

**TOPIC: [THE POWER OF A PRAYING YOUTH GROUP]**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The world is fighting for your approval. Will you give it?  
The world is fighting for your attention. Will you fight back?  
The world is fighting for your time. Have you already given in?  
The world is overcome by evil. Are you?  
Satan has his hand in the world. Do you? BUT...  
The Lord my God can overcome evil. Can you?  
The Lord is fighting for your life. Will you help Him?  
The Lord is fighting for your attention. Who will win?  
The Lord is fighting for your time. Will you pray?  
**The fight for your soul is happening now. Which side are you on?**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

After reading through the introduction, have the teens break off into groups.  
Each group should receive a set of 5 prayer topics. Each person should be given one of the prayer topics. If there are less than 5 people, some will have two topics. Once you've divided into groups, let them read and follow the instructions for each prayer topic.

**PRAYER TOPIC SUMMARY:**

1. Why do we pray?
2. Lord, rescue us from evil...
3. Lord, help us fight back ...
4. Lord, fill us with your Spirit...
5. Lord, guide our steps each day...

SESSION 06  
Wednesday, March 22, 2006

**Start Here:**

If you are reading this piece of paper, you are the leader of this portion of your group time.  
Read the message aloud to your group and then follow the directions.

(You will probably need to read the directions to your group so they know what to do)

PRAYER TOPIC #1  
“WHY DO WE PRAY?”

**MESSAGE:** If you don't know why you're praying, then why do you pray? If you know why you pray, then why don't you pray more? We are here tonight to pray as a youth group for the power of the Lord to come upon us. We'll pray, “Lord, ‘rescue us from evil’ and ‘help us fight back,’ so ‘fill us with your Spirit,’ and ‘guide our steps each day.’”

(read aloud) **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Each person answer these two questions aloud:
  - a. Why do I pray?
  - b. Do I pray enough? (yes or no)
2. Prayer is a time where you enter into God's presence. Begin your prayer time tonight by reading the following aloud as a prayer:

**PSALM 63:**

1 O God, you are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body longs for you,  
in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.  
2 I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.  
3 Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.  
4 I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.  
5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.  
6 On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.  
7 Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.  
8 My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.  
9 They who seek my life will be destroyed;  
they will go down to the depths of the earth.  
10 They will be given over to the sword  
and become food for jackals.  
11 But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by God's name will praise him,  
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

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PRAYER TOPIC #2

**“LORD, RESCUE US FROM EVIL”**

**MESSAGE:** With the world fighting for your soul, you are left alone to fight back unless you have the Lord on your side. Many people assume the Lord is fighting for them just because they are good church-goers so they never pray for the Lord to rescue them. However, we must always be asking God to rescue us from Satan and his angels who attack both directly and through the evil that is in the world. Pray for God to rescue you from evil. The more we ask, the more he'll do. The less we ask, the less he'll do.

(read aloud) **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Each person needs to think of one thing they need to be rescued from. (are you falling into sexual temptations, can you not control your anger, do you constantly gossip...etc)
2. Once you've thought of that one thing, go around the circle (each person does this) and start your prayers with, "Lord, rescue me from the evil in my life..."
3. When everyone has prayed, read the following Psalm:

**PSALM 40:1-12**

- 1 I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear  
and put their trust in the LORD.
- 4 Blessed is the man  
who makes the LORD his trust,  
who does not look to the proud,  
to those who turn aside to false gods.
- 5 Many, O LORD my God,  
are the wonders you have done.  
The things you planned for us  
no one can recount to you;  
were I to speak and tell of them,  
they would be too many to declare.

- 6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but my ears you have pierced;  
burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you did not require.
- 7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—  
it is written about me in the scroll.
- 8 I desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."
- 9 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly;  
I do not seal my lips,  
as you know, O LORD.
- 10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.  
I do not conceal your love and your truth  
from the great assembly.
- 11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD;  
may your love and your truth always protect me.
- 12 For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.

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PRAYER TOPIC #3

**“LORD, HELP US FIGHT BACK”**

**MESSAGE:** With the world fighting for your soul, you are left alone to fight back unless you have the Lord on your side. Many people assume the Lord is fighting for them just because they are good church-goers so they never pray for the Lord to help them **fight back**. However, we must always be asking God to help us **fight back** against the powers of Satan and his angels. We are powerless without God's help. We cannot **fight** Satan alone. We need the Lord to help us **fight back**. The more we ask, the more he'll do. The less we ask, the less he'll do.

(read aloud) **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Each person needs to think of one way the world is fighting against them. The world fights to make you accept what it does as right and true. Where do you find yourself falling short most often? (do you desire acceptance more than Jesus, do you act like you're not a Christian because it's not popular...etc)
2. Once you've thought of that one thing, go around the circle (each person does this) and start your prayer with, "Lord, help me fight back against..."
3. When everyone has prayed, read the remainder of Psalm 40:

13 Be pleased, O LORD, to save me;  
O LORD, come quickly to help me.  
14 May all who seek to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.  
15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
be appalled at their own shame.  
16 But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation always say,  
"The LORD be exalted!"  
17 Yet I am poor and needy;  
may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
O my God, do not delay.

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PRAYER TOPIC #4

**“LORD, FILL US WITH YOUR SPIRIT”**

**MESSAGE:** With the world fighting for your soul, you are left to fight back alone unless you have the Spirit of the Lord dwelling in you. Many people assume they have the Holy Spirit in them because they are good church-goers and have been baptized, so they never pray for the Holy Spirit to dwell in them. However, while all baptized believers have the Holy Spirit, not all of them let it work in them. We need to always ask God to open our hearts to His Spirit so that it can dwell more fully in us each day. The more we ask, the more he'll do. The less we ask, the less he'll do.

(read aloud) **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Go around the circle (each person does this) and begin to pray by saying, “Lord, fill me with your Spirit...”
2. Here are some suggestions of other things you can say:
  - a. “Please open my eyes to your Spirit.”
  - b. “I want your Spirit to take over my life.”
  - c. “I want to feel the Spirit’s presence in my life.”
  - d. “Help me remove the things from my life that are taking the place of your Spirit.”
  - e. “Reveal to me the things I need to change to allow your Spirit control over my life.”
3. When everyone has prayed, read this Psalm:

**PSALM 139:1-10, 23-24**

1 O LORD, you have searched me  
and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue  
you know it completely, O LORD.

5 You hem me in—behind and before;  
you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

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PRAYER TOPIC #5

**“LORD, GUIDE OUR STEPS EACH DAY”**

**MESSAGE:** With the world fighting for your soul, you are left alone to fight back unless you have the Spirit of the Lord on your side. Many people assume the Lord is **guiding** them each day just because they go to church so they never pray for the Lord to **guide** their steps. However, we must constantly be asking God to **guide** our steps as we fight against the powers of Satan and his angels. We should not try to do it on our own. We need the Lord to **guide** us as we live for Him. The more we ask, the more he'll do. The less we ask, the less he'll do.

(read aloud) **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Each person needs to think of the two places where they spend most of their time. This will probably be the same for everyone, but still think of them.
2. Go around the circle (each person does this) and start your final prayer with, “Lord, guide my steps as I walk through (my school, my...) and help me...”
  - a. Be sure to mention both places that you thought of
  - b. Also pray for God to reveal what your purpose is in these places. “God, please show me what I’m supposed to do for you in these places”
3. When everyone has prayed, read this Psalm once more:

**PSALM 139:1-10, 23-24**

1 O LORD, you have searched me  
and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue  
you know it completely, O LORD.

5 You hem me in—behind and before;  
you have laid your hand upon me.

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