response cards. Give them clear instruction as to when and how this should happen.
- Plan for effective follow-up. Students who bring friends should follow up with them concerning a commitment to Jesus, to answer questions, involve them in a local church, and bring them back next week for Include week's small groups.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Food/breakfast (e.g., doughnuts). Ask a church to sponsor the cost as an evangelistic investment.
- Response cards and pens
- Dimes (one for every person)
- Empty glass bottle with cork

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements (Limit to date, time, and location for the next meeting)
4. Icebreaker: "Corker"
5. Introduce student speaker



6. Student testimony/gospel presentation
7. Invitation, prayer, response cards
8. Dismiss/initial follow-up

### ICEBREAKER: "CORKER"

Note: Make sure to try this ahead of time so it works correctly.

Supplies: A dime and an empty glass bottle with a cork

The Game: Place a dime inside an empty glass bottle. Replace cork firmly. Set the bottle in front of the group and ask: "Without pulling out the cork, breaking the bottle, cutting the glass, melting the glass or burning the cork, how can the dime be removed from inside the bottle?" Group students in pairs to come up with ideas. Some thinkers may get the answer immediately; most will look dumfounded and offer typical responses: "Must be a trick!" or "Can't be done!" The answer: Push the cork into the bottle allowing the dime to fall through the opening.

### SUGGESTED OUTLINE

#### *Student testimony/gospel presentation:*

"God—Ultimate Problem-Solver"

- A. God's power to solve our problems becomes real when we pray.
  1. Hand out dimes to every student.
  2. Ask:
    - a. How many of you thought it was impossible?
    - b. Why?
    - c. What did you think or how did you feel when it was solved?
  3. Think about the problems you face and how they seem impossible.
- B. Matthew 17:20,21; Mark 10:27  
Ask:
  - a. What do these words mean to you as you face your problems?
  - b. How can you rely on God when you face difficult situations?
- C. Other biblical examples
  1. Jesus in the garden (Luke 22:39–46)
  2. David prays for forgiveness (2 Samuel 12)

Provide time for students to give their problems to God. Have students take their dimes and place them in the bottle as a symbol of giving their problems to God.

**OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Worship band with gospel presentation, followed with an explanation of salvation.
- Creative drama with gospel presentation, followed with an explanation of salvation.
- Video with gospel presentation, followed with an explanation of salvation.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS FOR THE FIRST INNING*****See You at the Pole***

"See You At The Pole" (SYATP) is a student-led, international prayer meeting always held the fourth Wednesday of September at 7 a.m., at school flagpoles around the world. Plan to have a See You At The Pole prayer meeting for your school the first week of the school year.

- Order materials at <[www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)> to organize.
- Plan a pre-rally/meeting.
- Encourage participants to call friends the night before to gather prayer requests.
- Organize and plan a citywide evening rally following SYATP to celebrate the stand students took for Christ.
- Follow-up: Report testimonies by phone, e-mail, fax, or the SYATP Web site. Include the number of participants and other pertinent information.

***Start prayer groups on campus***

- Prayer Triplets. Find three students to meet three times a week and pray for three friends.
- "First Light" lighthouses of prayer. Pray for each student in your first period classroom, during the first few minutes upon arriving in the room.
- David Prayer Group. "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation" (Psalm 5:3, NIV). Join with other students in the morning and pray the Holy Spirit will open the spiritual eyes of your friends, teachers, and school administrators.
- Paul Prayer Group. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3–6, NIV). Join with other students and pray for students by name. Meet in the library, a classroom, or conference room and pray through the yearbook.
- Jericho Prayer Group. "...and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city" (Joshua 6:20, NIV). During lunch gather students to "prayer walk" around the school, praying that no one "perish(es), but everyone come(s) to repentance." (See 2 Peter 3:9.) When students pray, spiritual strongholds (walls) will fall.

***The Thirty-Second Kneel Down***

Tom Sipling, Joshua Journey Ministries

You've watched as collegiate and professional football players kneel down to pray at mid-



field after the game. Now students are daily dropping to their knees for thirty seconds in front of their locker in a revolutionary prayer movement called the Thirty-Second Kneel Down (30KD).

Students across the country pray at school flag poles, in club meetings, and now at their own lockers. God is listening. Students are watching. What will happen next?

Contact Joshua Journey Ministries for more information:

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