

2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power (Ex 15:6)

WAYS TO APPROACH BIBLE STUDY

for use with the 2018 international Eight Days of Prayer resource and Canadian Bible Study Questions resource (both available on weekofprayer.ca)

Individual Reflection

- Prepare a place where you can be quiet and reflective for a period of time. You may wish to set up your space with symbolic items that help you to focus, such as candles, a Bible, a cross or an icon.
- Begin by praying for openness to God's word.
- Read the Bible passages assigned for the day aloud. Note a word, phrase or image that attracts your attention. Is this attraction positive or negative?
- Read the text again.
- Meditate on the word or phrase you have selected and listen for God's word to you.
- If you are using the Eight Days materials, read the reflection for the day and the study questions. What questions arise? What responses do these evoke in you?
- Give thanks to God for the gifts of grace and insight you are finding.
- Reflect on the Biblical passages and the daily reflection and study questions again. Take time to write down any insights, or express them in an artistic way.
- From your reflection, choose an action you might take.
- Read aloud the prayer at the end of the daily reflection, or offer a prayer of your own.
- If possible, share your reflections with someone else.

Group Reflection

Groups may use the Eight Days materials (international and Canadian) available on weekofprayer.ca.

- Invite people from neighbouring churches.
- Prepare a space where you can be quiet and reflective together.
- Arrange chairs in a circle and provide a focus symbol, such as a Bible, cross, icon or candle.
- Each person needs a Bible and a copy of the Eight Days of Prayer daily reflections and Canadian study questions. If you are using the same Bible version, you may find unison reading adds to the experience.
- Introduce participants.
- Take time to focus in silence. Offer a prayer asking for openness to God's word.
- Divide the group into pairs or smaller groups.
- If you are going through the whole Eight Days of Prayer resource in a single Bible study, have each pair/group look up the Bible texts, daily reflections, and study questions for one of the 8 days.
- If you are going through the Eight Days of Prayer resource one day at a time, divide up roles as you find helpful and appropriate.

- After the pairs/groups have read the texts, they discuss the following points:
 - What questions do the readings raise?
 - How do the Bible passages assigned for the day illumine the theme for the day and the daily reflection?
 - What answers might we give to the study questions?
 - What responses do these elicit in us?
- Each pair/small group brings back to the larger group insights or questions gleaned from their time together. Have the larger group reflect on whether a few words, phrases or images are especially relevant to your situation.
- After a moment of silence, ask how the overall theme/motif for the 2018 Week of Prayer adds to the previous discussion.
- As a group, choose an action you might take as a result of this reflection and Bible study.
- Offer together the prayer at the end, or have group members take turns offering prayer. Remember to pray for one another and for your faith communities.