



THE Upside-Down Kingdom

Prayer Ideas

Ideas you can use to lead your church through 21 Days Prayer

21
DAYS OF PRAYER

It begins with prayer

Jesus commissioned us to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20). Our power to be used by him to effect change in this world begins with prayer. That power is not our own, it comes from God. We accomplish nothing using our own wisdom and power. We must be completely dependent on God.

This January, Converge will embark on a movement-wide 21 Days of Prayer. Across the globe, Converge churches, congregations, leaders and missionaries will pray for God's leading in our lives, our churches, our movement and our mission fields. As we fully submit to God in prayer together, he will display his person and his power in unprecedented ways to advance the gospel so more people can meet, know and follow Jesus.

Prayer ideas

Here are some ideas you can use to lead your church before, during and after 21 Days of Prayer.

Before 21 Days of Prayer

Hold a kickoff event

Host an event at your church or in your community to launch your church's 21 Days of Prayer.

- On the Sunday morning before your church begins 21 Days of Prayer, focus on prayer throughout your worship service. Provide your congregation the vision for 21 Days of Prayer, why it is important to their personal relationships with God, and for your church, your community and Converge churches and missionaries across the globe.
- Some churches organize a prayer walk, designating locations for families, small groups and individuals to stop and pray for specific people or situations. Others have their entire congregation or large groups prayer walk together, moving from location to location as one with a single person guiding prayer at each location.

During 21 Days of Prayer

Host daily or weekly guided prayer sessions in your worship venue

Find a time that works for the most people in your congregation. Some churches hold these prayer sessions from 6-7 a.m., in order to start off the day together in prayer and have time to go to work and school afterward. Other churches hold their prayer sessions in the evening, after work and school are finished. Here is a great outline for a guided prayer session at your church:

- **Worship:** two songs to get focused on God
- **Devotional:** Five minutes to get people's hearts spurred on to pray
- **Prayer:** 45 minutes for individuals to pray alone or in groups. Provide your congregation specific corporate prayer requests.
- **Commissioning Prayer:** 3-5 minute pastoral prayer sending your congregation out for the day.

Create a specific area in your church where your congregation can post prayer requests

Many churches provide index cards or Post-It Notes to their people on which to write prayer requests, first names of people they are praying for or situations they are praying about. Those requests are then placed on a wall, bulletin board or other surface where the congregation can see the prayer requests and pray specifically for them. Some churches place these prayer requests in the main worship venue, others in a foyer or designated room that could be open to prayer for extended hours.

Use social media to encourage and engage your congregation

- Use the free social media text templates and images on converge.org/21-days-upside-down-kingdom to create engaging and encouraging social media posts before, during and after 21 Days of Prayer.
- Create short posts that relate to each day's entry in the *21 Days of Prayer: Upside-Down Kingdom* guide or to the discipline of prayer itself.
- Create posts with Bible verses about prayer or quotes. Use the free 21 Days of Prayer social media images to draw more people to your posts.
- Create daily or weekly videos featuring a pastor, staff member or church leader sharing a short devotional or thought about that day's *21 Days of Prayer: Upside-Down Kingdom* guide entry or their personal experience during 21 Days of Prayer. Videos don't need to be overproduced – a video from your smart phone using good lighting with little background noise will work just fine. But remember, keep it short (under two minutes).
- If you don't think you can keep a video short, consider a Facebook live video. You'll be able to share your thoughts and experiences, and viewers can comment and ask questions, allowing for an interactive experience.
- Use the hashtag **#convergeprayer** and encourage your congregation to do the same. When you use a hashtag, you become a part of a global conversation about that topic. Join Converge churches and missionaries from across the globe as we experience 21 Days of Prayer together.

After 21 Days of Prayer

At the conclusion of your church's 21 Days of Prayer, celebrate what God has done in the life of your church during that time.

Bring your people together

- Host a gathering (maybe an ice cream or hot chocolate social) and allow your people to share how God has moved them during 21 Days of Prayer.

Gather stories

- **Use your bulletin:** leave a spot in your church's bulletin that your congregation can fill out with stories of what they have experienced and learned during 21 Days of Prayer. Have them turn it in with their offering or at your information desk. Share some of those stories (if you use names, make sure to get permission first) at the following week's service.
- **Use your website:** Set up a form on your website ([similar to this one](#)) that your congregation can fill out and share their stories of what they experienced and learned during 21 Days of Prayer.
- **Use social media:** Create a social media post asking people to share their experience during 21 Days of Prayer in that post's comment section. Include **#convergeprayer** in your posts, and encourage others to use the same hashtag, so others who are taking part in 21 Days of Prayer around the world can celebrate with you.

Tell stories

Encourage and inspire your congregation and community by sharing stories of what God did in and through the church during 21 Days of Prayer.

- Share stories during your Sunday morning worship service after the conclusion of 21 Days of Prayer.
- Using the stories you've gathered, create a blog post or news article, or a series of posts, on your website about the impact of 21 Days of Prayer on your people and your church. Make sure to get permission to use any names attached or can be easily identifiable.
- Create a short video or a series of short videos featuring the 21 Days of Prayer stories you gathered. Show them in your Sunday morning worship service, on your church's web page or on your social media channels.
- Share your stories at convergeworldwide.wufoo.com/forms/share-your-prayer-story