

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

YOUTH DEVOTIONAL



THE ALLIANCE



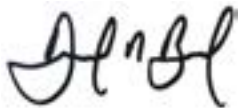
ALLIANCE YOUTH

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INTRO

Prayer is the primary work of God's people. This long-standing Alliance mantra elevates the importance of prayer in accomplishing the work of God on earth. Prayer is an opportunity for God's children, you and I, to speak often, deliberately, and plainly with our Heavenly Father. It is the method through which the child of God experiences communion with God and with other believers. As we pray privately or together, we are affirming our dependence on God, much like children are dependent on their parents. I hope you find these intentional and deliberate prayer primers a helpful addition in your student ministry during the next 40 days.

Sincerely,



Dan Boal
Director for Alliance Youth



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RESOURCES

40 Days of Prayer is an initiative of The Christian and Missionary Alliance to increase the overall prayer life and therefore the effectiveness of believers who attend an Alliance church. We hope that each generation within The Alliance engages with reading Scripture and communing with their Heavenly Father in daily prayer to experience a transformed heart and mind that will help unleash a movement of God here on earth.

We have provided the following resources for you to share with the youth in your church to enhance their participation in this denomination-wide prayer movement.

1. 40 Days of Prayer Experience

This can be used as a supplement to your weekly teaching curriculum. It is designed to take 10 minutes of your youth program.

- Video Prayer Primers led by Dan Boal
- PDF Prayer Guide for youth to pray as a class or in smaller groups

2. 40 Days of Prayer Devotional

This five-day devotional is intended to help youth pray specifically for the filling of the Holy Spirit in sharing the gospel. It will be delivered to their inbox in the *AY Newsletter*. You can print the PDF for distribution or have youth sign up for the newsletter. This is the first in a 12-month series of 5-day devotionals brought to you by Envision, the C&MA's short-term missions office.

- Go to allianceyouth.com/connect/
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and subscribe to receive this monthly devotional.

3. On Our Knees: A Youth Worker Time of Prayer

We will be hosting and broadcasting a 30-minute virtual prayer event for Alliance Youth workers. The emphasis will be on praying for the next generation to have boldness, to cling to truth, and to be open to hear and receive that truth.

- January 28, 12 p.m. EST
- RSVP at facebook.com/cmallianceyouth/events
- Join Zoom meeting:
 - **Link:** zoom.us/j/97452075894?pwd=aEJ3YktpYzJFWU9VUzZaNFNMK01jQT09
 - **Meeting ID:** 974 5207 5894 **Passcode:** 544435
 - **One tap mobile:** +12532158782,,97452075894# US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,97452075894# US (Houston)

WEEK 2: REPENTANCE

KEY TEXT

Matthew 6:11–12

SET-UP

We all have an internal life characterized by thoughts and desires that would be shameful and embarrassing if they were ever made public. Occasionally, that internal life also makes it into our external behaviors. The easiest way to combat that internal self from ruling our life is through repentance and confession of sin. Confession of sin produces the following outcomes in our life:

1. It allows Jesus to heal the parts of our mind, soul, and body stained by sin's effects (see James 5:16).
2. It enables the Holy Spirit to search our inmost being and reveal sin we may not even be aware is hiding deep in our hearts (see Psalm 139:23–24).
3. It produces within us a sense of gratitude as we experience forgiveness (see 1 John 1:19).

VIDEO

Repentance

PRAYER PROMPTS

James 5:16a says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Take five minutes and break off into pairs. Use the following format to practice confession and repentance:

1 minute—Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart and bring conviction of known or unknown sin in your life.

Pray privately, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what you need to confess.

1 minute—Confess to your friend.

Confession doesn't require a story; it requires your ability to name the sin that the Holy Spirit has revealed. You can add as much context as you think is helpful. Then share why you believe the Lord is asking you to confess this sin.

1 minute—Have your friend pray over you.

James 5:16b says, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” A righteous person is anyone who has a relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Lord. If your friend professes faith in Christ, then their prayers over you will break down spiritual strongholds and bring about not only forgiveness but also spiritual restoration.

Repeat the process regularly.