

How do I start?

Start by saying yes to God. Pray a commitment prayer like this:

“God, I know that my neighbors matter very much to you and that you have commanded me to make ‘requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving’ for them. So, out of obedience to you and out of love for my neighbors, I commit myself to ask for your blessings for them for five minutes a day, five days a week, for the next five weeks. I’ll do this, with your help, to the best of my ability.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Persons I will pray for:

Persons I will pray with:

My five week commitment...

begins the week of _____
ends the week of _____

My impressions as I prayed:

Prayer Commitment

Write your name below to commit to pray for your neighbors. Return this commitment slip to your church office.

Yes! I/we will pray for God’s blessings for my/our neighbors for five minutes a day, five days a week, for five weeks.

Name: _____

My Personal Prayer Journal

| Requests | Date | Answers | Date |
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The following resources are available from Houses of Prayer Everywhere

- *Maker Your Home a Lighthouse*
- *Developing a Prayer-Care-Share Lifestyle*
- *There’s Hope* - Living by the Book, a Bible study for seekers and growing Christians
- *Pocket Prayer Journal*
- *Houses of Prayer* decal, poster, or flag
- *Lighthouse* - a bi-monthly newsletter
- Prayer greeting cards
- Doorhangers

You can order these and many other *Lighthouse of Prayer* resources (**discounts available on quantity orders**):

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www.hopeministries.org
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Five Blessings

A simple, friendly way to touch the lives of family, friends, and neighbors by praying...

Five Blessings

for

Five Neighbors

for

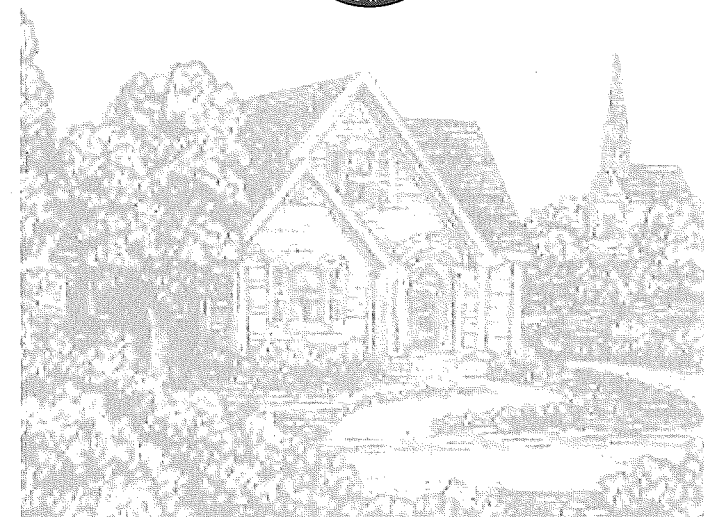
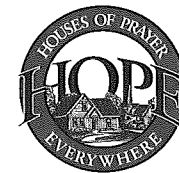
Five Minutes

a day,

Five Days

a week for

Five Weeks



What can prayer do for your city?

What would your city be like if every neighbor and neighborhood were prayed for daily? It would be a city in transformation with many people coming to Christ! That's what God wants. His heart's desire is for all people to be saved and for all of us to "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

What will it take?

God's plan to transform personal lives and whole cities calls for *prayer* - believers praying for their neighbors and then being available to them. You can make a difference by simply praying...

- five blessings, for
- five neighbors, for
- five minutes a day,
- five days a week, for
- five weeks.

Who is my neighbor?

A neighbor is any person who is nearby—a family member, friend, fellow worker, classmate, or playmate. In Luke 10, Jesus describes a neighbor as someone you meet along life's road who needs your help.

What "blessings" should I pray?

Think of the word BLESS to remember five important ways to pray for your neighbors:

- B** Body - health, protection, strength
- L** Labor - work, income, security
- E** Emotional - joy, peace, hope
- S** Social - love, marriage, family, friends
- S** Spiritual - salvation, faith, grace

Why should I bless my neighbors?

First, your neighbors matter to God. They are precious sons and daughters whom he loves. God grieves over those who are apart from him and wants them to return "home." Prayer will move them toward the Father, and heaven will rejoice when they come home (Luke 15:7, 11-24).

Second, God commands that "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone." "Everyone" includes your neighbors whom God wants "to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1,4).

Third, as you bless others, you too will be blessed.

Should I pray alone or with others?

You can pray alone, but why not band together with one or more believers - your spouse, your family, believing neighbors, or fellow employees - and form a *Lighthouse of Prayer*?

A *Lighthouse of Prayer* is a cluster of two or more believers banded together to pray for, care about, and share the blessings of Christ with those who live or work nearby.

Can I do more than pray?

Yes! Make yourself available to God, and he will lead you into ministries of caring and sharing. You'll have a threefold impact. By **praying**, you'll release God's grace into people's lives. By **caring**, you'll build bridges of love to them. By **sharing** the gospel, you'll help people come to know Jesus Christ and be saved.

How do I connect with my neighbors?

The most direct way to connect with your neighbors is simply to **ask them for prayer requests**. Most people today are pleased to be asked. **Prayerwalking** your neighborhood or workplace will get you out to pray "on-site with insight." **Doorhangers** will inform your neighbors that you are praying for them.

Will my prayers really make a difference?

Yes! When we pray, God works! The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous (person) is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). All of the power in prayer is God's power, but God has chosen to have his power directed to persons and places through our prayers. Things will happen as you pray that wouldn't have happened if you hadn't prayed.

In Michigan, for example, *House of Prayer* members reported that in the neighborhoods they prayed for, people got out of drugs, unemployed people got jobs, a father stopped drinking, two persons were miraculously healed, a person was delivered from an evil spirit, a Bible study began, and five persons came to know Christ.

After a Mississippi church formed *Houses of Prayer*, the pastor reported, "When we began our *Houses of Prayer*, almost immediately we saw people begin to come to church who hadn't been in church for years. We see new faces almost every week. Our attendance in Sunday school has increased by 40 percent, and worship attendance by 30 percent. The presence of God is evident weekly."

How should I pray?

Always pray with a **clean heart**. The prayers of the *righteous* are "powerful and effective" (James 5:16). Pray with compassion. Be like Christ, who was moved with **compassion** towards the needy (Matthew 9:36). Pray with **persistence**. God listens to those who pray earnestly (Acts 12:5, James 5:17).

