

ORGANIZING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Napoleon and his army once conquered an important island in the Mediterranean Sea. As he and his generals were discussing their victory, a young officer appeared at the door of the tent. He came boldly before the emperor and asked, ***“Give me this island as my own!”*** To the amazement of the generals, Napoleon immediately granted him his request for the strategic island. “How could you do that?” asked one of the generals. “What made him worthy to receive this great island?” Napoleon responded, ***“I gave him the island because he honored me with the magnitude of his request!”***

As you begin to organize your prayer life in order to become a leader who prays, we want you to develop a true ‘Napoleon Complex’. We want to help you arrange your daily prayer life in such a way that this year, you honor the Lord with the magnitude of your requests! Let’s become leaders who pray for elephants not for peanuts!

What a thrill it is to daily discuss concerns, requests, people, passions, ideas, decisions, problems, hurts, heartaches, sins, and desires with our Heavenly Father. There are so many things for which to pray that we become overwhelmed and tend to slip into the rut of general rote prayers that result in boredom and border on the monotonous.

OPTION #1: PRAYER CARDS

For some of you on the go, a prayer card that fits in your wallet may be just the ticket to a lifestyle of prayer.

1. Decide how you will arrange your prayer cards. Perhaps you might choose to arrange your cards around categories of people, events, days of the week, priorities, responsibilities or whatever.

2. Decide the type and style of card you will use. Some will go the budget route and use 3x5 index cards. Some of you high end, LL Bean buddies will probably opt to emboss and laminate your cards. Whatever you choose, make it simple and usable.

3. Arrange and customize your prayer cards in such a way that you pray through a different card each day. For example:

FAMILY Wife Son Daughters Mom Dad Extended Fam	CHURCH Staff Elders/Deacons Missionaries Finances Ministries Persecuted	FRIENDS Come to Christ Neighborhood At work My soccer team
WORK Gospel shared Bosses Employees Vendors Clients/patients Safety Finances	PERSONAL Spiritual Mental Physical/ Health Relationships Margins Priorities Attitudes	WORLD Current events National International Local

Or, create one card that will prompt you each day:

Daily	Family, Personal
Sun	Missionaries, News Events
Mon	Church Leaders & Ministries
Tues	Special Requests, People on heart
Wed	Extended family, SALT crew
Thurs	Friends to come to Christ
Fri	Work – people, attitudes, situations
Sat	Prepare for Sunday

4. USE IT!

OPTION #2 PRAYER NOTEBOOK

Another way to organize your prayer life is to design a prayer notebook in which all of your prayer concerns and requests can be recorded and prayed about in an organized fashion. If this option seems like a good fit for you then we encourage you to organize your personal prayer notebook at the end of this SALT binder.

1. Decide how you will arrange your prayer notebook in a way which seems intuitive and workable for you. For instance, you could label the pages according to the days of the week listing a few specific items each day. Or you could label them topically such as *Family, Personal, Church Passions, Friends* or *Projects*. Another idea would be to label with the acronym ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). Customize your prayer notebook as you grow and mature in prayer.

2. Obtain a packet of divider labels from Focused Living or from an office supply store. These packets contain 5 divider labels. Then, make the appropriate titles on the tabs.

3. Put a couple of blank sheets of paper in each section as well as a couple of 'Specific Prayer Request' sheets included at the end of this section. (Feel free to make copies.)

4. Arrange and customize your notebook. For example, if using a daily format you might have one page for each day that includes topics for prayer.

SUNDAY

Family:
Extended Family:

MONDAY

Events of the week and coming pressures or projects
Boss and associates at work

TUESDAY

Friends and Neighbors who need Christ
Our nation (national and state government leaders)

WEDNESDAY

Church: Staff, Elders, Deacons, Missionaries
Small group and Sunday school class

THURSDAY

Personal needs. Health, finances, relationships, attitudes
Sports team relationships

FRIDAY

SALT Crew
Close friends

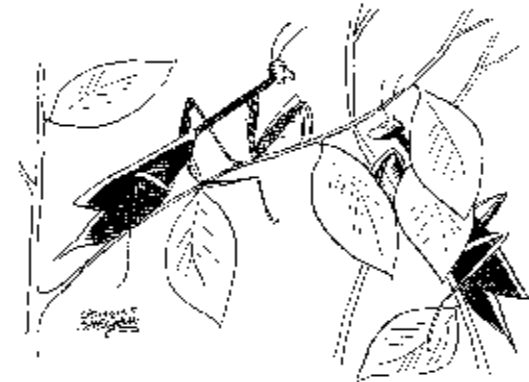
SATURDAY

Focused Living
Whatever!

5. Now begin to fill out the lined pages for specific requests which are on your heart or for which folks have asked you to pray. For example:

DATE	SPECIFIC REQUEST	ANSWERED
2/23/04	Jim would decide to go to U of Md	Yes! 7/22/04
3/18/04	Russ' daughter-health of new baby	
5/8/04	Al to come to Promise Keepers w/ me	No 6/22/04

6. USE IT!



“I can't help it...I just don't feel like praying!”

