

The High Priest

DAY 6—THE GIRDLE

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. (1 PETER 3:15)

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE PRAYER TIME

Praise

- Lord, we begin by praising You for who You are—our Protector and Defender.
- Thank You for the great privilege of being witnesses for You.
- Thank You that when You call us to serve, You also give us the strength and abilities to do so.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin

- Father, please show us which sins we need to confess privately. We claim Your victory over those sins.
- Forgive us for times when we were not willing to serve You.
- Forgive us for times when we refused to be a witness for You.

Supplication and Intercession

- Lord, please give us hearts willing to serve You.
- Teach us how to “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).
- Please help us see the opportunities You give us for serving You.
- We ask that You give us the right words to witness for You when opportunities arise.
- Lord, help us to serve only one master (Matthew 6:24).
- Please let our families reveal Your love in our homes and communities. We ask You to bring harmony into homes, heal broken relationships, protect the vulnerable from abuse, and reveal Your sanctifying power in seemingly hopeless situations.
- Lord, we pray for the thousands of Global Mission pioneers who are planting churches among unreached people. Many of them work alone or in difficult situations, so we pray for their safety, wisdom, and success.
- Bless the efforts of the Adventist Professionals’ Network. Give them divine opportunities to disciple the educated and elite in the world’s urban areas.
- We ask for special protection for church members who face daily harassment or threats to their freedom because of their religious beliefs. We pray for their wisdom and courage.
- Lord, we pray for the seven (or more) people on our individual prayer lists. May they open their lives to Your Holy Spirit and become witnesses for You.
- We also pray for the personal needs of those gathered here.

Thanksgiving

- Thank You, Lord, for shaping our characters through our service to You.
- Thank You for the joy that comes with witnessing for You.
- Thank You that Christ has already given us an example of how to serve.

SUGGESTED SONGS TO SING

“Give of Your Best to the Master” (SDA Hymnal #572); “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go” (SDA Hymnal #573); “Let Your Heart Be Broken” (SDA Hymnal #575); “So Send I You” (SDA Hymnal #578); “This Little Light of Mine” (SDA Hymnal #580).

The Girdle

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. (1 PETER 3:15)

For the high priest to be girded with his sash meant that he was fully arrayed in his garments and ready to serve. Likewise, we should always be prepared to serve and witness.

God's people are to be distinguished as a people who serve Him fully, whole-heartedly, taking no honor to themselves, and remembering that by a most solemn covenant they have bound themselves to serve the Lord, and Him only. (*Christian Service*, p. 236)

What is it to serve God?—It is to resemble Him in character, to imitate Him. To serve God is to obey Him, to keep His commandments, to make an open confession of standing, not under the black banner of the great apostate, but under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. Those who serve God strive earnestly to obey His will. Thus they show to what army they belong. (*Signs of the Times*, Feb. 1, 1899, par. 3)

Whatever the line of work in which we engage, the word of God teaches us to be "not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," "knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." Romans 12:11; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:24. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 346)

Always be ready to give to others the light you have received. Avow your principles of action; scorn concealment. Unfurl your colors; for you are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. Shun not responsibility. You can not serve God and Baal. God desires His sons and daughters to stand bravely for the right, that the world may know where they will be found in the time of trial. (*Signs of the Times*, Aug. 1, 1900, par. 4)

The Lord desires you to be soul-winners; therefore, while you should not force doctrinal points upon the people, you should "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15. Why fear?—Fear lest your words should savor of self-importance, lest unadvised words be spoken, lest the words and manner should not be after Christ's likeness. Connect firmly with Christ, and present the truth as it is in Him. (*Manual for Canvassers*, p. 34)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

God desires every believer to be a soulwinner; and He will bless all who look to Him in confidence for wisdom and guidance. As they move guardedly, walking in wisdom's way, and remaining true to the Lord God of Israel, the purity and simplicity of Christ, revealed in the life-practice, will witness to the possession of genuine piety. In all that they say and do, they will glorify the name of Him whom they serve.

The believer who is imbued with a true missionary spirit, is a living epistle, known and read of all men. The truth goes forth from his lips in no feigned words. His piety and zeal and consecrated judgment grow with the passing days, and the unbelieving world sees that he is in living communion with God, and is learning of Him. The words spoken by converted lips are accompanied by a power that touches the cold hearts of unbelievers; for even those who know not God are enabled to distinguish between the human and the divine.

My brethren and sisters, do you feel the sanctifying power of sacred truth in your heart and life and character? Have you the assurance that God, for the sake of His dear Son, has forgiven your sins? Are you striving to live with a conscience void of offense toward God and man? Do you often plead with God in behalf of your friends and neighbors? If you have made your peace with God, and have placed all upon the altar, you may engage with profit in soul-winning service. (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, pp. 212, 213)

Let our words be gentle as we seek to win souls. God will be wisdom to him who seeks for wisdom from a divine source. We are to seek opportunities on every hand. We are to watch unto prayer, and be ready always to give an answer to every one who asks a reason for the hope that is in us. Lest we shall impress unfavorably one soul for whom Christ has died, we should keep our hearts uplifted to God, so that when the opportunity presents itself, we may have the right word to speak at the right time. If you thus undertake to work for God, the Spirit of God will be your helper. The Holy Spirit will apply the truth spoken in love for the soul. The truth will have quickening power when spoken under the influence of the grace of Christ. (*The Publishing Ministry*, p. 307)