

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of May 21, 2017

Passing the Flame (Psalm 57:2)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003).

This reflection speaks of sharing salvation from one generation to the next, but it also applies to our “passing the baton” (or torch) to a successor church, answering our prayer for a continued gospel presence in our area.

READ: Happy are those who fear the Lord. Yes, happy are those who delight in doing what he commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed . . . They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. *Psalm 112:1-2, 7*

REFLECT: God has given us a mandate to live in such a way that the next generation will know that the Lord is God and that he is worthy of our committing our lives to him. Then an entire generation of godly people will rise up and be blessed. This psalm describes some of the keys to blessing the next generations with the truth. Those who pass on the spiritual baton to the next generation will be people who fear and worship the Lord, who delight in doing his will, and who walk in such an intimate relationship with him that they don’t even fear bad times because they are so confident of God’s care for them. These godly men and women will not only run the race themselves and live a life of joy and purpose as they delight in doing what God commands, but they will also bless those of the next generation by passing their spiritual legacy to them. What is the best way for you to influence those who will come after you? Fear the Lord today, take delight in obeying him, and trust that he will care for you.

PRAY: *LORD, it’s so easy to focus only on the present and forget that what I do today affects the future. May I walk in such obedience and reverence for you that an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. Help me to fear you and delight in doing all that you command. Teach me how to pass on the baton of faith to both my natural and spiritual children so that you, Lord, get all the glory.*

QUOTE: If I am a Christian, I am not set on saving my own skin, but on seeing that the salvation of God comes through me to others, and the great way is by intercession. *Oswald Chambers*

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming months, with the formal transfer likely to occur on or about August 1. Pray that the May 21 forum will be helpful as people consider the heartfelt cry of many of us, “Where should I attend church?,” seeing it as not just a personal question, but a Kingdom question.

* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”