

Praying for VBS

Pray for the Leaders

1. Pray they will keep their eyes on God.

King Jehoshaphat faced three combined enemy armies, and he did not know what to do – except to lock his eyes on God. That's the answer any time we have no clue about next steps. “*For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You.*” (2 Chron. 20:12, HCSB)

2. Pray they will not take a step apart from God's leading.

Moses prayed this prayer when God would send only an angel to lead His people after their fiasco with the golden calf. He would rather the people not start the journey if God Himself were not leading them.

“*If Your presence does not go,*” Moses responded to Him, “*don't make us go up from here.*” (Exod. 33:15)

3. Pray they will beware of relying on their own strength.

David, who knew the Lord is the one who fights for him (1 Sam. 17:47), trusted in his own might when he took a census of the Hebrew armies. Recognizing his sin, he prayed a prayer most leaders need to pray at some point:

“*I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, Lord, because I've been very foolish, please take away Your servant's guilt.*” (2 Sam 24:10)

4. Pray they will be wise in leading the young people.

When Solomon might have asked for much more, he instead asked God to give him a “listening heart” as he governed the people of God. All of us who lead congregations need this wisdom.

“*So give Your servant an obedient heart to judge Your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?*” (1 Kgs. 3:9)

5. Pray they will be gentle with the children.

Wisdom from above is gentle. In a world that says you must assert yourself and grab the bull by the horns to make a difference, divine wisdom runs in a different direction. Knowing that our Lord is sovereign and engaged, and building his church, enables the Lord's servant to “not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, *correcting his opponents with gentleness*” (2 Tim. 2:24-25).

Pray that your leaders would have enough confidence in God to trust his will and ways, and play their part in his plan with patience and gentleness.

6. Pray they will be sincere.

The term literally means “without hypocrisy.” Pray that the leaders would practice what they preach, that they would be doers of God's word and not teachers only.

Pray that they would be like the Apostle Paul: “*We are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ*”

(2Cor. 2:17). Pray that they would be free from people-pleasing and too much concern with public relations.

Pray that the leaders of Christ's church would renounce "disgraceful, underhanded ways" and "refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word," but that in a world of spin, posturing, and deception, they would lead "by the open statement of the truth" (2Cor. 4:2).

7. Pray for physical stamina.

Pray that as the week grows long that the leaders and helpers would have the strength and energy to love and teach the children:

"He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak. Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall, they that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint." (Isa. 40:29-31)

8. Pray they will speak the gospel boldly.

Paul wrote from a prison cell – his punishment for preaching the Word – but still he sought prayer support to continue his evangelizing. If Paul needed such prayer, surely church leaders do today.

"Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel." (Eph. 6:19)

9. Pray for unity among all who participate.

The early church was of the same mind and heart, so much so that God worked in amazing ways through and in them. This unity was a large reason God used them to bring thousands to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all. (Acts 4:32-33)

Pray for the Kids

1. Pray God would lead us a good crowd of children, and there would be many who need Jesus.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt 9:37-38)

2. Pray that God will prepare their hearts to learn about Jesus.

We can prepare and work hard, but only God is able to change hearts.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezek 36:27-28)

3. Pray for a good week of weather. (no rain, not too hot, etc.)

While the weather is outside of our control, it is not outside of God's. He has the clouds in His hands. Please pray He would give us the weather that would allow us to most effectively share the Gospel with the children.

Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. (Ps. 147:8)

4. Pray that the Lord would work through the lives of the children to reach their families with the Good News of Jesus.

Jesus loved children and often used them as examples of true faith and what His Kingdom will look like.

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:13-16)

5. Pray that this week will be the catalyst for all believers involved to begin a passionate pursuit of sharing the Gospel each opportunity they have.

God has been so generous to share His love with us, and to send someone to share His Gospel. Pray that God would inspire us all to be bold to share His Good News with many.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Pet. 3:15)

6. Pray for safety during recreation and drop-off/pick-up times.

While we often forget our very lives are in His hands. Pray that God's safe hand would be upon every aspect of this coming week.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)

7. Pray that those who attend who are hungry for love and affirmation would find it not just from the leaders but in Jesus.

8. Pray that those who do not have a church home will be compelled to get connected at our church.

9. Pray that “hands-on” activities will lead to “open-hearts.”

10. Pray that our church can begin to help meet needs that are discovered during the week.

11. Pray that what is learned will make a difference in the lives of all who participate.

12. Pray God would work in ways beyond what we are able to ask.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)