

Rev. Smith Here is the installation serv. Adelle

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Installation service

A hymn may be sung, such as "Lord, Teach Us How To Pray Aright" or "With the Lord Begin Your Task." The vacation Bible school teachers and staff come forward and face the congregation.

The pastor addresses the congregation: We are invited to come to God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. In Psalm 50 God says: "Call to me when trouble comes." In the same way we are encouraged to pray by Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7 where we are invited to "ask," "seek," "knock." God invites us to pray because God wants to answer our prayers: "Call to me when trouble comes; I will save you." "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." God promises to answer our prayers according to our needs.

Jesus has taught us how to pray. Apparently the disciples had some of the same difficulties with prayer that we do. They finally said to Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus answered their request by teaching them the Lord's Prayer. All who participate in our vacation Bible school will be invited to learn more about prayer under the theme, "God's People Pray." The heart of prayer is the realization that God is at the center of all the events and experiences that make up our life. Through learning activities, songs, and projects, the student in vacation Bible school will be reminded that God is at the center. God is the source of all life. In prayer we reach out to our living God.

Our vacation Bible school coordinator, _____, will present the names of the teachers and staff who will help our students learn about prayer.

The names of all VBS teachers and staff are read by the VBS coordinator.

The pastor addresses the teachers and staff: We now call upon you as God's people to help the learners in our vacation Bible school:

- Learn about people of prayer from Bible times to the present.
- Discover that prayer is both spontaneous and structured; both individual and corporate.
- Experience prayer as part of an ongoing relationship with God in all aspects of our daily lives.
- Recognize that prayer is appropriate at all times and in all places.
- Trust in God's presence as we pray.
- Respond to God's presence in our lives by praying, praising, lamenting, and singing.

Are you willing to give yourself to this task? If so, answer, "Yes, and I pray that God will guide me."

In the ministry of teaching it is important not only to tell, but also to be faithful to that which we teach. In the teaching of "God's People Pray," will you also seek to grow in your own prayer life, to teach by example and faithfulness?

Yes, and I pray that God will guide me.
We thank God for you, and we will support you with our prayers.

The pastor then addresses the congregation: As a witness to our support, we ask everyone who will be attending vacation Bible school to stand, along with their parents.

The pastor addresses them: Are you, individually, willing to renew your commitment to prayer through participation in and support of our vacation Bible school program? If so, respond by saying, "Yes, and I pray that God will guide me."

Yes, and I pray that God will guide me.

The pastor then asks the congregation to rise. Will you, as a congregation, support our vacation Bible school through prayer and through your own growth and commitment to a life of prayer? **Yes, and I pray that God will guide me.**

The pastor prays: O Lord our God, through Jesus Christ you have made us your own. You have given us life and hope. Help us to live under your guidance, always ready to respond to your invitation to call upon you in prayer, always aware of your presence, always knowing of your gracious will to listen and respond to our needs.

Help the teachers and learners in vacation Bible school to grow in prayer, in trust in your mercy, in confession and repentance, in their compassion and love for all persons, in songs of praise for all that you, O Lord, have done.

Make each day of vacation Bible school an opportunity for the learners to experience a loving and caring people of God who gather to thank and praise, serve and obey you.

Give an added measure of strength and enlightenment to those who teach and lead in our vacation Bible school. Give them joy and fulfillment in their ministry.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who is our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

Encourage ongoing and personal support from the congregation by having the members of the congregation extend a word of greeting and support to the vacation Bible school teachers and participants around them. Encourage sharing names, shaking hands, offering commitments to pray for one another.

The pastor says: Go, people of prayer, with the power and presence of God. Amen.

Another hymn stanza may be sung.