
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of April 27, 2014

This series is aimed to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It 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, prayer 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)

Be Glad in God's Presence

The sermon this week deals with God's appearance to Moses through the burning bush.

This week's selection has parallels to that experience that we can relate to.

Let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy. Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord—rejoice in his presence!

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy.

Psalm 68:3-5

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I praise you for your greatness and goodness, for the way you reign over all and yet care for the "least of these." Your mercy is over all your works! I sing praises to your name, Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, almighty and victorious King. Grant me grace to be glad in your presence and filled with joy as I walk with you today and to be open to those you want me to love with your love.

Notable Quote

We all sin by needlessly disobeying the apostolic injunction to *rejoice* as much as anything else.

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Reflection

The Lord is infinitely worthy in so many ways that we will never plumb the depths of his nature. Whether our situation puts us in the brightness of sunshine or in darkness of shadow, we are be glad in God's presence, for he has created us and given us new life in God's presence, for he has created us and given us new life in Christ Jesus. He has provided for our needs and made us part of his eternal family. In the midst of the psalmist's praise of God, he proclaims one of God's most precious attributes: The Lord is a father to those without fathers and a strong defender of widows. The same God who reigns over the universe, rides the clouds, and defeats and scatters the enemy takes tender, fatherly care of those who are alone. In the amazing wideness of his mercy, he places the lonely in families where they can be loved and nurtured. Start a new habit of being glad in God's presence. Proclaim his unfailing love and mercy. Get up in the morning singing praises, and go to bed thanking God for his faithfulness. And look around you to those who may be lonely or leading solitary lives. Ask the Lord to help you to reach out and bring them into the circle of your family's love.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- If you don't already do so, start this week the practice to "Get up in the morning singing praises, and go to bed thanking God for his faithfulness."
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...For I Have Seen..." (Exodus 3:1-9).* Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Continue to remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance.
- Continue to pray for our "Stepping Out in Faith" initiative: pray especially this week for follow-up to last week's Assessment Center and the one person who is a potential candidate to be the church planter we seek. Continue to pray for new people to join us—and praise the Lord for the evidence of that, with new women in Coffeebreak, recent visitors on Sunday, and the Lord's work among the growing number who make use of our facilities: our own Saturday morning basketball ministry; First Russian Baptist Church; EDGE; DCFS training (on hiatus for the time being); and the potential connection with Karen Church, a congregation of people from Myanmar (Burma).

*A podcast of the sermon, along with PDF files of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes will be posted on the website, normally 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.