

Worship November 2003
Captain Deanna Gilliam
Southern Territory

Prayer Gently Lifts Me



Program Emphasis

Prayers for peace are frequently offered but not always understood or put in context of present and real situations. This program will guide you through Psalm 122:6-9, a prayer for peace in the Middle East.

Arrangements

Divide the women into four groups with a facilitator for each group. Set up prayer stations around the room with comfortable seating where the women can talk quietly together. Allow 5 to 10 minutes for prayer at each station.

Program Outline

Welcome
Opening Prayer
Chorus #94, "Prayer Gently Lifts Me,"
Salvation Army Song Book
Scripture Reading
Psalm 122:6-9, Hebrews 12:22-24
Devotional *World Peace*
Prayer Groups
Vocal Benediction

Prayer Stations

Prayer Station One

Focus: Pray for the Middle East

Look in the newspapers or on the Internet for information concerning current events in the Middle East. The Internet address for the Jerusalem Christian Review is www.securesite.net/ss2ad and the Jerusalem Post's is www.jpost.com. Pray for the current situation in Israel and Palestine. Ask that the Lord give wisdom to the leaders of these countries.

Table: Place photos, maps and items depicting this area on a small table.

Prayer Station Two

Focus: Prayer for the Church

Pray for the protection and security of all believers. Ask for peace and unity among Christians despite their theological differences. Pray for those Christians who are facing persecution. Pray that we will be a witness for the Lord to all unbelievers. Pray for all of the programs within your corps. Pinpoint specific needs for unity within your women's ministry group.

Table: Display photos of corps program and the people involved in these programs.

Prayer Station Three

Focus: Prayer for the "New Jerusalem" and the Lord's return.

Print Revelation 22:20 on a card. We have the assurance that Christ will return. Pray for that day and that we will be ready. Pray for those who do not know the Lord as their Savior.

Table: Display a mirror to remind the women that they must be ready for the Lord's return. What will He see in me when He returns?

Prayer Station Four

Focus: Personal Prayer Closet

Encourage the women to kneel and pray alone. Provide the following questions for them to meditate on:

- ❖ What does prayer mean to you?
- ❖ What does peace mean to you?

❖ Examine your heart and ask God to give you peace for a situations in your life.

❖ Ask Him to give you a specific prayer challenge and the courage to take it.

Vocal Benediction

Sing to the tune of Edelweiss

May the Lord, Mighty Lord
Bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace
Courage in every endeavor.
Lift you eyes and see His face
Know His grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty Lord
Bless and keep you forever.

Author Unknown

World Peace

"What is one thing you wish for the whole world?" the pearly toothed host asked. With an equally exquisite smile the Miss Universe contestant answered, "World Peace," and so did the other ten contestants. We laugh at how comically that scene is often depicted in movies and yet the cry of every Christian ought to be for peace. It is within the context of peace, which comes with complete trust in God's power, that God does miraculous works among us. The Psalmist had it right when he penned the words to our text, Psalm 122:6-9.

In 2 Chronicles 6:6, we read that God set apart the city of Jerusalem to be His dwelling place among His people. "I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel." David, in Psalm 122, was pleading for the peace and safety of that city and those who dwelled within its walls. That prayer is as powerful for us today as it was then. As Christians, we are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem right now; because Christ rules our lives (see Heb.12:22-24). The ultimate rewards and reality of the heavenly Jerusalem are depicted in Revelations 21.

How then can we pray? We can pray for the physical city of Jerusalem and all people who live in the Middle East. The political climate there is such that many believe that Christ's return is close at hand. We can also pray that God's Church on earth will be kept safe and secure until His return and that each of us will be faithful.

We hear stories about Christians being persecuted for their beliefs. Remember to pray for them and for the work of The Salvation Army in those countries. We can pray for peace within our churches here in America and for the people that make up the Church. Pray that it would be marked by humility and unity. Praying for peace is often elusive to many of us. It's something we all want but we find it hard to make it personal.

Today we are going to take a prayer challenge by praying through Psalm 122 in the prayer stations located around the room. Spend time talking about the issues or challenges that you will find written on cards at each station. You will be praying together and alone for these concerns.