



PRAYER
SUCCESS GUIDE



Prayer Success Guide, Edition 2.0

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THE POWER OF THE CAMPAIGN

What is the Role of the Prayer Coordinator?

- **To plan and implement the prayer effort throughout the campaign**

Your church is about to embark on a journey of spiritual transformation. The key to making this campaign a success is the simple act of prayer. As you start down this path, prayer will be the most important thing you can do. When you and your leadership team spend time on your knees before God, his life-changing power will guide your every step and make these the most important days in your church's history.

Could you and your team trust God to use this campaign to set off some spiritual fireworks in the house of God among his people? When prayer touches the fuse of God's power, some spectacular things can happen! If you authentically hunger for spiritual transformation in your congregation and lasting kingdom fruit in your community, it will not happen apart from prayer. A mighty movement of God's Spirit in churches cannot be manufactured by great plans alone. Prayer brings to bear the power of God into this spiritual journey and ultimately results in changed lives.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (MSG)

THE BIG PICTURE

Alignment

Through weekend services, small group studies, and regular reading assignments from the companion book, your entire church family will focus on the same spiritual themes for a concentrated period of time. Imagine for a moment the impact on your church when *each person* lives out the principles they read about. This impact grows as those individuals live in powerful community with their *small group*, and reaches its peak when those small groups come together to experience the power of the principles as an *entire congregation*! This concentrated time of alignment will bear lasting, eternal fruit in all levels of your church.

Dream Big Dreams!

Many churches make the mistake of putting God in a box by thinking too small. We challenge you to go on a faith adventure and “think impossible.” Pastor Rick Warren calls this concept “exponential thinking.” The idea behind exponential thinking is simply this: Identify the results you think you can achieve, and go beyond them to a goal that only God can reach. God will do far more through big goals than he ever will in the safety of small goals. Exponential thinking is God’s secret weapon in this campaign – stand back in wonder as he goes to work.

LORD, I have heard the news about you; I am amazed at what you have done. LORD, do great things once again in our time; make those things happen again in our own days . . .

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV)

Principles of the Prayer Strategy

1. Declare your need and dependence on God. The size of the campaign can lead to feelings of inadequacy and fear or stress. Lift these concerns up to the Lord. This campaign is His and He wants to empower you and give you fruit beyond what your efforts alone could produce.

2. Make prayer the centerpiece of preparation for the campaign. Prayer must be a central focus not just for the Prayer Team, but for the entire team of Campaign Coordinators. Those who lead others through any part of the journey must prepare personally through prayer.

Caution: Don't expect everyone in your church to be excited about or even involved in the prayer focus. Be willing to start with just a few. Don't underestimate what God can do through even a handful of people who fervently pray.

3. Follow the Nike principle – just do it! Seize every opportunity to pray for the campaign. Spend significant time in prayer during campaign meetings. Make it a habit to gather a handful of people before or after services to pray. Champion prayer in your small group or Sunday School class. Any time you have a few minutes alone, pray for the campaign. Start praying with your children for the campaign.

4. Lead by modeling. Prayer is more caught than taught. Model prayer to your team and to others in your church by committing to more personal prayer time; talking about prayer and its value to others; being excited about the difference that prayer can make; challenging and enlisting others to pray.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

One pressing question may have been running through your mind since you were first asked to become the Prayer Coordinator: What do I do now? Don't worry. These campaign materials grew out of the experiences of Saddleback Church and the thousands of other churches that have gone through Saddleback's spiritual growth campaigns. Everything you need to know to run a successful campaign can be found in these campaign materials.

STEP 1

GET ORIENTED

Review the rest of the Success Guides to familiarize yourself with roles and responsibilities of each team member. Think through how you want to handle the planning and execution of the weekend services, communications, etc.

Familiarize yourself with the Campaign Overview Timeline to get an idea of the steps you need to take in the weeks leading up to the campaign.

Customer Care Staff

If you have any questions or issues that are not addressed by the campaign materials, please contact our Customer Care staff at 1-800-723-3532. You may also email questions to info@saddlebackresources.com. A representative will be happy to assist you.

STEP 2

BUILD THE PRAYER TEAM

Who to Ask

Pray about who should be on your team, then look for people who have the following traits:

- A passion for prayer
- Are known to ask, “How can I pray for you?”
- Keep prayer lists
- Have the spiritual gift of faith

The First Team Meeting

Here are some topics to cover during your first team meeting. Don't rush this discussion. You may need to stretch these discussions over more than one meeting.

1. With your team, read through the sections in this success guide called Dream Big Dreams and Role and Principles. Discuss how they can be applied to your church.

2. Consider the following questions: What needs of our congregation can we pray for? What should we ask God to do in us and in our church during this campaign? What things will get in the way of effective prayer during this campaign, and how can we keep them from doing so? How can we pray for our pastor and other leaders in our church? What strategies could help people throughout our congregation engage in prayer for the campaign? What God-sized results can we trust God for?

Arising out of this discussion, draft a single statement that captures your team's vision for prayer in this campaign.

Brainstorm ideas for utilizing prayer in all phases of the campaign. Commit to pray for one another throughout this journey. Then, pray!

STEP 3

CREATE A PLAN FOR PRAYER

Develop a three-tiered approach

Develop strategies that

1. Intensify prayer in your weekend services
2. Foster prayer in your small groups
3. Encourage individual prayer.

Pray for your pastor and campaign team

While it is exciting to think of the good things that will happen during the campaign, it would be naïve to think that this will happen without resistance and spiritual warfare. Be sure to provide a covering of prayer for those who will lead this campaign. Ask your pastor if you can pull together a special team to pray for him during the campaign. As Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses in the midst of battle, this special prayer team will spiritually hold up the arms of your pastor as he leads your church through this campaign.

If your pastor gives permission to form a pastor's prayer team, find people who:

- Your pastor feels comfortable having on this sacred team
- Will pray faithfully
- Can be trusted with confidential requests should your pastor choose to share them
- Love and support your pastor and his family

STEP 4

SET PRAYER TEAM STRATEGIES

Check the ideas that would work in your church, and write your own ideas in the booklet. Remember to create prayer ideas for each component of the campaign—corporate worship, small groups, and individual.

Corporate Worship Strategy

- Prayer times before, during, and after services
- Prayer during midweek services.
- Prayer testimonies during weekend services.
- Prayer verse and campaign prayer requests in the bulletin each week.
- During the campaign, hand out or e-mail a weekly prayer update with new requests each week.
- Sponsor a church-wide Day of Prayer during the pre-campaign services a week before the campaign starts.
- Hold a Staff & Team Day of Fasting.
- Create a church-wide “prayer wall” made up of “bricks,” one for each day of the campaign. Encourage everyone to sign-up for a “brick” to pray and fast on that specific day of the campaign.

Small Group Strategy

- Dedicate five to ten minutes each week to pray for the campaign.
- Pray each week for the campaign objectives.
- Put out a prayer tent card each week to remind the group to pray for the campaign.
- As a group, memorize and meditate on a verse that will stimulate prayer.
- As a group, set aside a day for prayer and fasting.

- Have each person in the group adopt one Campaign Coordinator to pray for.
- Conduct a prayer-walk around your church facilities and property.

Individual Strategy

- Commit to pray daily for the campaign.
- Create a wallet prayer card as a reminder to pray for campaign goals during the campaign.
- Do a personal prayer-walk or prayer-drive through a selected neighborhood, particularly the neighborhood surrounding the host home . for your small group.

Note: Provide a map at the campaign communications hub in your church lobby, where people can mark the streets they will be praying for.

- Find a prayer partner to meet with at least weekly to pray for the campaign.
- Read articles and books on prayer to stimulate a passion for prayer.
- Create a prayer tent card on the kitchen table to remind family members . to pray for the campaign.

Note: For all prayer strategies requiring advance printing or coordinating for bulletin placement or promotion, coordinate your needs in advance . . with the Communications Team.

IDEAS FROM OTHER CHURCHES YOU CAN USE

Bookmarks: Instead of printing weekly prayer scriptures and requests in the bulletin, turn them into weekly bookmarks and distribute them inside the bulletin.

Video Prayer-Walk: “Our prayer team planned prayer-walks around our community every Monday evening during the campaign. For those not able to walk or if the weather was prohibitive, the prayer team made a video around the community that we ran so people could take part in the prayer-walk from an indoor location.”

– Joan Siebert, *Wakarusa Missionary Church, Wakarusa, IN*

Awakening: “The Wednesday night prior to the campaign launch, we called for an ‘Awakening’ – a meeting exclusively for prayer for the campaign. We prayed around artfully constructed prayer stations representing each of the themes of the campaign. The result was a sense of God’s blessing and hand on the campaign journey, as well as many requests to gather for prayer on a weekly and quarterly basis!”

–Greg Curtis, *Community Christian Church, Anaheim, CA*

Pray with Entire Church Individually: “Our Prayer Coordinator divided up the entire church so that members of the prayer team would be able to call each church member to pray with him or her individually over the phone. Prayers were for any need, but especially for the campaign.”

–Sharon Strickland, *First Assembly of God, Castroville, CA*

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

How to Implement the Campaign

This section lists the major action steps for each team. The Campaign Timeline is your tool to make sure nothing slips through the cracks, to help you anticipate major deadlines, and to help your coordinators prepare for their major tasks in a timely manner. Each Campaign Coordinator has a more detailed timeline in his or her success guide(s) listing only the tasks related to that function.



CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

GET ORIENTED

7–8 Weeks before the Campaign

Prayer Coordinator

- Review the Prayer Success Guide
- Recruit members for the Prayer Team.
- Begin team meetings and praying.
- Brainstorm ideas to infuse prayer throughout the campaign.
- Pray for the assembly of a strong group of Campaign Coordinators, for the success of their various teams, and for the overall prayer focus..

DEVELOP A PRAYER STRATEGY

5–6 Weeks before the Campaign

- Develop a campaign prayer plan.
- Recruit the Pastor's prayer team.
- Start e-mailing Weekly Leadership Prayer Updates.
- Establish a place that can be a central hub for disseminating campaign information to people before and after weekend services.
- Pray for . . .
 - Unity of the Campaign Coordinators in purpose and vision.
 - Enthusiastic response to the Campaign Vision as the pastor presents it to church leaders and influencers.
 - Exponential results for this campaign, and for important decisions that must be made.
 - The Weekend Services Team in their efforts to develop vibrant ideas for effective weekend services.
 - The Small Groups Team as they recruit host homes and hold orientations.

PREPARE THE HEARTS

3-4 Weeks before the Campaign

- Develop a campaign prayer plan.
- Continue the prayer strategy.
- Plan a Day of Prayer for the church, and/or a Staff & Team Day of Fasting and Prayer.
- Work with the Communications Team to announce and promote the Day of Prayer.
- Pray for . . .
 - The planning of weekend services.
 - Effective matching of host homes and discussion leaders by the Groups Team; pray for exponential growth as small group signups continue.
 - Promotion of the campaign in the church and in the community by the Communications Team.
 - Organization, calm waters, needed resources, and a spectacular turnout as the launch preparations culminate.

BEGIN PRAYER EVENTS

1-2 Weeks before the Campaign

- Conduct the Day of Prayer and/or Staff & Team Day of Fasting and Prayer.
- Put the prayer verse and campaign prayer requests in the bulletin for Week 1 (Coordinate with Weekend Services Team and Communications Team).
- Pray for . . .
 - A great turnout and overall great results as the campaign is launched
 - The upcoming weekend service
 - The small groups throughout the church as they prepare for the campaign

BEGIN PRAYER EVENTS

Launch Weekend

- Put the prayer verse and campaign prayer requests in the bulletin for Week 2
- Pray for . . .
 - Successful planning, promotion, and presentation of weekend services
 - Exponential thinking and growth
 - The success of small groups; wisdom and knowledge for hosts and discussion leaders

CAMPAIGN WEEK 2 TO THE END

Doing the Campaign

- Put the prayer verse and campaign prayer requests in the bulletin for Week 2
- Pray for . . .
 - Successful planning, promotion, and presentation of weekend services
 - Exponential thinking and growth
 - The success of small groups; wisdom and knowledge for hosts and discussion leaders

POST-CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION WEEK

Going Forward

- Put the prayer verse and campaign praise report in the bulletin for the week following the Celebration
- Pray for . . .
 - A successful Celebration
 - A continuation of spiritual growth in your people and your church
 - Going Forward issues, such as the continuation of small groups, capturing the momentum of the campaign, growing a healthier church

From Our Team To Yours

Just as we have had to learn some of this by digging in and doing it, so will you. There are significant challenges ahead, but efforts to get our people to authentically deepen their spiritual walk certainly please our Father. It is our prayer that this spiritual growth campaign will be a defining turning point in the journey of your church.

—The Spiritual Growth Campaign Team, Saddleback Church

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