
“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of December 2, 2012

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

31 Prayers - #13

From *31 Days of Prayer* by Ruth and Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1997) – each week, use the prayer and “As You Have Time” features to reflect on the focus for the week.

Pray for Sunday Schools and Bible Study Groups

Gracious Father—High King of heaven, yet my Father!—You are seated in the throne room of the universe on a throne of grace, a throne of favor for the undeserving. What a privilege it is to come to Your throne unafraid, with utter freedom and confidence, assured of Your glad welcome—“to run right into Your throne room and find Your arms open wide!” (Kay Arthur). To know that I’ll find mercy for my failures and grace for my every need! What good news that I don’t need to be almost perfect to come boldly into Your presence! Your mercy lets me come with my mistakes, my sins, my needs—as long as I come honestly. Thank You that You are always ready to forgive, always eager to hear my voice and answer my prayers.

Thank You, Lord, for the dedicated Sunday school teachers and Bible study leaders in my church. May they enjoy bold access into Your presence day by day and refreshment from Your Word. Empower them, by Your Spirit, in their personal and family lives and in their teaching and leading. Help them realize that their work as Your servants is Your work. Enable them to surrender their service into Your hands and let You work in them and through them.

May the classes attract newcomers and draw them back week after week. Use these ministries to bring many to Christ and ground them in You and in Your Word. Use them to prepare people who, in turn, will become teachers and leaders, in both the near and distant future.

I pray these same requests for Sunday schools and Bible studies throughout our area—and beyond.

Amen

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Ephesians 3:12 NKJV

As You Have Time

A CONFIDENT APPROACH. “Let us...approach the throne of grace with confidence” (Hebrews 4:16 NIV). Why can we come with confidence? Is it because we’re worthy, or skilled in prayer? No. It’s because Jesus, our great High Priest, who understands us and sympathizes with our weaknesses, invites us to come boldly (Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 3:12). So if you feel inadequate in prayer, don’t get discouraged and stop praying. “We learn to pray by praying.” Keep on praying, coming to God simply yet confidently, as a small child comes to his father. Count on the Lord to teach you to pray. He’s an excellent Tutor.

INCREASING YOUR BOLDNESS. The Bible contains many prayers, many promises, many snapshots of our God of goodness and power. As you are able to imprint these in your memory and spirit, you will become increasingly bold in your faith. Copy favorite passages on cards or in a notebook, and use them in prayer.

You can also increase your boldness and confidence through praise, especially when you ground your praise in God’s Word. The praise part of today’s prayer, for example, was based on Hebrews 4:16.

In coming weeks: Pray for Holiness; for the Church of the Future, for the Generation Now Growing Form; for Grace to be Diligent in Prayer.

The Prayer of Expectancy

Remember to use this each week. It is included in the version posted on the [Prayer Vigil](#) page of the website or in the Touch Points for September 9 when we began this series

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Apply this week’s prayer to Evangel—for LIF@Etime, for the new beginnings of a children’s ministry, and for the Bible studies that occur during Coffeebreak and some of our small groups.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message, “The Best is Yet to Come” (Matthew 25:31-32).
- Pray for the practical demonstration of the Christmas message through Advent....individually, in our families, among the Evangel family and especially among those who need to claim the hope and salvation offered by Jesus in their own hearts.

*Materials from the sermon (podcast, plus pdf versions of sermon outline and PowerPoint notes) are available on the website by Monday

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.