

Pioneer Prayer Pack 14

September 21-28, 2019

Directions: One day this week, in the sanctuary, outside under some trees, in a comfortable room that offers privacy and no distractions, or on a conference call, the leader will distribute prayer packets, welcome participants, and open with a short prayer. Group members take turns reading the “Testimony Handout” (pg. 2). After reading, the group leader will assign prayer topics below to participants in a clockwise fashion. Each should pray silently for a minute about their prayer request. The group leader may open the prayer by thanking God for every person in the room and asking that each heart will be blessed. Before someone prays for their assigned topic, they should try and agree with the previous prayer. The prayer topics below are taken from the “Testimony Handout.” Please keep individual prayers short, or less than two minutes each.

1. Pray that we prioritize the Bible above other media and reading.
2. Pray that we understand the power of God’s Word and that we study it daily.
3. Pray for a clear conception of what God is, and what He requires us to be.
4. Pray that we will humble our hearts before God.
5. Pray that when reading the Bible, our mind may find subjects for deepest thoughts and loftiest aspirations.
6. Pray that we hear and recognize God’s voice.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings first verse of Hymn #271 (pg. 2) to end open prayer time]

7. Pray that God’s clear instructions and principles will be applied in our practical life duties.
8. Pray that God’s plans for our lives will be realized and fulfilled.
9. Pray that the leaders in Christian educational institutions will have a correct influence and be persons after God’s own heart.
10. Pray that worldly influence will not separate us from God.
11. Pray that the *Testimonies for the Church* may be introduced to every member of the church to be read and followed.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings second verse of Hymn #271 (pg. 2) to end open prayer time]

12. Pray for Presidents Council, Secretaries Council, and Treasurers Council on October 3.
13. Pray for Division Officer Interviews on October 6, 7, 10.
14. Pray for General Conference and Division Officers meeting on October 8.
15. Pray for Annual Council on October 10-16.
16. Pray for God’s Spirit to bless local churches, conferences, unions, divisions, and General Conference departments.
17. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the delegates of General Conference Session 2020.
18. Pray for God’s Spirit to bless visitors, logistics, services, and business sessions of GC Session 2020.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time – Thanksgiving and Praise; Finish Hymn #271 (pg. 2); Leader Closes Prayer]

Break Thou the Bread of Life – Hymn #271

1

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

2

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

3

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me;
Thy holy Word the truth That saveth me;
Give me to eat and live With Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.

4

Spirit and life are they, Words Thou dost speak;
I hasten to obey, But I am weak;
Thou art my only help, Thou art my life;
Heeding Thy holy Word I win the strife.

Testimony Handout 14 for Pioneer Prayer

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 24-27

September 21-28, 2019

The Bible as a Textbook

No other study will so ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as the study of the Scriptures. This Sacred Word is the will of God revealed to men. Here we may learn what God expects of the beings formed in His image. Here we learn how to improve the present life and how to secure the future life. No other book can satisfy the questionings of the mind and the craving of the heart. By obtaining a knowledge of God's word, and giving heed thereto, men may rise from the lowest depths of ignorance and degradation to become the sons of God, the associates of sinless angels.

A clear conception of what God is, and what He requires us to be, will give us humble views of self. He who studies aright the Sacred Word will learn that human intellect is not omnipotent; that, without the help which none but God can give, human strength and wisdom are but weakness and ignorance.

As an educating power the Bible is without a rival. Nothing will so impart vigor to all the faculties as requiring students to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. If occupied with commonplace matters only, to the exclusion of grand and lofty themes, it will become dwarfed and enfeebled. If never required to grapple with difficult problems, or put to the stretch to comprehend important truths, it will, after a time, almost lose the power of growth.

The Bible is the most comprehensive and the most instructive history which men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and a divine hand has preserved its purity through all the ages. Its bright rays shine into the far distant past, where human research seeks vainly to penetrate. In God's word alone we find an authentic account of creation. Here we behold the power that laid the foundation of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. Here only can we find a history of our race, unsullied by human prejudice or human pride.

In the word of God the mind finds subject for the deepest thought, the loftiest aspiration. Here we may hold communion with patriarchs and prophets, and listen to the voice of the Eternal as He speaks with men. Here we behold the Majesty of heaven as He humbled Himself to become our substitute and surety to cope singlehanded with the powers of darkness and to gain the victory in our behalf. A reverent contemplation of such themes as these cannot fail to soften, purify, and ennoble the heart, and, at the same time, to inspire the mind with new strength and vigor.

If morality and religion are to live in a school, it must be through a knowledge of God's word. Some may urge that if religious teaching is to be made prominent our school will become unpopular; that those who are not of our faith will not patronize the college. Very well, then, let them go to other colleges, where they will find a system of education that suits their taste. Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God's word and in the practical duties of everyday life.

This is the education so much needed at the present time. If a worldly influence is to bear

sway in our school, then sell it out to worldlings and let them take the entire control; and those who have invested their means in that institution will establish another school, to be conducted, not upon the plan of popular schools, nor according to the desires of principal and teachers, but upon the plan which God has specified.

In the name of my Master I entreat all who stand in responsible positions in that school to be men of God. When the Lord requires us to be distinct and peculiar, how can we crave popularity or seek to imitate the customs and practices of the world? God has declared His purpose to have one college in the land where the Bible shall have its proper place in the education of the youth. Will we do our part to carry out that purpose?

It may seem that the teaching of God's word has but little effect on the minds and hearts of many students; but, if the teacher's work has been wrought in God, some lessons of divine truth will linger in the memory of the most careless. The Holy Spirit will water the seed sown, and often it will spring up after many days and bear fruit to the glory of God.

Satan is constantly seeking to divert the attention of the people from the Bible. The words of God to men, which should receive our first attention, are neglected for the utterances of human wisdom. How can He, who is infinite in power and wisdom, bear thus with the presumption and effrontery of men!

Through the medium of the press, knowledge of every kind is placed within the reach of all; and yet, how large a share of every community are depraved in morals and superficial in mental attainments. If the people would but become Bible readers, Bible students, we would see a different state of things.

In an age like ours, in which iniquity abounds and God's character and His law are alike regarded with contempt, special care must be taken to teach the youth to study, to reverence and obey the divine will as revealed to man. The fear of the Lord is fading from the minds of our youth because of their neglect of Bible study.

Principal and teachers should have a living connection with God, and should stand, firmly and fearlessly, as witnesses for Him. Never from cowardice or worldly policy let the word of God be placed in the background. Students will be profited intellectually, as well as morally and spiritually, by its study.