

Power to Make Me Brave

Sharing Jesus through the Holy Spirit



TEACHER



Preface

To you who wish to use this material,

This guide for the week of prayer was prepared to help you make this event memorable for the children and for everyone involved in the work. Here we present some guidelines that we consider important, but feel free to adapt them according to your resources and creativity.

In the opening pages, you will find tips for the program, decoration, and promotion, among others. You will also find the printed materials that will be used at the very beginning of the program: prayer request cards, labels for envelopes to identify activities, and a popsicle-stick puzzle.

To help you and the children get to know better the authors of the readings, we've included a section with information about each one of them. Use this before the corresponding themes. After that, you will find suggestions for activities and visual aids for each reading. Make use of them and add your own ideas as well.

Many obstacles will likely arise to hinder this work, which is so necessary for our children. Moreover, all the details will require time and dedication. But do not be discouraged. Seek help, form a team, distribute tasks among the brethren, and be sure to dedicate several moments each day to pray for this event. Invite others to pray as well. The challenges are huge, but our God is greater than all of them and will be with you every moment.

Have faith and move forward. The Lord will open the way and send all the necessary help. And most importantly, He will send the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the children and the team, bringing life and spiritual strength to all. This is our greatest dream and our main prayer.

With affection,

Children's Evangelism Committee of the General Conference

**“Trust in the Lord and do
good; commit your way to
the Lord, trust in Him, and
He will do this.”
Psalm 37:3, 5.**

Words from the President

For Reformists, the December Week of Prayer is the most important event of the year, for the worldwide church is invited **to study the Scriptures, pray, and fast** together. These three practices, when carried out in faith by the **entire church**, form a powerful combination that can bring about the revival we so greatly need—the power we lack to fulfill our mission of illuminating the world with the glory of the Lord.

And what about the children?

In Joel 2, God makes an earnest appeal for the people to turn to Him and break their hearts in repentance (verses 12 and 13). Then, in verses 15 and 16, He commands that everyone—including the children—assemble for a meeting of consecration:

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those who nurse” (Joel 2:16).

The fact that the children are also summoned teaches us that:

1. They can have contrite hearts and experience repentance.
2. They should take part in the revival of the church.
3. Even “those who nurse” are blessed through the consecration of their parents.

Therefore, if the Week of Prayer is a “solemn assembly,” the children must not be absent. More than that, the program for them must be prepared with great dedication, giving them the opportunity to surrender their lives to Jesus and experience the power of the Holy Spirit. This shows that God wants them to participate in the revival of the Church. Thus, the children cannot be left out.

That is why, just as in 2024, this year our children will also have their own material, adapted from the Week of Prayer commemorating the 100 years of the Reform Movement, held in July. This way, they will have greater contact with our identity. The messages are solemn and seek to encourage the children to take their stand as heirs of a truth that must be carried throughout the world.

So, churches, workers, parents, and teachers, let us unite to make this Week of Prayer unforgettable for the children. It is not an easy task. Many obstacles have arisen and will continue to arise. But the result—the salvation of our children—is worth it. In God, we will have victories.

Eli Tenório
President of the General Conference

Introduction

How to Conduct the Children's Week of Prayer

The proposal is for the meetings with the children to take place at the same time as the meetings for the adults. The language of the children's readings is simpler than that of the adults. Even so, it is important that each leader make the necessary adaptations according to the age and experience of the children under their care.

In churches where evening services are held regularly, the older children should go to their classrooms, where the teachers will conduct the program according to the guidelines in this manual. The younger ones—those in the Nursery class—usually fall asleep during evening meetings and therefore should remain with their parents in the church. Even so, they will receive an activity to do while they are awake.

In churches that meet only on Sabbaths, or for members who live in isolated areas, parents should conduct the program with their children, adapting the guidelines of this guide to the family's routine.

In both cases, it is important for the entire church to understand and support the work being done with the children, valuing every effort they make.

Below, we present two suggestions for how to conduct the meetings with the children at church. Use the one that works best in your context—or create your own.

Option 1

A speaker is chosen to address all the children at the same time and in the same place. In this case, the speaker does not read the text but retells the content, as a sermon specifically directed to the children. Visual aids and PowerPoint presentations may be used. After the presentation, the activities are distributed according to age group. This is a good option for churches with few children or where children attend only occasionally during the Week of Prayer.

Option 2

A speaker is selected for each age group, with all groups meeting in different rooms at the same time.

In the room for the older children, if the students are mature and read well, the program director selects the passages to be read and assigns them to the students, taking into account each one's reading ability. Those who struggle with reading should be given other ways to participate in the program. After the reading, the students may share what they considered most important in the text. However, if the students are not yet mature readers, it is better to *tell* the content rather than read it.

In the room for the younger children, who are not yet fully literate, the speaker should not read the content but tell it, using simple terms appropriate to their level.

In all cases, this teacher's guide provides suggestions and resources to make the teaching more engaging and effective. Be sure to consult them.

Announcements

Some suggestions for announcing the event:

- At every service, announce that the Week of Prayer is approaching and encourage the congregation to attend the meetings, bringing their children.
- Make announcements during Children's Sabbath School as well, encouraging the children to participate.
- Send messages through social media, reminding the church family of the importance of this meeting.
- Personally invite the children and their families.
- Coordinate with the church so that no other program takes the place of the Week of Prayer.

Preparation

A sacred convocation requires two important types of spiritual preparation: internal and external.

Internal preparation refers to the need for each person to examine their own heart and seek the Lord's help to overcome the faults He reveals to them.

External preparation has to do with relationships. For the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself, the church family must be united. Therefore, disagreements need to be resolved before the beginning of the Week of Prayer.

Instruct the children about this, and ask the church leadership to do the same with the adults.

For both types of preparation to take place, propose a prayer project that may begin before the event. The participants in this project should set aside a time each day to plead with God on behalf of the Week of Prayer. May this be a time of repentance, confession, and abandonment of sin—a time of wrestling with God for both individual and collective salvation.

If we are prepared, we will be able to plead for the Lord to fulfill His promise to pour out the Holy Spirit upon His people.

Execution

Some tips to make the event lively and fruitful:

- Organize a team and divide tasks: decoration, worship, reception, order, presentations, activities, etc.
- Have someone at the church entrance to welcome the children and guide them to their rooms.
- Prepare a prayer wall, box, or string where the children can place their prayer requests (make sure pens are available).
- Have a welcoming team at the doors of the rooms. In addition to receiving the children and helping them find a suitable spot, this team should also distribute the prayer request cards and assist them in filling them out.
- Provide activities for children who arrive early so they can be occupied before the program starts. This could include a Bible puzzle, a storybook, a song, or someone sharing an interesting fact about nature.
- Begin the program with a time of worship. Afterwards, give the children an opportunity to share their prayer requests. Don't forget to ask the Lord to manifest His Holy Spirit during this Week of Prayer.
- Gather missionary testimonies from members and select the most impactful to share during the week. If possible, invite the person to tell their own story. This could be how they came to know the truth or how someone accepted the message through their work.
- Choose songs that speak about the Holy Spirit, courage to serve God, unity among brethren, etc.
- You can rehearse a song with the children for them to present to the adults on the last day of the Week of Prayer.
- If there is a memorable event in the children's program (a prayer answered or

someone who surrendered to Jesus), share it with the adults during their program on the last day.

- Coordinate with the church leadership so that on the last day, the children join their families at the end of the program and make a commitment of consecration to God.
- Encourage the children to pray at home for the same requests shared in the meeting.
- During prayer times, divide the children into pairs. Each child in the pair should pick a request from the prayer wall. They will pray for each other and for the request they hold in their hands. Ask them also to pray for baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- In every meeting, remind the team and the children about the fast on the second Sabbath (children who wish may fast until noon) and about the special offering, which will also be collected on the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer.
- Close the final meeting beautifully.
- If desired, prepare a small gift with a spiritual application to give to all participants at the end of the Week of Prayer.
- Use slide presentations with information and illustrations to help explain the message.
- Schedule a prayer session with the team every day, both at home and at church, before the program starts.
- Plan the program's timing so it is not too long.
- Make appeals for the missionary offering on the 15th of December.

Decoration

The decoration of the room contributes to teaching the themes of each day. It should be simple, tasteful, and done with care. Below are some suggestions for decorating:

- Use a color palette for the decorative elements (see suggestion on p. 10).
- Print the cover image of the magazine in a large size and place it at the entrance of the room.
- Or, attach flame images to the door and create a sign with the theme of the Week of Prayer: *Power That Gives Me Courage*.
- At each meeting, include an element in the room that reflects the day's reading. For example, a picture of a lamp for Reading 1.
- The prayer wall also serves as part of the room's decoration.
- Give a participation incentive at each meeting. Our suggestion is explained below.

- At the entrance of the room, display a poster that says: “We are in a spiritual celebration. Welcome to the Week of Prayer. Today’s theme: _____.”
- If you are giving out extra activities, prepare an envelope or folder for the children to keep the materials throughout the week. They will take everything home on the last day.
- Reserve a chair or a spot on a church bench with a sign reading “Reserved for Someone Special” to use at the introduction of the Week of Prayer, as described on p. 10.

Two Important Notes

1. Give special attention to visitors so that they also benefit from the readings. In addition to a warm welcome, clearly explain how the event works at the very beginning of the meeting. Do your best to spark their interest in the truth, especially in parts of the reading that mention topics unfamiliar to them.

2. Since the Week of Prayer provides an opportunity to reflect on our condition as a people, we need to emphasize the need for revival, accompanied by full consecration. However, sometimes we focus only on the difficulties without showing what God has done, which can have a very negative effect, especially on children and newcomers.

It is true that the church has many weaknesses and that our people urgently need revival and reform. Nevertheless, it is still the only one that carries the ark of truth. Therefore, it is important to make appeals, but in a way that strengthens the faith of the brethren, the children, and newcomers in Jesus and their trust in the church that preserves His truth.

May the Lord give us wisdom so that we can rebuke the sins of the people and instruct them in the truth, while at the same time firmly guiding them along the right path.

Puzzle Activity

Print a high-quality copy of the image on p. 8. Use 180g paper, cardstock, or photo paper. If you use regular printer paper, use silicone glue or fabric glue to avoid smearing the print. If you prefer white glue, use a good-quality one with minimal water.

Cut the image into squares. Turn one square over so the blank side is facing up. Using a brush (or even your fingertip), apply a small amount of glue to the top of the square and attach two or three popsicle sticks, **leaving a small space between them**. Try to center the square on the sticks as much as possible so that the edges have roughly the same width. Repeat this process until all the sticks are glued (about 8 per puzzle). Let it dry for approximately 1 hour.

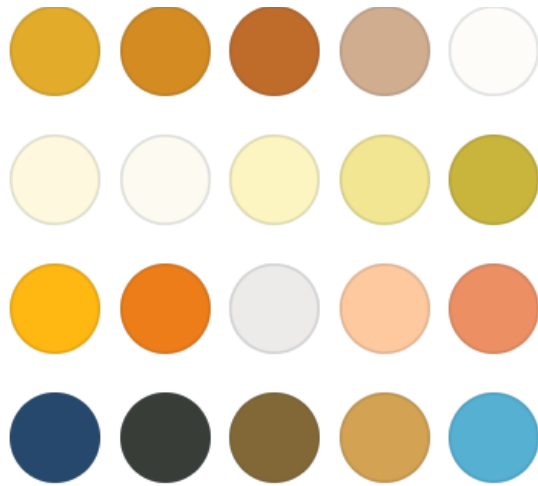
Carefully separate the sticks using a craft knife or blade. If you prefer, you can use scissors instead of a craft knife, but the result may not be as neat.

Store the sticks in envelopes labelled with the students’ names. Prepare a few extra for surprise visitors.

Prepare a personalized container for each student to keep their sticks. This could be a plastic cup, a small box, a clear bag, or any other idea you have. At each meeting, take one stick from the envelope and give it to the respective student to place in their container. On the last day, give two sticks to complete the puzzle.



Suggested color palette.



Suggestion for the prayer wall



Suggestions for door decoration



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER


Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



My prayer requests

Children's WEEK OF PRAYER

Power to make me brave



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



**Power to Make
Me Brave**



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 —14, 2025



Opening of the Week of Prayer

(Suggested Script)

One person should be in charge of giving the explanations below before starting the presentations. Preferably, use a slide presentation or posters, following the tips below.

[After the welcome, songs, and prayers, say:]

We are beginning a very special program in our church that takes place every year, starting on the first Sabbath of December and ending on the second Sunday. This is the most important celebration of the year for us. It is the time when we prepare our hearts for the coming year and also plead with God to send us His Holy Spirit.

The world church leadership prepares a magazine with a series of texts to be read in the church during special prayer services. These are always very beautiful and important messages. This year, you will have your own readings, similar to the ones for adults.

Do you know how the custom of having a Week of Prayer began? I will tell you. [Adapt the words in this script to your children's level of understanding.]

Slide 1 – Magazine cover

Slide 2 – Scene from the American Civil War

About 160 years ago, there was a war in the United States known as the American Civil War. For four years, the armies of the northern states fought against the armies of the southern states, and there was much death and suffering. It seemed like the country would be destroyed.

At that time, God's church decided to hold a special Week of Prayer for the end of the war. The believers held special meetings, pleading for God's mercy. Shortly afterward, the war ended. This shows how powerful God's people are when they come together to pray.

That is why every year, at the beginning of December, we gather seven times to listen to God's Word and pray. This is an opportunity to set aside all our problems and focus especially on seeking God's help.

Today is the first day. Let's make the most of every moment, humbling our hearts before the Lord and asking for the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Slide 3 – (Optional)

[Image of an empty chair with the title: "Reserved for Someone Special." In the auditorium, have a chair or a space on a church bench with a sign that reads "Reserved for Someone Special." Show the chair and say:]

Look at this chair. I want you to think of someone you would like to see sitting here, listening to God's Word.

It might be someone from your home, your family, your school, or your neighbourhood. It doesn't matter who it is; what matters is that you decide to pray—and, if possible, even fast—for the person you want to see sitting here.

During the week, you should try to talk to this person. If it is someone who already knows the church and can understand the magazine readings, invite them to one of the Week of Prayer meetings. If it is someone who does not yet know the gospel, make plans to invite them to a church program.

In any case, make a commitment to yourself and to God to pray and work so that this empty chair is filled by the person you have chosen. Perhaps, before the Week of Prayer ends, that person will already be here. But if it happens afterward, that's okay too.

Slide 4 – (Image of someone praying)

On the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer, we also have the custom of fasting. Fasting is a way of humbling ourselves before God, showing that He is more important to us than even our food. If you want, you can fast until noon on Sabbath, taking time during that period to pray.

But be careful: simply skipping meals without humbling yourself and consecrating your heart has no power. On the other hand, when we fast with great humility, sincerely wanting to give our whole life to God, we have the promise of receiving many victories over the enemy.

Slide 5 – (Image of an offering)

On the last Sabbath, we also have the custom of bringing a special offering for missions. With this offering, the church prepares missionary materials for the countries where the message has not yet reached.

Bringing our offering is also a way of sharing the gospel. So, we need to do our part. To collect the money, put into a piggy bank or box everything you would have spent on something unnecessary. This way, you will soon have a good offering.

[After the appeal for the offering, if possible, share a small story of a prayer that was answered and encourage everyone to seek the Lord during the Week of Prayer. Then, invite those present to kneel down. Pray, or ask someone to pray fervently, asking that the Week of Prayer truly touch the life of the church and each child, adult, and young person individually. After the prayer, begin the message presentation.]