

**“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team**  
**For the week of June 18, 2017**

**Important Ministry (Acts 13:2-3)**

*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)..*

**READ:** One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work I have for them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. *Acts 13:2-3*

**REFLECT:** Many of us get so enthusiastically wrapped up in the work of the Lord that we forget the God we serve. So busy do we become in ministering to others that we don’t take time to minister to the Lord himself. But as the account in today’s verses shows, the Holy Spirit’s divine direction to send Paul and Barnabas to spread the gospel in Asia Minor came to men who were worshiping and fasting. Ministering to the Lord bears deeply significant fruit in our lives as well.

Perhaps today you have a full schedule of activities and responsibilities: tasks you need to perform and deadlines you need to meet, children who need your care, people who need ministry or encouragement or the skills you can provide. But don’t neglect the most important ministry of all—ministering to the Lord. As you take time to adore and worship him, you will be better equipped for those other tasks, and you will be in a position to receive God’s direction for your life as well.

**PRAY:** *LORD, I worship and adore you. Let me not become so consumed with the good things that I want to do for others and you that I neglect the best thing—bowing before you in worship and praise and seeking your direction for my life daily in prayer. Draw me into daily worship and communion with you.*

**QUOTE:** God wants worshippers before workers. Indeed the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lot art of worship. *A. W. Tozer*

**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](http://evbapt.org/archive)).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message\* “Follow Me: Like This” (1 Matthew 9:9-17)—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. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! This week, pray particularly for the tasks required by the sale agreement approved at last Sunday’s business meeting, and for development of the new Bylaws, for which we received a preliminary draft from our attorney this past week. (We will convert to a foundation to disburse proceeds from the sale to missions over a period of up to ten years).

\* *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](http://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.”*