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

For the week of June 9, 2013

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 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Share Your Story

When Jesus got back into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go, too. But Jesus said, “No, go home to your friends, and tell them what wonderful things the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”

Mark 5:18-19

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I have benchmarks in my life where I can see that you rescued me. Sometimes I avoid those places because they hold painful memories. Let me see my past hurts as opportunities to share how you have healed me so that my life’s story can give hope to someone else. Thank you that neither bad memories nor difficult circumstances can silence how you intervened in my life, showed me your mercy, and rescued me.

Notable Quote

If you have become part of the story of God, then you have a story to share with the people around you. They are eager to hear it. They are *dying* to hear it.

Leighton Ford

Reflection

The demon-possessed man roamed the land of the dead, living in a cemetery because the living feared him. Loose chains hung from his body where he had broken free from his shackles, but his spirit was still in captivity. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man, and his tormentors fled in response. It is no wonder that the man begged to follow Jesus. His home held only painful reminders of the misery he had endured. Yet Jesus encouraged him to stay behind and to tell others what had happened. He knew that the testimony of this healed man would have a great impact on those who were once witnesses to his agony.

It isn’t easy to live in a place where painful memories abide, but those same memories are an opportunity to share what God has done for you. Your testimony may open the door for hope to flourish in another’s heart. The God moments that happen not only affect us but also have power to rescue others from despair. Today, ask the Lord to give you the courage and power to share your story and proclaim the Good News to those you live and work with.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that the Lord will help you see the dark places of your past—and God’s mercy in getting you through them—as part of story that God is writing in your life, in order that you can tell others of his love and grace.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative. Pray over the next steps...especially the Church Council meeting tomorrow night, which will review the draft Church Plant Enabling Resolution and responses to the “Conversation with Council” last Sunday focused on church governance.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, sharing time, and Pastor Dave’s message “The Church: Beginning and Becoming”* from Matthew 16:18—and ways the Lord can help you apply them this week.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray as organizational efforts proceed, including the meeting with volunteers today. Begin to pray also for the children who will come and for their families as well; first that there will be kingdom impact, secondly that some would be attracted to Evangel.
- Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel and pray that more will decide to return after their initial visit. Be ready to extend an invitation yourself as we seek the Lord’s blessing to be seed sowing kingdom builders!

*A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf versions of the PowerPoint notes and sermon outline

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.