



UPLINK

A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING



IDEAS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRAYER EVENT

Ideas You Can Use

GENERAL PROGRAM

1. Involve all of your young people in a 24-hour fast. (We do not recommend fasting for young people with special health problems.)
 2. Involve all of your young people in a special time of organized, concentrated, intercessory prayer.
 3. Provide the results of your Uplink to your district Youth President.
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SPECIFIC IDEAS

1. Prepare your young people with promotion several weeks before Uplink.
2. Print posters, have testimonies, send out a mailing in advance. You may reproduce the Uplink poster to use as a mailing.
3. Prior to Uplink, teach for several weeks in youth service on the subject of fasting and intercessory prayer. Prepare the young people for this big spiritual event.
4. Expose your young people to the need of the lost (both at home and abroad). A wealth of material is available through the Foreign Missions and Home Missions Divisions.
5. Set up a 24-hour chain and encourage all young people to be a part. Produce a list of needs. Have time in a youth service prior to Uplink when each young person can give specific requests. (Make sure their request is not vague: i.e. Pray for my family, with no name.) Compile the list and distribute to all young people involved. You may want to begin or end the fasting and prayer chain together with a rally or corporate prayer time.
6. Hold a rally on Saturday afternoon or evening. Bring in a special speaker. Have a time of worship. After the message, spend an extended time in prayer.
7. Have a time of consecration. Allow the young people to set their lives apart for God's service. Some young people may want to cleanse their lives of ungodly media, relationships, habits and other or sinful things. Have a bonfire and a time to write down consecrations and offer them to the Lord.
8. On Sunday, after the big event, set aside a special time for testimonies from young people. For some of them, this may have been their first fasting experience. You are sure to get some humorous and heart-rending testimonies.
9. Follow up the prayer and fasting time with an emphasis on others. You will reap the benefits of this time of consecration for months to come.
10. Combine any of the above ideas or create your own personal event. The main idea is to involve your young people in prayer and fasting together. We believe this will bind them to your local church and to one another. The ultimate goal is to develop a generation of intercessors for world revival.
11. Get feedback from the young people. Print a special bulletin of testimonies and answered prayers. Please send us a copy of your victories. We would like to share your story with all of our fellowship.

The Lock-in that Unlocks

One idea that works well for Uplink is a youth prayer lock-in. Following are some considerations in planning such an event. This can be a life-changing night which will become an annual highlight of your church's youth calendar!

- 1. Set Goals:** Know your objectives before you start. Some possible goals may include:
 - ✓ To raise the youth group's consciousness of prayer.
 - ✓ To impart a world view of prayer.
 - ✓ To develop an ongoing Prayer Team in the local youth group and church.
 - ✓ To cover the pastor and church leadership with prayer.
- 2. Appoint a Lock-in Coordinator:** You may want to appoint a responsible individual to assist in planning and coordinating this gathering. Give him/her a clear list of responsibilities and secure regular progress reports as to the status of plans, promotion, etc.
- 3. Consider Making this a City-wide or Sectional Lock-in:** If there are several churches in your area, expanding your plans to invite other youth groups will make the evening more exciting, especially if your group is small. Keep in mind that this demands more chaperones.
- 4. Set the Date and Time for the Lock-in:** The suggested date for Uplink is the first Saturday in May. You will probably want to have the lock-in on the Friday before Uplink. You may want to plan the event to break the fast at the end of the night's activities.
- 5. Choose the Location:** Will you use the church facilities or an off-site location? Be sure to reserve the facilities needed either way.
- 6. Plan the Schedule:** Since it is unrealistic to think the young people are going to spend the whole night in prayer, you will need a printed schedule of the times when you will be praying and the times when you will be playing. You must intersperse "fun" times with "spiritual" times throughout the night. Plan for games, skits, etc. to break the evening up.
- 7. Plan Your Prayer Times Creatively:** It is imperative that your scheduled seasons of prayer through the night be dynamic and fresh. Don't simply call the young people together and say, "OK, kids, it's time to pray!" Use several ideas to make each session different.

Guest speakers can be invited to teach on and emphasize certain areas of prayer. For example, the pastor, youth pastor, or a prayer warrior could speak briefly on how to pray for missionaries and then lead the group in a season of prayer for them. If several churches are joining together, it is wise to invite each pastor and/or youth pastor to be involved in some fashion.

You can also use a variety of prayer approaches such as joining together at the altar, forming small groups, praying individually, or praying with a partner.

If the meeting is in the church, do a prayer walk through the building. Pray in the pastor's office for his leadership. Pray in the sanctuary. Pray for the people who sit in each pew and for each person who fills the pulpit. Pray in each Sunday school class. Pray for all staff members in their area of the building.

You can take the group on a prayer journey through the town. Load into vans and pray for your city. Pray at city hall. Pray as you drive through neighborhoods. Pray at the local schools. Pray in the parking lots of hospitals or nursing homes. (It is wise to secure permission from the administration ahead of time.) If safety is a concern, you can do this at daybreak when the young people will need a change of pace. If the group is large, consider splitting them up and giving assigned stops to each group.

8. Advertise the Event: Use social media, posters, direct letters, a bulletin board display, e-mail, announcements in services and Sunday school classes, and phone calls/texts to get the word out. This might be another area to delegate, perhaps to a group of the young people themselves.

9. Decorate the Sanctuary or Meeting Room: To emphasize different aspects of prayer, create focal points around the room. For example, put up pictures of church leaders (including district and national leaders if possible). Secure a map from the Foreign Missions Division which lists and pictures all our foreign missionaries. Secure a similar map for our home missionaries from the Home Missions Division. Either of these can be reached at 314-837-7300. Perhaps you can use flags from various countries. Black flags can represent un-churched areas. You can also set up a computer which displays the World Network of Prayer website at www.wnop.org.

Put out Bibles and verse cards for praying the Word, books on prayer, and other devotional items. Provide a basket for prayer requests which participants can come read and pray over during individual prayer time. Also provide pen and paper for leaving requests. Anointing oil and anointing cloths may be utilized as well. Be sure there are boxes of tissues around.

10. Plan How to Break the Fast: Decide how, when, and where you will break the night's fast. You may choose to have a group of parents prepare breakfast at the church, go as a group to a local fast-food restaurant (sometimes they will give you a discount if you explain the nature of the event), or (for smaller groups) go to someone's home for a breakfast buffet.

11. Plan for Follow-up: This lock-in is meant to be a beginning not the end. Implement plans to build off of this night's success. Plan regular youth prayer meetings. Teach on prayer in the youth Sunday school class. Encourage the young people to meet in the prayer room before services. Allow Uplink to be the catalyst for an organized, ongoing youth prayer ministry in your church.

12. Report Your Success to Your District Youth Leadership: Your district youth department will want to know of your successful program. Let them know what your event was, how many churches and young people participated, any exciting testimonies of what happened, etc. Your youth group could be a blessing to others around your district.