

UNLEASHED!

DAY 7— Disciple Children and All Generations to Speak for Jesus

Acts 2:17,18

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Explore the Word

Read Joel 2:28, 29. What was prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this passage?

Insights from Ellen White:

God's purpose for the children growing up beside our hearths is wider, deeper, higher, than our restricted vision has comprehended. From the humblest lot those whom He has seen faithful have in time past been called to witness for Him in the world's highest places. And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts as a witness for the King of kings. Multitudes will be called to a wider ministry. The whole world is opening to the gospel. . . . From every quarter of this world of ours comes the cry of sin-stricken hearts for a knowledge of the God of love. . . . It rests with us who have received the knowledge, with our children to whom we may impart it, to answer their cry. To every household and every school, to every parent, teacher, and child upon whom has shone the light of the gospel, comes at this crisis the question put to Esther the queen at that momentous crisis in Israel's history, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 484)

Prayer Focus

Pray for God to make your life a fulfillment of this ancient prophecy.

Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

Look around at your circle of family/friends. Have each person name a hobby or skill that they would like to learn from someone in the circle. Just as we pass on talents to our family and friends, we can also pass on faith, courage, and a missionary spirit.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Explore the Word

Read Acts 2:17, 18 and Malachi 4:5, 6. How does the message in Malachi prepare the hearts of families to be part of the last-day prophecy described in Acts 2:17, 18?

Insights from Ellen White:

Parents should in a special sense regard themselves as agents of God to instruct their children, as did Abraham, to keep the way of the Lord. They need to search the Scriptures diligently, to know what is the way of the Lord, that they may teach it to their household. Micah says, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" [Micah 6:8.] In order to be teachers, parents must be learners, gathering light constantly from the oracles of God and by precept and example bringing this precious light into the education of their children.

From the light that God has given me, I know that the husband and the wife are to be in the home minister, physician, nurse, and teacher, binding their children to themselves and to God, training them to avoid every habit that will in any way militate against God's work in the body, and teaching them to care for every part of the living organism. (*The Adventist Home*, p. 184)

Prayer Focus

Ask God to fill you with extra love and turn your heart back toward any family member with whom you need healing.

Church Family**Welcome****Worship in Prayer**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:1. Praise God for Jesus' second coming, in this verse called "the day of the Lord." Jesus is coming again!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:12, 13. Plead with God to turn your heart fully back to Him.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Joel 2:15–17. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to gather all generations to His Son Jesus Christ while there is still time.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God for the courage of Christ to share with others what He is doing in your life. Pray. Ask God to lead you by the Holy Spirit to someone who needs to hear your own story of what Jesus is doing in your life. Share Jesus with that person! In preparation for tomorrow, read Acts 2:17, 18; 4:24–31.)

Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Team up in groups of two or three. Tell your partner about someone who mentored you to trust, follow, and share Jesus when you were a child or youth. How can we be that kind of mentor to someone else?

Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 2:17, 18. When is this prophecy to be fulfilled? What will each generation be doing as they are filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4–7. How does God's plan in this passage prepare children and youth for doing their part in the Acts 2:17, 18 prophecy about the last days?

Insights from Ellen White:

In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control. The educational influences of the home are a decided power for good or for evil. They are in many respects silent and gradual, but if exerted on the right side, they become a far-reaching power for truth and righteousness. If the child is not instructed aright here, Satan will educate him through agencies of his choosing. How important, then, is the school in the home! Look upon the family circle as a training school, where you are preparing your children for the performance of their duties at home, in society, and in the church. (*The Adventist Home*, p. 182)

Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Pray together in your small groups for:

1. Parents to intentionally mentor the children and youth in their homes to trust, follow, and share Jesus.
2. Young and old to partner in sharing Jesus in their community and around the world.

Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is under conviction that they should invest their time and energy in mentoring young people to trust, follow, and share Jesus with Holy Spirit power? Please come and join me for prayer.

24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God how to best affirm and encourage the faith journey of your own children or those in your family/friendship circle. Before tomorrow's meeting, act immediately on the idea God gives you for reaching out to one of these children. Read Acts 2:41-47 in preparation for tomorrow.