

Church Genome Project—ACTS Prayer Guide

Week 1: Spiritual Preparation: *Wait and Pray Expecting God to Work*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Creator-God spoke the worlds into existence by his Word, out of nothing.

Sovereign-God is at work planning and ordering all things for his purposes.

Longsuffering-God is patient, his timing is always perfect.

Jesus, the Prepared Missionary-he was the Sent One who gave his life for our sins.

C

onfession:

Unmet Conditions

Our Distrust-*the disciples had a word from God to wait.*

Our Disorientation-*the disciples had to refocus their thinking.*

Our Disunity-*the disciples were in one accord.*

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about being spiritual prepared. Thank the Father for your church and God's special plan for it.

S

upplication:

Ask God to prepare you and your church to fulfill the Acts 1:8 Announcement by being the missionary to your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Pray the Holy Spirit works through the "*Church Genome Project*" season.

1. Reading the "*Spiritual DNA of a Church on Mission*" Resource.
2. Bible Readings in Acts.
3. Readings of *Acts Moments* Devotional.
4. Weekly Corporate Prayer Meetings.
5. Missionary Assignments.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Jerusalem

House of Prayer-Spiritual Preparation *Acts 1:12-26*

1. Committed to the Upper Room Gathering with God's people
Place of familiarity-*they had been there before*
2. Concentrated Prayer in Unity and Obedience to the Word
Place of unity-*they were in one accord and in the Word*
3. Called to Wait for the Holy Spirit's Power to Witness
Place of Power-*they were empowered by the Holy Spirit*

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Week 2: Spiritual Authority: *Rely on the Holy Spirit's Power*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Almighty. God is all powerful with full and complete authority.

Lord of lords and King of kings-God is the Ruler of all earthly rulers.

Lord-Jesus holds the Name above every name. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus, the Spirit Reliant Missionary. He was dependent on the Holy Spirit's power.

C

onfession:

Leanings

Our Reliance on Programs

Our Reliance on Organization

Our Reliance on Strategy

Our Reliance on Personalities

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual authority. Thank the Father for the power of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses and live life for Him.

S

upplication:

Ask God to fill you and your church with the Holy Spirit.

Pray that people will have a proper understanding of the Holy Spirit's work.

Pray for Holy Spirit reliance in every program, organization, strategy, and personality in the life of your church.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Jerusalem

House of Power-Spiritual Authority *Acts 2:1-47*

Holy Spirit Word Pictures

1. Fire-purifying work of His power
2. Wind-mysterious work of His power
3. Oil-anointing work of His power
4. Dove-peaceful work of His power

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Week 3: Spiritual Understanding: *Focus on Peoples and Places*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Desire of the Nations. God's plan has always been for the peoples to know him.

Lamb of God. Jesus will be worshiped around the throne by people from every nation, tribe and tongue.

Impartial. God is no respecter of persons. He loves all people the same.

Jesus, the Missionary with Spiritual Revelation. He loved people with a perfect love.

C

onfession:

Prejudices

Our Ethnic Issues-*racism*

Our Generational Issues-*ageism*

Our Socioeconomic Issues-*class pride*

Our Geographic Issues-*turfism*

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to him for what God revealed to you about people groups. Thank the Father for your church and God's special plan for it.

S

upplication:

Ask God to open your eyes to see the people and places where he is at work.

Pray for an unreached pocket of people from another culture.

Pray for the lost people of a nearby city, town or neighborhood.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Caesarea

House of all Peoples-Spiritual Understanding *Acts 10:1-48*

1. Rooftop Perspective—*Peter's revelation (Acts 2:15-12)*
2. Rooftop Proclamation—*Peter's message (Matthew 10:27)*
3. Rooftop Partnership—*Cornelius Network (Mark 2:1)*

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Week 4: Spiritual Leadership: *Discover, Develop and Deploy Leaders*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Chief Shepherd. God knows how to lead his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Shepherd and Overseer of Our Souls. He cares for us and holds us accountable.

Servant. Jesus led by serving others.

Jesus, the Missionary with Spiritual Leadership. He led by example by giving His life.

C

onfession:

Deficiencies

Need of the Spotlight-*contrasted by everyday Christ followers*

Lack of Character-*contrasted by Barnabas*

Unteachable Spirit-*contrasted by Paul*

Lack of Prophetic Leadership-*contrasted by Agabus*

Lack of Synergistic Team-*contrasted by Missionary Teams*

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual leadership. Thank the Father for your leadership in the church.

S

upplication:

Ask God to help you identify and develop the spiritual leaders of his choosing.

Pray for your pastor, staff and deacons/elders.

Ask God to empower you to be a leader of influence in your home, church and work life.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Antioch

House of Purposeful Leaders-Spiritual Leadership *Acts 11:19-30; Acts 13:1-5*

1. Humble Leaders
2. Holy Leaders
3. Teachable Leaders
4. Prophetic Leaders
5. Team Leaders

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Week 5: Spiritual Synergy: *Work Together for Greater Impact*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

The Triune God. God has revealed himself as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Godhead. He is the head, the Source of all that is good, true, and holy.

Relational. God desires fellowship; Jesus died on the cross to make it possible.

Jesus, the Missionary of Spiritual Synergy. He modeled relationship and teamwork.

C

onfession:

Obstacles

Our Lack of a Common Purpose

Our Misalignment on the Team

Our Indecisiveness from the Team

Our Immobilization of the Team

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual synergy. Thank the Father for the teams in your life and your church teams.

S

upplication:

Ask God to transform the teams in your church into powerful forces for his work. Pray for new teams to be formed to engage lost people.

Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Philippi

House of Partnership-Spiritual Synergy *Acts 16:1-10*

1. Paul—Team Lead
2. Silas—Team Support
3. Timothy—Team Apprentice
4. Luke—Team Perspective
5. Holy Spirit—Ultimate Team Member

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Week 6: Spiritual Receptivity: *Discover the Person(s) of Peace*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

The Door. God has provided through Jesus, the door which leads to eternal life.

Prince of Peace. God is the Author of peace which passes all understanding.

Conviction. The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sinful condition and draws them to Christ.

Jesus, the Missionary example of Spiritual Receptivity. He strategically found persons of peace.

C

onfession:

Realities

Our efforts to open hearts—*only the Lord can open a heart to the gospel*

Our missed opportunities—*new convert's relational networks*

Our inability to see God intervene—*through circumstances*

Our writing people off—*God specializes in the impossible*

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual receptivity. Thank the Father for opening your heart to the gospel and for those who are yet to believe.

S

upplication:

Ask God to lead you to the receptive people in your community (persons of peace).

Pray for good soil in the hearts of people as you sow the seed of the gospel.

The Lord gives opportunities daily; pray that you would seize those divine appointments.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Philippi

House of Peace-Spiritual Receptivity *Acts 16:11-40*

1. Enter the Community
2. Evangelize the People
3. Equip the New Believers
4. Empower the Leaders
5. Exit the Community

Week 7: Spiritual Sowing: *Evangelize and Making Disciples*

A doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Lord of the Harvest. God calls and sends forth his people to work in his harvest fields.
Word of God. Jesus is the Living Word of God. He came in the flesh to give us his life. He is truth and can be trusted.

Savior. Jesus gave his life on Calvary's cross to save us from our sin.

Jesus, the Missionary of Spiritual Sowing. He demonstrated sowing the gospel.

C onfession:

Tendencies

To drift from the core of the gospel-*instead of focus on gospel sowing*

To argue with people in a disrespectful manner-*instead of using gentleness and respect*

To engage in busy activities neglecting the gospel-*instead of prioritizing time*

T hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual sowing. Thank the Father that someone cared enough to share the gospel with you.

S upplication:

Ask God to burden your heart and the church for the unsown fields in your community and state or province.

Pray for a willingness to sow the seed of the gospel through all kinds of channels.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Thessalonica/Berea

House of Proclamation-Spiritual Sowing Acts 17:1-15

1. Reasoned the Message
2. Explained the Message
3. Proved the Message
4. Proclaimed the Message
5. Persuaded the Message
6. Welcomed the Message
7. Examined the Message

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Week 8: Spiritual Bridges: *Leverage Points of Connection*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Reconciler. God provides the way for reconciliation with himself through Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel. God is with us. Jesus, God incarnate has come to identify with man.

Friend of Sinners. Jesus associated with sinners building bridges of friendship.

Known. God has made himself known to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the Missionary of Spiritual Bridges: He is the point of connection between God and man.

C

onfession:

Not wanting to deal with the unknowns.

Our neglect of burden for the lost in the marketplace

Our non-engagement with the lost culture

Our non-emphasis on repentance and the resurrection

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual bridges. Thank the Father for providing a Bridge through Jesus Christ for salvation. Express your gratitude for the bridges that God gives us to share the gospel with the lost even though sometimes we feel uncomfortable.

S

upplication:

Ask God to remind you of the importance of engaging the culture for the sake of the gospel without embracing the sinfulness of the culture.

Pray for an awareness of the bridges for particular people groups in your mission field.

Most importantly, ask the Lord to give you a stirred heart for the lost people in the marketplace of life.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Athens

House of Points of Connection-Spiritual Bridges *Acts 17:16-34*

1. Stirred Heart for the Lost
2. Bridges to the Culture
3. Stay on Message-Repentance/Resurrection
4. Asking for a Response

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Week 9: Spiritual Giftedness: *Give and Gather Resources from the Harvest*

A

doration: God's character, nature, and attributes.

Provider. God has provided all we need for life and godliness.

Father of Lights. God gives every good and perfect gift from above.

Generous. The Lord bestows gifts freely to his people, abundantly above measure.

Jesus, the Missionary of Spiritual Giftedness. He gave gifts to his people.

C

onfession:

Untapped Resources

Couples and Families, *people willing to engage in the mission*

Tentmakers, *people willing to serve in the marketplace*

People's Homes, *people being hospitable for the sake of the gospel*

Promises of God, *people who turn to and stand on God's Word*

Spiritual Gifts, *people exercising their gifts for the mission*

Financial Support, *people giving of their dollars to support the mission*

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual giftedness. Thank the Father for blessing you with spiritual gifts, resources, and the ability to make a difference in his kingdom work.

S

upplication:

Ask God to help you to tap into the harvest resources by sharing the good news and engaging the people.

Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth workers into his fields.

Pray that the Lord will meet the needs of all church planters as people they reach will give of their time, treasure, and talents.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Corinth

House of Provision-Spiritual Giftedness Acts 18:1-21

1. Aquila and Priscilla-Husband Wife Team
2. Tentmakers-Vocation as a Platform for Mission
3. House of Titius Justus and Crispus
4. Protection for Paul—many people in this city

(Church at Corinth from the Epistles: spiritual gifts and finances)

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Week 10: Spiritual Warfare: *Fight the Good Fight*

A

doration: God's character, nature and attributes.

Commander of the Lord's Army. God has revealed himself as Commander in Chief.
Victorious, Risen Lord. Jesus has won the victory through his death and resurrection.
Good. God is good and he has overcome all that is evil.
Powerful. God power is greater than anything in the spirit realm.
Jesus, the Missionary opposing Spiritual Warfare. He triumphs over Satan and his hosts.

C

onfession:

Ignorance of the Schemes of the Devil
Misinformation Campaign in the Battle
Non-combatants or neutrality in the Battle
Grave Danger of Footholds
Infiltration of False Leaders/Savage Wolves

T

hanksgiving:

Return thanks to Him for what God revealed to you about spiritual warfare. Thank the Father for winning the victory over evil through the power of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

S

upplication:

Ask God to prepare you for the spiritual battles to come as you push back the enemy's territory through church planting. Through prayer, take up each part of the spiritual armor; be ready to run to the battle.

Pray against all spiritual strongholds in your community.

Pray for unreached people groups who are bound by Satan's lies.

Devotional/Sermon Seed: Church Plant in Ephesus

House of Power-Spiritual Warfare *Acts 19:1-41; Acts 20:13-38*

1. Reality of the Warfare
2. Strategy of the Warfare
3. Weapons of the Warfare
4. Results of the Warfare