

**Advance** – God is calling you to make a difference beyond what you have been in the past

- Scripture Reading – I John 3: 10-19
- Offer a general prayer for impact
- Gather students with their prayer partners so they can share what they expect God to do at and because of Challenge 2008 in their lives and the life of their church. Pray for each other.
- Have the students write on a 3x5 card three things that the partner can specifically pray for during Challenge 2008.

Close the evening with a benediction acknowledging who God is and expecting Him to show up in creative ways as everyone experiences Challenge 2008.

# CHALLENGE'08



*Prayer Initiatives*

*Thank you for taking the time to check out what it will take to be prayerfully ready for Challenge '08.*

The whole planning team of Challenge are personally committed to prayer and we are expecting God to do incredible things because of our humble dependence on Him.

We are asking God not only to raise up thousands of prayer warriors on site for Challenge but also for those thousands to go back to their youth groups and lead out in having prayerful dependence change their youth group.

1. I am asking for adults and teens to lead the way in making prayer a priority as you are getting ready for Challenge 08. In the following pages you will see a number of ways that you can do that.
2. When you get to Salt Lake City watch for prayer opportunities during registration.
3. Attend the nightly \*Prayer Army times at 5:42 pm and bring as many friends with you that are interested in praying.
4. While each rally is in session pray for those around you and the speaker and worship leaders.
5. Watch what God does with an attitude of humble, prayerful dependence.

Prayer defines what your relationship with God will be like. Prayer defines the Power in your life. Prayer defines the intimacy and closeness you have with God. Prayer defines how much you trust and rely on Him every day. Prayer exposes your real motives. Prayer gives you the secret things that you will never know unless you humble yourself and pray. You find out secret thing about yourself, your ministry, your family and your friends so you know what changes to make. Prayer gives you wisdom, understanding, discernment, and counsel. When Jesus was on this earth his disciples didn't ask Him how to heal, speak, or do miracles... they asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus showed in the way He did life that prayer was how He stayed close to the father and got direction for what need to be done on that day.

Thank you for making prayer a Priority

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## *The Prayer Army*

We are asking every group to raise up at least two Prayer Army representatives from each church. The objective in having prayer army representatives in your group is to highlight prayer before, during and after Challenge 08 is done.

Glenn Olson, the prayer coordinator for Challenge will communicate with the prayer army students leading up to Challenge via the prayer blog site at [www.challengeconference.com](http://www.challengeconference.com)

### **Before Challenge...**

Each person involved as a prayer leader will lead out in prayer opportunities both for the group attending and for the church that is sending them. This is a great way of building unity and momentum and excitement in your church about the journey to Challenge. Have your students to regularly to the prayer blog to get updates and...

### **During Challenge**

These representatives will attend the nightly prayer army time and encourage as many of their youth group to attend also (including your adults). As your group goes through the week you will be looking for ways of keeping your group dependant on prayer. That might mean praying for each other, praying as a group or praying for those you meet on the street.

### **After Challenge**

The prayer representatives will aggressively go after ways of keeping a prayerful relationship growing in their youth group and their personal lives as well.

## *PRAYER BASE*

Developing a prayer base should be a significant part of your plans to attend the Challenge '08 conference this summer. There are two main areas you must address to develop a prayer base. The first is the enlistment of people to pray and the second is communication to keep them informed. These two areas are highlighted on the following pages.

## *ENLIST PEOPLE IN YOUR CONGREGATION TO PRAY*

This recruitment can be accomplished through a variety of means. Here are some suggestions:

1. Teach an adult Sunday School class on prayer and ask people to sign up for the Challenge '08 prayer team.
2. Have an all church prayer dinner for the youth and have a sign-up at the meal. At this meeting, break up into small groups with both students and adults praying for one another.
3. Make prayer cards/bookmarks for all your students planning to attend the conference. Have each student enlist five people to pray for them before, during, and after the conference. (Provide the Sojourner stickers—go to [www.efca.org/student/challenge](http://www.efca.org/student/challenge) to order sets)
4. On a Sunday evening, have a youth emphasis with Challenge '08 as your theme. After the service, have a sign-up sheet for those who want to pray for your students.
5. Have a Challenge '08 prayer poster in a prominent place. Mention the need during the announcements at Sunday services, asking for people to sign up on the poster.
6. Have your students and youth workers attend some of the prayer groups that already meet at your church. Share prayer requests with women's ministries, men's ministries, small groups, senior adults, and men's prayer breakfast groups, etc.
7. Set up one home prayer meeting each night the conference is running. Have people gather for prayer for your group.
8. Enlist your student prayer team member to recruit other people to pray.
9. Use your church web site to recruit people.

These are just a few suggestions. Be creative!

## *KEEP YOUR PRAYER BASE INFORMED*

This is a critical step to a successful prayer base.

1. Send out a monthly or weekly letter outlining the general and specific requests for the conference. It would be good to get specific requests from your students to make this letter personal.
2. Use postcards, chat rooms, spam lists, or whatever to make any prayer requests known. Give out Challenge stickers as prayer reminders. See promotional resources on the website: [www.efca.org/student/challenge](http://www.efca.org/student/challenge)
3. Call a prayer coordinator daily from Challenge in SLC, update a website, or send e-mails to prayer supporters. Give them specific and timely requests for which your prayer base can pray. Check to see if your hotel has high-speed internet access.

As you develop your prayer base, remember to look for ways God is answering your prayers. Don't neglect praise as part of this process.

**Updates on prayer for the conference can be found at the conference Blog site: [www.challengeconference.com](http://www.challengeconference.com). Please check this regularly because this will keep both you and your students informed in your prayers**

## *CALL TO A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING*

*WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008*

We would like to encourage each youth group coming to the Challenge '08 Youth Conference to consider fasting and praying for this conference on Wednesday, June 25. We are spending a lot of time and energy preparing for the conference, but the effort of concentrating on prayer and fasting must not be neglected.

Therefore, we are suggesting your group consider the following:

1. Set aside Wednesday, June 25, '08, as a day of fasting. If you do this, plan to teach on fasting prior to the event.
2. Consider fasting just for the evening meal on Wednesday, June 25. An all-day fast might be overwhelming for some.

## *A Model Parent/Prayer Event*

### *Challenge '08*

3. Have your youth group, their parents, and other prayer partners meet Wednesday night for a time of prayer and sharing. Ask students to share what they want God to do in their lives. and the youth group as a result of the conference.
4. Consider joining with other nearby EFCA church youth groups for a prayer rally and celebration time.

The fasting should not be mandatory, but voluntary. Give your students guidelines of how to fast, (i.e.: a food fast, not water, etc.) Remind students this is not a measure of spirituality but an effort to seek God and to ask Him, in a serious manner, to move supernaturally in and as a result of Challenge '08.

How exciting to think of thousands of students praying and fasting on Wednesday for the conference. It begins with each of us, the youth workers.

Won't you join us in a movement to seek the presence and power of God for our students and the Challenge '08 conference.

### *Suggested Challenge '08 prayer requests for Wednesday, June 25, 2008:*

1. Pray for safety as people travel to Salt Lake City.
2. Pray for the speakers to be anointed and used by God.
3. Pray that God would create a hunger in students for His Word.
4. Pray that the afternoon training would inspire and challenge students toward ministry and service.
5. Pray for the outreach/talent ministry projects to provide a vision of how God can use students to minister. Ask God to challenge students to reproduce this type of ministry in their communities.
6. Pray for last-minute details both for the conference and youth groups.
7. Pray for God to begin a revival of passionate prayer in the students of the Evangelical Free Church of America nationwide.
8. Pray for God to radically transform students' lives and entire youth groups.
9. Finally, pray that God would be glorified and honored through everything we do at the Challenge '08 conference.

#### **Welcome people**

Remind people of the purpose and what Challenge '08 is all about.

Remind people of any details for the trip:

- Departure time
- Packing inventory
- How to contact the students
- How to or where to check for daily prayer needs
- Arrival home information and communication plan

Pair students up with their prayer partners and parents.

Have the prayer partners stand - thank them for coming and for their support.

Have the parents stand – thank them for coming and for their support. Transition into a time of prayer by making comments concerning the real source of power and significance.

#### **Adore** – His Greatness is beyond our understanding

- Have a recent music video on as people are coming into the meeting
- Engage the congregation in praise with singing a song or two
- Read Ps 96
- Give the congregation a picture of what you would like to see God do through Challenge '08 in students, the youth group, and the church

#### **Awake** – God is in the business of restoring people

- Scripture reading – Daniel 9:4-19
- Silent prayer on your knees in confession, preparing for God to work
- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving claiming God's forgiveness  
Congregational Praise