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

For the week of November 10, 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)

Knowing God

You, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts my head high. I cried out to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy mountain. I lay down and slept. I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching me. . . . Victory comes from you, O Lord. May your blessings rest on your people.

Psalms 3:3-5, 8

Prayer for the Week

Father, help me to take the time to read and learn of you from your Word. Show me your true self—who you are and how you operate. Help me, Father, to be assured of your protection and watchful eye. Open my heart to your truth so that I can know and trust you more.

Notable Quote

Life’s major pursuit is not knowing self . . . but knowing God. . . . Unless God is the major pursuit of our lives, all other pursuits are dead-end streets, including trying to know ourselves.

Charles R. Swindoll (b. 1934)

Reflection

At times the world paints a distorted picture of the Lord. In fact, misrepresentation occurs more often than not. In order for us to get a clear picture of God, we must read the Bible. In his Word, we are able to get an accurate representation of who he is and of how he operates. For instance, in this one passage from Psalm 3 we learn the following:

- The Lord is our shield. He protects us, defends us, and guards us.
- The Lord is the One who lifts our heads high. We do not have to be ashamed as we follow him.
- He answers us when we cry out and watched over us when we sleep. What comfort there is in knowing that he is every present.
- Victory and blessings come from him.

There are true statements about the Lord and his character on which our confidence can rest. As we internalize these and other truths about God that we find throughout the Scriptures, we gain a deeper knowledge of who he is and how he operates. The Word helps us to know him better and better.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that the Lord will lead you this week to someone who needs to hear about the importance of the pursuit of knowing God and that he will use you to have an impact on their spiritual journey.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Prayer for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area. In the meantime, take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task, especially as the calendar winds down! But not impossible for God! Let’s ask the Lord to fill both sides of the sanctuary with people who are eager to worship and to be partners with God to reach those appointed to eternal life!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “Immanuel: God with Us, Still” (Matthew 28:18-20) as he concludes his series on the book of Matthew. Pray for opportunities to apply the lessons of this series...and pray for Pastor Dave as he plans future messages.
- Pray for the LIF@Etime sessions on the book of 1 John that began last Sunday, as Pastor Dave leads the discussion on “Go Deeper in Christ,” based on passages from 1 John 1. Pray that this series will contribute to our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative by driving the connection between our personal spiritual development and our personal responsibility to the Great Commission.

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

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.