



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION MEN'S DAY OF PRAYER



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SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE

Men's Ministries Day of Prayer
September 1, 2007
"Powered by God"

Call to Worship - Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn
"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
SDA Hymnal #229

Offering
Musician to play song music that is strong, bold about the power of God

Children's Story
See story provided

Scripture Reading
Acts 1:4, 5, 7, 8

Pastoral Prayer
Select three men of different ages. Have them pray one at a time consecutively, in order, briefly—please include requests in the prayers:
1. For the men to be empowered by the Holy Spirit
2. For the men's family lives, mothers, wives, children, and others
3. For the men's work and church life

Special Music
Select a joyful song of victory and strength
Male quartet or male choir preferred

Sermon
See provided sermon

Closing Hymn
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
SDA Hymnal #499

Closing Prayer
Preacher

CHILDREN'S STORY

The Prophet Elijah and the Story of "Wake Up Your God!"

By David Axt

The people of Israel were worshipping a god other than the true God. They were worshipping Baal. Baal was a false god.

Elijah said to King Ahab, "Bring 450 prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel today. I want to talk to them."

Ahab did as Elijah asked.

Elijah said to all the people there, "If the Lord is God, follow Him. If Baal is god, then follow him. Today we will have a test. Let the prophets of Baal put some meat on your altar and I will put some meat on my altar. All of you call upon Baal. I alone will call upon the Lord. The god who answers by burning up the meat is the one true God."

They all agreed. They liked the test.

All the people danced around the altar and shouted, "Baal, hear us!" They shouted louder and louder and still there was no fire.

Elijah said, "Maybe your god is sleeping. Dance more and shout louder!"

The people danced and danced. The people shouted and shouted. They danced and shouted for the whole day. There was no fire.

Then it was Elijah's turn. He built an altar out of 12 big stones. He put the meat on it. He asked the people to fill four barrels with water and pour them over the altar. Then he asked them to pour four more barrels of water over the altar. When they had finished the second time, he said, "Now once more." There was so much water there. It was all over. It filled a trench that had been dug around the altar. Everything was soaked.

Elijah prayed, "Lord, let these people know you are God."

Suddenly, fire flashed down from heaven. It burned up the meat, the altar, and the 12 stones. It even evaporated the water in the trench.

The people bowed down to the Lord and shouted, "The Lord is the one true God!"

The power of God was shown to these people in the form of fire so hot it burned up everything it touched. It was the prayer of one man who loved God more than anything and who was powered by God that made this true story possible. Even the smallest prayer you say can have the same power as Elijah's prayer for fire to come down and consume the sacrifice, the altar, and the water that was poured over the altar.

Remember, Jesus hears all our prayers.

POWERED BY GOD

Sermon Outline

Introduction

1. Cummins vision statement and our own

2. *Dunamis* - dynamite

3. Acts 1:8

I. Receiving the power

1. Race car pit stops

2. Background to the text

3. Six prayer revivals - "Layman Prayer Revival"

4. Examples of results when men pray

II. Keeping the power

1. Skilsaw power

2. Galatians 3:1

3. How we keep the power - staying plugged in

4. Prayer poem

III. Sharing the power

1. Power to witness

a. Jerusalem

b. Judea and Samaria

c. Ends of the earth

2. Revival in Wales reignited - 17 men praying

3. What real revival looks like

4. James 5:16

Conclusion

1. A missionary on furlough

2. Story of a young African pastor

POWERED BY GOD

By Minner Labrador Jr.

Cummins Inc., a global power leader, is a corporation that builds engines and related technologies, including fuel systems, controls, air handling, filtration, emission solutions, and electrical power generation systems. Big diesel trucks pass us on the road every day with heavy loads at over 70 miles per hour powered with motors made by Cummins. They are headquartered in Columbus, Indiana. Their vision statement reads, "Making people's lives better by unleashing the Power of Cummins." What a vision statement for the men of God, "Making people's lives better by unleashing the Power of God."

All of us would agree that power is a good thing when it's used for the right reasons. The Bible talks a lot about power. The word power appears hundreds of times in the Bible and it's almost always connected to God as the source of all power.

Jesus is all for power. While on earth He had power over disease, demons, nature, and even death. When He returns the second time He will exhibit even more power and more glory than we can imagine. Luke 21:27 says, "At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

In Matthew 22:29 when Jesus was talking to the Sadducees about the resurrection He said, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

Men like action. Most of us don't like to sit on the sidelines uninvolved. Even in football games we get very involved emotionally and sometimes physically, with the high fives that follow when our team scores a touchdown.

Some see prayer as a formal, proper thing to do at home or before meetings. But prayer is an action that equips us with power we have yet to tap into.

Jesus' last words to His disciples before His ascension were to pray, while waiting for the gift the Father had promised.

Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The word "power" is "*dunamis*" in Greek, from which we get our English word dynamite. It refers to supernatural power given to the believer when the Holy Spirit is within him.

I. Receiving the Power

II. Keeping the Power

III. Sharing the Power

Receiving the Power

Slow down for just a minute. Even the most competitive racecar drivers have to stop and let the pit crew give them service, fuel, and tires to harness the raw horsepower the engine and the car can produce. The driver's goal is to get in and out of the pits as fast as possible. Stopping is critical to win a race. Not easy, but mandatory.

Before Jesus returned to His Father He told His disciples to wait in prayer for the fuel from the Father to give them a power they didn't have yet. They were excited to see Jesus resurrected and alive and well. They felt they were ready to share the news. But Jesus knew they weren't.

Prayer opens our hearts to receive the fuel from heaven. Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:16). It occurs 50 days after Pentecost. Jesus ascended 40 days after His resurrection. Ten days after the ascension the Holy Spirit was poured out among the disciples.

Ten days of prayer changed the disciples. They were now powered by God. Acts 2:3 says there were tongues as of fire that separated and came upon each of them. Acts 2:4 says, "The Spirit enabled them." God's power changes us and it is through prayer that we receive His power.

Back in the 1800s thousands of Americans were disillusioned with Christianity. William Miller, a New England farmer, had captured nationwide attention with his prediction that Christ would return on October 22, 1844. When nothing happened, many abandoned their faith.

In 1856 a Methodist named William Arthur published a book of fiery sermons that closed with a prayer pleading with God to "crown this nineteenth century with a revival of pure and undefiled religion...greater than any demonstration of the Spirit ever vouchsafed to man." His prayer was answered when the greatest revival in American history began the next year.

Then in 1857 churches continued sliding downhill until the fall of the same year when a prayer movement began that was known as the Layman's Prayer Revival. Six businessmen (rather than ministers) led.

Jeremiah Lanphier started this noon prayer meeting for New York businessmen. The first prayer meeting took place on September 23, 1857 on the third floor of the Old Dutch Reformed Church on Fulton Street.

First, there were three men daily praying in earnest. Then there were five; then a week later 14 and then 23 uncompromising men who raised their voices to God. Soon, every public building in downtown New York was filled for noon-time prayer meetings, and in a week's time, 10,000 people were saved. In eight months, 50,000 of that city were saved, and this revival spread throughout the whole country, from New York to Los Angeles. It even spread to Ireland, Scotland, England, South Africa, and India.

One scholar remarks that the move of God's Spirit across America was so

strong that even as ships came near American ports, the people on board felt the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and were saved and filled with joy before they reached the harbor. The Holy Spirit moved upon these men and soon others joined them. The power of God was moving across the land.

Examples of What Men of Prayer Started

An unsaved man went to the prayer meetings on Fulton Street in New York hoping someone would help him. But no one did. Then one day he heard a mother's request for her son's salvation. He discovered that note was from his own mother! Soon afterward he found Christ.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan a woman turned in a request for her husband's salvation. One man responded, "Pray for me. I'm that man." Four more men did likewise. A wealthy young New Yorker was born again at a noon prayer meeting. Upon returning home he read from the Bible and knelt to pour out a fervent prayer for his wife and sister. His wife and his sister knelt beside him and wept as they also received Christ. One man disowned his daughter when she confessed Christ. However, when he became deathly sick, he sent for her and asked her forgiveness. She shared Christ with him. Within three days her father, mother, two brothers, and a sister entered the family of God.

Keeping the Power

In order for the power of God to continue in our lives and our church we must continue to stay connected to God. I have a Skilsaw in my garage that is able to cut through plywood at an incredible speed. Cutting through a 2x4 is an effortless feat. But in order for my Skilsaw to work I have to plug it in. Not only do I plug it in for one cut, but for repeated cuts and an extensive project I must keep the saw plugged in for the power of the local electric company to flow. It flows from them to my house, to my plug, to my saw, through my hand.

Galatians 3:1 Paul asks the church of Galatia, "Who has bewitched you?" He asks this question because they started in faith depending totally on God, but when they got pretty good at being Christians they began depending on themselves. We too begin well with God, but don't maintain our connection to God and a great thing becomes common. This is what happens when we see the glory of God in a man and then we see the man alone.

How do we remain powered by God? By staying connected to God! We accomplish this by praying with greater fervency after we receive His power. When God visits our homes and our churches it is time to press on in prayer and not retreat. I eat dinner in the early evening and feel satisfied with the nourishment. But in the morning I need to eat again. It's the same way with the Lord. I need to check in with Him through the day, every day.

Poem

Please teach me to pray, Lord..
I want to know exactly how to pray.
I need some words, which ones are right?
Please tell me what to say. I've bowed my head.
I have knelt down, but should I be upright?

I've closed my eyes, I've raised my hands. Or should I fold them tight?
Do I stand up? Should I sit down? Dear Lord, what do you like?
Are lights turned on? Or are they off? Maybe candle light?
Wear my glasses? Take them off? Be at my desk or table?
Should I whisper? Speak out loud? Do I quote the Bible?
What do you think about the time? Do you prefer the dawn?
Should I pray fast? Or keep it slow? Better short...or long?
I'm new at this. What are the rules? I want to do it right.
How do I know you'll even hear? That I am in Your sight?
And while I sat there quietly, waiting for some sign,
I heard a gentle voice say, "Oh, dearest son of mine..
Do you think I really care about the time of day, or whether you are standing up,
Or kneeling when you pray? I don't care about your posture,
Or about the place you choose. Just open up your soul to me.
I have no other rules.
Tell me what is in your heart and tell me what you seek;
Tell me of your sorrows and of those things that made you weak.
Speak to me in private about what concerns you most;
I know about your good deeds...you have no need to boast.
My son, you don't need lessons just talk to me each day;
Tell me anything you want, dear son, anyone can pray."

You just need to do it!

Men of God, men of prayer; let us hold steady, plug in, dig in, give up the ways of this world, be purified, get hot for Jesus, and pray fervently, corporately, and diligently, and God will do it again!

Sharing the Power

The power of God as promised in Acts 1:8 has the purpose of making us witnesses. So often we pray for the power just to have it. But God gives the Holy Spirit power for us to be a witness about Him.

The second part of Acts 1:8 says, "And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When we share the power of God we show not what we can do for Him, but what He can do through us. (Repeat with emphasis.)

Jerusalem

Jerusalem is representative of your wife and family. If you're single, it's representative of your immediate family. Jerusalem represents home. Is the message I'm sending at home consistent with what I'm preaching or living?

Judea and Samaria

Judea and Samaria are representative of your workplace and church. How are you doing at work? Are you bringing a strong witness? Do you show what God is doing in your life? St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach a good sermon and if you have to, use words."

Ends of the Earth

This occurs as we pray and reach out to those around us. When we all join with the power of God from across the nation and the world, then the gospel is preached.

The Christian church again began losing the power of God. But the next great revival began in Wales in 1904 with Evan Roberts praying. Seventeen men began to pray with him and committed themselves to these four principles: 1) you must confess every known sin to God; 2) you must remove every doubtful habit from your life; 3) you must obey the Holy Spirit's prompting; and 4) you must go public with your witness of Christ.

In this revival, 37,000 people were saved in one month and 100,000 in five months. Colleges closed and students marched, singing and praising God on their way to prayer meeting. For a time, crime came to an end—there were no more murders, robberies, rapes, and burglaries. This revival also spread to America.

But what I want to relate to you particularly is some of the details, some of the inner workings of these revivals. For this, we look at the most recent revival of this last century—on the Hebrides Islands off the coast of Scotland in the 1940s and 1950s—as recorded in the book *Bright and Shining Revival* by Kathie Walters (Good News Fellowship Ministries, Macon, Georgia).

Before the revival, churches in the area were virtually empty. Many churches were about to close their doors. But there were some who were not ready to give up. Among them was a small group of men who agreed to meet regularly in a barn for prayer (1948). They made a covenant with God as they met three nights every week until four or five in the morning. One night, after the little band of prayer warriors had made their way to the farmhouse to claim the promises of God, John, the local blacksmith, was called upon to pray. As he prayed, the power of God was unleashed, rattling dishes on the dresser, and then waves of divine power moved through the room.

The Spirit of God swept through the village. People could not sleep and houses were lit all night. Some walked the streets in great conviction; others knelt by their bedsides crying for pardon.

“Within 48 hours the saloons and bars, usually crowded with drinking men, were closed. Men who had been drinking there were gloriously converted. Those same men afterwards could be found three times a week with others down upon their knees before God, praying for their old associates and for the spread of revival. It was in this village that, within 48 hours, many young people had surrendered their lives to Christ, and could also be found in the prayer meetings!” (pp. 12–13)

“Of all the hundreds who turned to Christ in the first wave of the Holy Spirit, until now (1952), only four young women have ceased to attend the prayer meetings. (Keswick [Convention] Journal in 1952) The converts were numbered by their attendance at the prayer meetings. Absence from the prayer meeting meant a doubted conversion!” (p. 39)

An eyewitness of the revival, Daniel Smith, said that angels were heard singing throughout the island. In one place, seven men who were being driven to a meeting in a butcher truck suddenly felt the power of God and were saved before they reached the church. One minister described the scene at one police station: "I saw a sight I never thought possible. Something I shall never forget. Under a starlit sky, men and women were kneeling everywhere, by the roadside, outside the cottages, even behind the peat stacks, crying for God to have mercy on them." (p. 10)

Dr. Campbell Morgan, after witnessing the scenes of revival in Wales, returned to Westminster Chapel in London and declared:

Here is revival that comes from heaven; there is no preaching, no order; no hymn-books, no choirs, no organs, no collections and finally no advertising! Now think of that for a moment! There were organs—but they were silent. There were ministers—but there was no preaching—they were among the people praising God! Yet the Welsh revival is a revival of preaching, for every body is preaching. No order and yet it moves from day to day, county to county with matchless precision, with the order of an attacking force. No song-books, but, ah me, I nearly wept over the singing! When the Welsh sing they abandon themselves to the singing. No choir did I say? It was all choir. Wales is ablaze for God, already 50,000 converts have been recorded and the great awakening shows no signs of waning. It is sweeping over hundreds of villages and cities, emptying saloons, theaters and dance halls, and filling the churches night after night with praying multitudes. Go where you will; into the bank; the store; the trains. Everywhere men are talking about God.

From *Bright and Shining Revival* about the Welsh Revival of 1904:

This is revival! When men in the streets are afraid to open their mouths and utter godless words lest the judgment of God should fall; when sinners, overawed by the presence of God, tremble in the street and cry for mercy; when, without special meetings and sensational advertising the Holy Ghost sweeps across cities and towns in supernatural power and holds men in the grip of terrifying conviction; when every shop becomes a pulpit; every heart an altar; every home a sanctuary and people walk softly before God—this is revival. (Quote from Rev. Owen Murphy, p. 1)

James 5:16b says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." I point out as we conclude that in each revival listed it is men that have come together and prayed for themselves and their families, churches, and communities. When men pray, great things happen as God empowers us.

Have you ever felt the urge to pray for someone and then just put it on a list and said, "I'll pray for them later?" Or has anyone ever called you and said, "I need you to pray for me, I have this need?" When you feel the urge to pray, accept the invitation by God and pray.

A Missionary on Furlough

A missionary told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan.

“Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord Jesus Christ. I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident. Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated.

“He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, ‘Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But, just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards.’

“At this I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone out in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, ‘No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.’”

At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day that this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date and the man who interrupted told him this story:

“On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong; I called men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?”

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with whom they were—he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26.

The Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it.

Story of a Young African Pastor

Here are the words a young African pastor tacked on the wall of his house before he disappeared, possibly killed. It is entitled, “My Commitment As A Christian.”

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by

prayer, and labor by power:

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up, for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me—my banner will be clear.

EXTRA ILLUSTRATIONS

Manufacturer Recall

Regardless of your make or year or title amount, all units known as “human beings” are being recalled by the Manufacturer. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units codenamed “Adam” and “Eve,” resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect is technically termed “Serious Internal Non-morality,” more commonly known as “SIN.”

Symptoms of the SIN defect include, but are not limited to:

- A) Loss of direction
- B) Lack of peace and joy
- C) Depression
- D) Foul vocal emissions
- E) Selfishness
- F) Ingratitude
- G) Fearfulness
- H) Rebellion
- I) Jealousy

The Manufacturer is providing factory authorized repair service FREE of charge to correct the SIN defect. The Repair Technician, Jesus Christ, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs.

I repeat...there is no fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is 772-9377, which spells P-R-A-Y-E-R-S.

Once connected, please upload the burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Christ, into the SOUL component of the human unit. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Christ will replace it with:

- A) Love
- B) Joy

- C) Peace
- D) Kindness
- E) Goodness
- F) Faithfulness
- G) Gentleness
- H) Patience
- I) Self-control
- J) Supernatural power

Please see the Operating Manual, the Holy Bible, for further details on the use of these fixes. As an added upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring assistance from the resident Maintenance Technician, the Holy Spirit.

Repaired units need only make Him welcome and accept His Word and He will take up residence on the premises.

Grass On the Path

In one region of Africa, the first converts to Christianity were very diligent about praying. In fact, the believers each had their own special place outside the village where they went to pray in solitude. The villagers reached these "prayer rooms" by using their own private footpaths through the brush. When grass began to grow over one of these trails, it was evident that the person to whom it belonged was not praying very much.

Because these new Christians were concerned for each other's spiritual welfare, a unique custom sprang up. When ever anyone noticed an overgrown "prayer path," he or she would go to the person and lovingly warn, "Friend, there's grass on your path!"

Our Daily Bread, November 18, 1996

Too Busy **By R. A. Torrey**

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.

I had to hurry and get to work for bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer, and jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done my soul could rest at ease.
All day long I had no time to spread a word of cheer
No time to speak of Christ to friends, they'd laugh at me I'd fear
No time, no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need but at last the time, the time to die.
I went before the Lord, I came, I stood with downcast eyes.
For in his hands God held a book; it was the book of life.
God looked into his book and said, "Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down...But never found the time."

Why Pray?

One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is that God wants us to talk to Him about everything that is going on in our lives, even though He already knows everything. So why pray?

If you've ever wrestled with that question, perhaps the thoughts of the 19th-century preacher R. A. Torrey can help. Among the reasons he gave for prayer are these:

1. Because there is a devil, and prayer is a God-appointed way to resist Him (Eph. 6:12-13, 18).
2. Because prayer is God's way for us to obtain what we need from Him (Luke 11:31-33; James. 4:2).
3. Because prayer is the means God has appointed for us to find "grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).
4. Because prayer with thanksgiving is God's way for us to obtain freedom from anxiety and to receive "the peace of God" (Phil. 4:6-7).
5. Besides these reasons, it's enough to read the command in I Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing," and realize that God wants us to talk with Him. Yes, He is all-knowing, but He also desires our fellowship. When we seek God's face in prayer, we strengthen our relationship with Him. That's the most important reason to pray.

MEN'S WEEKEND ACTIVITY IDEAS

We encourage you to get the men out of the normal meetings, away from church, and to a place where they can have fun together which in turn will encourage them to relate to each other in a different way.

How Do I Plan a Men's Outing?

1. Brainstorm with your pastor and elders.
2. Select an idea or get a group of men together and ask them what they would like to do together as a group.
3. Pick a date and time for the activity.
4. Get it into the bulletin.
5. Make a list of the men in your church and personally call them and invite them to be a part of the activity. Note who wants to be a part so they can personally be called again just before the event.
6. Announce the scheduled activity in church. Announce it again one and two weeks prior to the scheduled time.
7. Carry through with the scheduled activity no matter how many men do or don't show up.
8. Take pictures if possible and write up a story on your event to put into the bulletin as an insert and also submit your story and pictures to the North American Division's Men's Ministry Department for publication on the website www.emale.org.

Saturday Night Event Suggestions

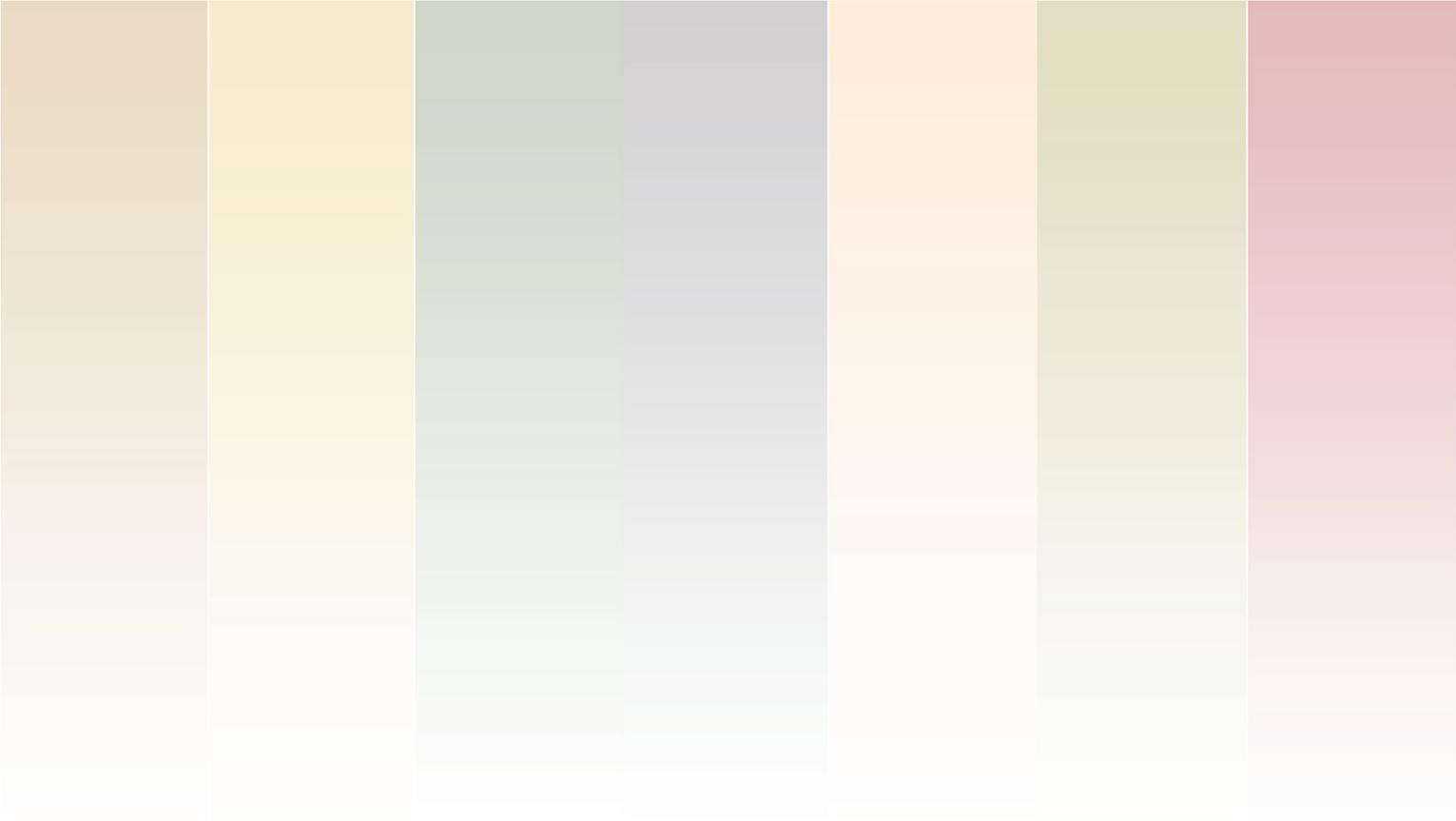
Game night
Miniature golf
Movie night at one of the men's homes
Bowling
Bonfire
Horseshoes

Sunday Event Suggestions

Fishing Trip
Canoeing
Putting contest at miniature golf course
Hiking
Bike ride
Golf
Pick up game of basketball, football, or baseball
Horseback riding
Whitewater rafting
Mountain climbing

Whatever you decide to do, have fun with the men in your church!
Remember, "Play hard, pray even harder!"





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