

2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue (Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

TIPS FOR BIBLE STUDY

for use with the 2019 international Eight Days of Prayer resource and 2019 Canadian Questions for Bible Study resource (both available on www.weekofprayer.ca)

As an Individual

- Prepare a place where you can be quiet and reflective for a period of time. (You may wish to set up your space with symbolic items that help you to focus: candles, a Bible, a cross or an icon.) Begin each session by praying for openness to God's word.
- Read the reflection and questions assigned for the day. What reaction do you have to the issues and Bible passages? Jot down any words, phrases or images that come to your mind.
- Read the text again and meditate on the word or phrase you have selected. Listen for God's word to you.
- Take time to write down any insights, or express them in an artistic way. Think about an action you might take either by yourself or with a friend or a group.
- Read aloud the prayer at the end of the daily reflection, or offer a prayer of your own.

Within a Group

Preparing to Meet

Invite people from neighbouring churches and prepare your meeting space with chairs arranged around a symbol such as a Bible, cross, or something from Indonesia (such as a map, a craft or a cultural object). Each person will need a Bible and a copy of the Eight Days materials (international and/or Canadian), available on www.weekofprayer.ca.

Have name tags for everyone. You might like to offer coffee / tea either before or after the session. You might also offer an Indonesian dish or snack.

Check-in

Give each person a minute or two to share something about themselves and why they decided to come to the group.

Take a minute to focus in silence, and then offer a prayer asking for openness to God's word.

Think about the Text

Have one person read the first section which sets out some of the Indonesian context. Then, as a group, look at the scriptures for the day. Go around the group, each person reading one verse at a time.

Look at the questions. Talk about them in pairs for about 10 minutes. Then, report back. How did they react to the material? What did they find surprising or new or interesting about the material? What did they find difficult?

Is there something they would like to do (act) as a result of the day's session?

*Note: If you are going through the whole *Eight Days of Prayer* resource in a single Bible study, have each pair / group look up the Bible texts, daily reflections, and study questions for one of the 8 days. Give them about 10 - 15 minutes to do their work, and then another 10 minutes each to present to the whole group. The whole Bible study will take about an hour to an hour and a half.*

Close with Prayer

Ask participants to name people or events for which to pray, then pray in silence. Close with the prayer that has been included in the day's material. If you are only meeting once, you could choose one prayer from the *Eight Days* material or use the following:

Gracious and ever creating God.

We give you thanks that we are able to meet together
to discover your Word for our world.

We give you thanks for this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
and the opportunity it gives us to pray and work together.

Merciful Creator,

we thank you for your persistent love and your patience with our brokenness.

Help us work for justice, as you have shown us through your prophets.

Help us to be reconcilers, as you have reconciled us in Jesus Christ.

Help us work with you in the healing of the world.

We pray through Christ, who comes reconciling and making new. Amen.