Greetings from the President

Every year we, The Youth Department of the Baptist World Alliance, unite together to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world. As we grow in faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ, we learn that prayer is a very powerful weapon. Sharing with God our many struggles we face in our lives as young people can bring change. God has given us the ability to bring our petitions to him and cast all of our cares on Him for He cares of us. (1 Peter 5:7) Our prayers to God can make a difference, not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other young people around the world.

The BWA Youth Department is encouraging you to rally up your Christian brothers and sisters in unity to intercede on behalf of your brothers and sisters around the world, to celebrate the union we are as the body of Christ, and to contribute to help the success of mission projects involving young people around the world.

For the past four years, we have been committed to live out our Singapore Declaration. As young disciples, we desire to go beyond the church walls and express to all the life that we live in Jesus Christ. Our theme for this year is “Prophetic Action!” God’s Mission continues with us. With God’s direction, we can do great things locally and globally. During this time of prayer and study as a Baptist youth body, we hope that you experience God in a wonderful way and become empowered to do God’s mission with great impact.

We have materials available for you to follow, which can be found on our website. (Click Youth World Day of Prayer link) http://www.bwanet.org/programs/youth

Since we left Singapore, our Youth World Day of Prayer has been very successful. We anticipate once again great results from your participation in the BWA Youth World Day of Prayer on June 11th 2017. Remember, we are a chosen generation seeking to be GOSPEL people.

Giving
Open to God’s Mission
Speaking Out
Prophetic Action
Evangelism
Living

We look forward to hearing about your spiritual experiences and know our prayers are always with you.

We also have Our Prayer Wall on the BWA Youth Department page on Facebook. You are always welcome to share your prayers and prayer requests all year round.

Blessings,

Amanda Haines
BWA Youth Department President
The Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer is an annual event held on the second Sunday in June. This year, that day is June 11, 2017. Young people around the world are encouraged to plan services that reflect upon the importance of prayer and to intercede on behalf of others.

It is a time to celebrate the unity we share as believers in Jesus Christ and to seek a deeper relationship with Christ.

It is also a time to contribute to our Annual Prayer Offering. This offering is used to assist with mission projects involving young people around the world and leadership development training.

This year's theme is “Prophetic Action” and is based on the Singapore Declaration that calls Baptist young people to commit themselves to live as “GOSPEL” people.

Included in this resource guide are five Bible studies developed from the text of Matthew 5:9. It is intended that you will plan to use these, not only for the Day of Prayer, but at other times during the course of the year.

**Ways to promote the Youth World Day of Prayer:**

- posting to your churches’ website
- printing/posting to your church bulletin board
- sharing on your youth group/organization/personal social media platforms/websites.

**Youth World Day of Prayer On Social Media**

We invite you to follow us on Twitter: @BWAYouth and join our Facebook page. There, we encourage people to post prayer requests, memories/pictures from the Youth World Day of Prayer gatherings, and also to be connected and know what the global Baptist family is doing.

To promote the Youth World Day of Prayer on Twitter or Facebook please use the BWA Handle @BWAYouth and the Day of Prayer hashtag (#YouthPrayer17). We also encourage you to share/retweet posts that the BWA Youth shares!

**Youth World Day of Prayer Offering:**

You can make an ONLINE DONATION now:

1. Select: “BWA General Ministry” on the drop down menu
2. Complete the donation form
3. Write on the Comments: 2017 Youth World Day of Prayer

Or send your offering to:

BWA Youth Department
405 North Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046 - USA
PROPHETIC ACTION
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9 NIV

Call to Worship (1 minute)

Praise Celebration (15 minutes)
(Music leader should lead within the context of the audience.)

Scripture: Matthew 5:9 or other appropriate Scripture

Prayer Session I – Intercession (15 minutes)
(Ask the audience for prayer points focusing on their own needs as well as the needs of others. Have two persons offer prayers on behalf of all.)

Musical Offering (10 minutes)
(Music leader should lead in prayer choruses.)

Bible Study/Sermon (30 minutes)
(The leader is encouraged to use the text of Matthew 5:9)

Musical Offering (10 minutes)

Prayer Session II – Intercession (15 minutes)
(Invite six different youth to use the 2017 Baptist Youth Prayer Guide to address world concerns.)

Time alone with God (3-5 Minutes)
(This is an opportunity for silent meditation.)

Closing Song (3 minutes)

Closing Prayer (1 Minute)

Note: Time should also be set aside to raise the BWA Youth World Day of Prayer Offering.
Outline adopted in part from “The Praying Youth” produced by the Youth Ministries Division of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.
We the participants of the 16th Baptist World Alliance Youth World Conference 2013 meeting in Singapore are a generation declaring as followers of Jesus that we are to be part of the change we desire to see in this world.

It is evident that things on this Earth are not as our God created them to be.

As we pray “Your Kingdom Come,” we recognize that this broken world cries out for justice, freedom, peace, hope, and love.

We have heard the call of God through the Scripture, life stories, and spoken word. This call is to give our lives afresh to be the transforming presence of Christ, taking faith-based risks, denying ourselves, and taking up the cross of Christ in our daily living to make a difference for God’s glory.

We covenant today to seek to be G.O.S.P.E.L. people.

**G: Giving**

We offer our whole lives to God as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), into the service of God wherever He may call us to go in a broken and hurting world, that we may use our very lives, our skills, our talents, and our resources for God and His mission. They are not for our purposes, but that we strive to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of us (Philippians 3:12).

**O: Open to God’s Mission (Missio Dei)**

We are a generation committed to linking arms with our brothers and sisters of the larger family of God, while celebrating our being Baptist as part of the family of God. We realize that we are not called to be comfortable, but disturbed into godly action in response to the heartbeat of God for a broken world. Our passion for Christ and the call of the Gospel drives us all to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we live day by day. As authentic disciples, we commit to serve in the work of the Gospel in our everyday lives.
S: Speaking Out

We will not be content with simply following religious motions, but instead will be a people who are a living reflection of Jesus, giving voice to those on the margins, offering hope to the oppressed, the rejected, and the victims of evil in our world. We repent that too often, and for too long, we have remained silent when we should have made ourselves heard. Our commitment is to stand shoulder to shoulder with those in need. We will seek justice, bring peace, and lead with grace.

P: Prophetic Action

In our dialogue and service, we are also called to make the Gospel of Christ known through both word and action. We seek to join with God in His work, not merely asking God to bless what we want. In this just, we will be seeking transformation in our own lives, being agents of reconciliation, and actively engaging as peacemakers.

E: Evangelization

As we acknowledge that we were first loved by God, we will be a generation known by our love for all people. So being rooted in love and committed to Christ, we will bring the message of salvation and redemption through word and deed. In doing this, we seek to make disciples of all people, reaching our neighbor, and those who are far away (Acts 1:9). We encourage all youth of the BWA to first be disciples of Jesus, and to be committed to the calling to make Him known to all.

L: Living

We want to be living, breathing expressions of the Gospel as free samples of Jesus wherever we may find ourselves. Together and dispersed, we will live this out; this is our desire personally, locally, nationally, and globally. Even in trials and trauma, God gives us opportunities to display His love. As we practice hospitality and love for all humankind in the name of Christ, God will give opportunities for Christ to be glorified.

We undertake to pray for one another, upholding one another in the body—as this is a tough calling. We invite all young people of the world to join us to seek to walk the way of Christ in all things. Ultimately, we are to be a generation of followers of Jesus who will live simply, give generously, and love abundantly as G.O.S.P.E.L. people.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will learn what it means to be a peacemaker. Participants will understand that although peacemaking is sometimes a difficult task, God will empower His people to be peacemakers. Participants will be challenged to answer the call to be a peacemaker and to become ambassadors of God’s message of peace in a troubled world.

Materials or Advance Preparation Needed: Pen, pencil, Bible. Black felt pen, index cards, and tape for use for today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity. Prior to teaching, identify the names of well-known persons who were significant peacemakers in human history. Write a name on an index card. Prepare an index card for each student.

Bible Study Title: Answering God’s Call to Be A Peacemaker

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:9

NIV
9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

KJV
9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Bible Exposition
The author of the Gospel of Matthew is unknown, but early church tradition credits this Gospel to Matthew, the disciple. Scholars differ on the date of Matthew. Some give Matthew an earlier date (A.D. 50 – late A.D. 60) while other scholars believe Matthew could have been composed anywhere between A.D. 70 and 110. Matthew was written to an audience of mainly Jewish people. The theme of the Gospel of Matthew is to show Jesus as the Messiah. Today’s lesson Scripture begins in Matthew 5 in a sermon that has been called Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Jesus saw the multitude of people and Jesus went up on a mountain. “The mountain here spoken of was probably that known by the name of the Horns of Hattin (Kurun Hattin), a ridge running east and west, not far from Capernaum. It was afterwards called the “Mount of Beatitudes.”” (Easton’s Bible Dictionary). Jesus begins each Beatitude with: “Blessed.” The Greek word for “blessed” is “makarios” (pronounced mä-kä'-rē-os) which also means “happy.” The Beatitudes are promised blessings for those who believe in Jesus and have become new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17). After climbing the mountain Jesus sits down (which was the position of a teacher) and began to speak prophetically (Matthew 5:2.). In verse 9, Jesus says: “Blessed are the peacemakers...” A peacemaker is different than a peacekeeper. A peacekeeper is one who keeps parties at a distance from one another so that they do not do harm to each other. A peacemaker is described by Merriam-Webster Dictionary as one who makes peace especially by reconciling parties. God’s people are to be peacemakers. Peacemakers are themselves at peace with God, living in peace with others, and delighting in peace. Peacemakers face the things that are in conflict and work in making peace even though it may be challenging. The peacemaker’s goal
is to reconcile opposing parties to prevent further conflict. Jesus calls these peacemakers blessed and recognize them as children of God. Since “God reconciled us to Himself through Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:18) so humans may experience peace with God, no one is more like God than when they are peacemakers. If we are going to have healthier families and relationships, we must actively engage in making peace, realizing that for a peacemaker it is not about proving they are right; but to make things right. May you answer God’s call to be a peacemaker.

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance
Our world is filled with conflict, between nations, neighbors, and even within families. Jesus has called us to make peace in this world. During your devotional time, meditate on what it means to be a peacemaker. Then, write a prayer that God will empower you to become an ambassador of peace in this broken and troubled world for God’s glory.

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity – Who Am I?
Have students form pair. Tape an index card on the back of each student. The goal is for each student to successfully guess the person written on the card on their back. They will do this by asking their partner “Yes/No” questions until the peacemaker is guessed. Once the peacemaker is guessed correctly, the pairs switch roles. Continue playing until everyone successfully guesses their peacemaker name or until time for the activity expires.

Living As “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: A Peacemaker Plan
Collectively select an issue to address that is an area of concern in your community. This summer, develop and implement a Peacemaker Plan to engage in to speak out against by word and example. Suggested topics are provided below:

- Hunger
- Poor Education
- Injustice
- Violence
- Human Trafficking

Suggested Prayer
Heavenly Father, help us to commit to being an active peacemaker, speaking and living in ways that are peaceful and Christ-like so that we might be beacons of light in a world darkened by sin and hatred. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Today's Lesson Objective: Participants will learn that when believers engage in evangelizing the unsaved, they are essentially making peace between sinful humans (whose sin has separated them from God), and God, Thus, participants will be encouraged to share their Christian faith and God's love with others. Participants will also learn that Jesus considers those who promote peace as children of God.

Materials or Advance Preparation Needed: Pen, pencil, Bible.

Bible Study Title: Sharing God's Love As Children of God

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:9

NIV
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

KJV
9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Bible Exposition

Today's lesson study continues in the Gospel of Matthew, which is the first book of the New Testament. The gospel books are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books are called the “Gospels” because they give an account of the preaching of Jesus concerning the good news concerning the Christ and is a valid record of Jesus’ life. The accepted author of the Gospel of Matthew is Matthew, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. Jesus called Matthew from Matthew's occupation as a tax collector near Capernaum to become one of His followers. Today's Scripture is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The sermon is also recorded by Luke in Chapter 6; however, while the sermons are similar, Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (which extends from Chapters 5-7) is three times longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain (6:20-49). Matthew 5:9 is one of the Beatitudes of Jesus.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that believers who are followers of God, their character should be that of a peacemaker. Jesus was not sent just to address conflicts, but Jesus also came to bring God's love and reconcile humans to God, paying a huge price for peace, His own life on the Cross (Isaiah 53:5). When Christians share the prophetic message of salvation and reconcile persons to a loving God, they are not only “blessed” but are also “peacemakers.” How is that possible? When Christians offer themselves to assist an unbeliever to know God, they are “blessed.” Since it is only in God that one can experience true peace, as the Christian shares God’s love through the good news of Jesus and the unbeliever responds by accepting Christ in their heart, they will experience the peace that comes when one's broken relationship is reconciled to God. Thus, these Christians are “peacemakers.” Jesus calls these peacemakers children of God. Children of God share in God's love and passion for peace and reconciliation, assisting in breaking down the wall of partition between God and the unbeliever (Ephesians 2:14). A person becomes a child of God when they repent of their sin, receive Jesus, by faith, and follow Him. (John 1:12.) Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and every Christian should endeavor to imitate the lifestyle and character
of Jesus. May you lovingly share the prophetic gospel message with others in hopes of leading them to become a child of God.

**Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance**
Look up the following biblical examples of peacemakers, locate the biblical reference, then write how each biblical character was a peacemaker.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>How?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mordecai</td>
<td>Esther 10:3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham</td>
<td>Genesis 13:8-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnabas</td>
<td>Acts 9:20-31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus</td>
<td>Isaiah 53:5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**After completing the exercise, finish this sentence:**
If The Highway To Peace Starts With Me, I Will:

________________________________________________________________________________________.

End your time of quiet reflection in prayer by asking God for opportunities to share God’s love as a peacemaker.

**Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity Commercial Advertising Jesus**
In groups of 3-4 students, each group is challenged to create a commercial to sell Jesus to the world. After a few minutes of brainstorming, groups are to act out their commercial in front of the entire group. Use slogans from popular television commercials or create your own.

**Living As “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Sharing God’s Love as Children of God**
Suggestions:
1. Volunteer at a refugee center, support it with water, food, and clothing items or adopt a refugee family in your community and provide spiritual and tangible support.
2. Organize a Shoe Drive. Raise money to purchase shoes for children who live in improvised areas of our world. Donate money to a local social service agency or organizations such as Soles4Souls at https://soles4souls.org, which is a global social enterprise committed to fighting poverty through the collection of clothes and shoes.

**Suggested Prayer**
Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who was the greatest peacemaker of all. Give us opportunities to share the gospel with others regardless of race and culture, serving with a heart willing to sacrifice for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will learn when a person receives Christ, transformation begins taking place through the prophetic ministry of the Holy Spirit. Participants will also be inspired to live life every day as a witness to their transformed life in the Lord as they seek to lead others to a transformed life in Christ!

Materials or Advance Preparation Needed: Pen, pencil, Bible. If needed, copy pictures for distribution to each student during the “Daily Personal Prayer Guidance” section. Prepare small plastic baggies for each student containing 2-3 pieces of bitter, sweet, and hot candy. Label each bag accordingly for use during the Small Group Prayer/Guide Activity.

Bible Study Title: I Am A New Creation in Jesus

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17

NIV
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

KJV
17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Bible Exposition
Second Corinthians (correctly called the Second Epistle to the Corinthians) was written by the Apostle Paul. This epistle was written approximately A.D. 57 after Paul had left Ephesus on his way to Troas. Paul wrote the epistle from Macedonia (2 Corinthians 9:2) to the Christians in Corinth. Corinth resides on the Isthmus connecting the Peloponnesus to the rest of Greece. Corinth was a political capital and the commercial capital of Achaia. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Apostle Paul is offering information as to what is needed for Christians to live Christ-like. This includes regeneration (2 Corinthians 5:17). Regeneration is “the spiritual transformation in a person, brought about by the Holy Spirit, that brings the individual from being spiritually dead to becoming spiritually alive! Regeneration is another way of speaking of the new birth.” (www.theopedia.com.) Let’s examine the three important phrases in today’s Scripture and their meaning:

1. “In Christ” (v. 17a) means at the very moment of conversion, a believer becomes a new creation by the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens when a person repents of their sins and accepts Christ’s invitation of salvation. Salvation is a gift given freely by God that cannot be earned by any good works. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). The Christian has a new permanent relationship to Christ as they are now united “in Christ,” is a member of the Body of Christ, a child of God, redeemed and forgiven of all their sins, and is promised eternal life (1 Corinthians 12:27, John 1:12, Romans 8:15, Colossians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 1:3-6).
2. “Old things are passed away,” (v. 17b) means that a person is not the same person they used to be, the old way of living, the old way of reacting and responding to situations, the old attitudes and behaviors are a thing of the past. The “old” that has passed away shows the power of Christ to totally transform a person’s life.

3. “All things are become new.” (v. 17c.) What becomes new? Believers have a new faith, a new way of serving, walking, thinking, and behaving. Believers take pleasure in new things and will make new friends. The regenerated or renewed person has a new heart, a new Christian nature, and now lives by a new set of godly rules. (John 3, Colossians 3:9-11). Regeneration occurs when there is a complete change of one’s heart, which makes them a new creation.

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance
Reflecting on the lesson, review the pictures of the caterpillar and butterfly. Just as the caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly, God can transform anyone who places their trust in Jesus.

Students are encouraged to use the space provided to write a short testimony of how they have allowed God to transform every area of their life.

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

End the time of reflection in prayer.

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity – Bitter & Sweet
Students are to form a large circle. Each student should have three plastic baggies labeled “bitter,” “sweet,” and “hot.” The items represent different kinds of prayer celebrating transformation. Beginning clockwise, the first student is to eat a “bitter” item from their bag. The student then responds to the corresponding statement below. Continue clockwise until all students have eaten a “bitter” piece of candy and responded. Repeat the process with the “sweet” then “hot” candy.

Bitter candy – What was bitter about your life before you accepted Christ?
Sweet candy – How has your life been sweetened after being transformed by Christ?
Hot candy – Share a prayer for the fire to lead someone to a transformed life in Christ.
Living As “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Transformation Agents
Your group’s challenge this summer is to mobilize and formulate a strategy to fulfill the Great Commission among unbelievers in your community. As transformation agents, you are to go and proclaim the love and compassion of Christ to all peoples, the unreached, and the unsaved through the prophetic message of the gospel which still has the power to change lives.

Suggested Prayer:
Dear God, send us into the world around us to witness to the transforming life in Christ. May our lives, actions, and words show others who God is and how much God loves us. Fire us up to serve as Your transformation agents. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will learn that all people need reconciliation with God. Reconciliation is only possible when a person accepts Christ as Lord. Once reconciled, Christians are to engage in the prophetic action of joining with God in His work on earth through dialog and service. Participants will also be encouraged to confess to God any personal sin and to seek reconciliation with God.

Materials or Advance Preparation Needed: Pen, pencil, Bible. Balloons, black felt markers, string for the Small Group Activity for each student.

Bible Study Title: Making the Gospel Known Through Word and Action
Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

NIV
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

KJV
17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Bible Exposition
The Apostle Paul (whose Jewish name was Saul), was converted to Christianity after an encounter with God on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:3-8). Paul was from Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 21:39). After Paul’s conversion, Paul was chosen to preach the message of the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15, Galatians 1:16). Paul’s ministry took him to Corinth, a Grecian city, located about 45 miles west of Athens. (Easton’s Bible Dictionary). In this Second Epistle to the Corinthians, let’s examine briefly Chapter 5, Verse 18. Paul begins with the words: “and all things are of God.” Paul wants us to know that God has taken care of everything that is needed for those persons who want to be at peace with God. What is required of humans is to trust in Jesus, then God’s Holy Spirit begins working to transform (regenerate) that person into the likeness of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. A regenerated person no longer lives to please the world, but to please Christ because they are now of God.
The heart of Paul’s message is reconciliation. Paul says God has “reconciled us to himself through Christ…” (v. 18b.) To reconcile is to bring together two or more parties by the removal of grounds for causes of disharmony. Christ became our reconciler. It was for every human being that Christ did His great redeeming work on the Cross because the unsaved are enemies of God (Romans 5:10-11). The blood shed at Calvary provided the opportunity for all humans to be reconciled to God. Once reconciled, peace with God through Jesus Christ can take place between God and the sinner! Reconciliation is therefore necessary to restore fellowship between God and humans; and it is only possible because Christ made peace by His shed blood at Calvary. As God has reconciled us to Himself by Christ, Paul concludes 2 Corinthians 5:18 indicating God has given us the “ministry of reconciliation” (v. 18c). In other words, once we are reconciled to God and receive peace, we are transformed into reconcilers. Christians are given the job of sharing with others the prophetic Word of God through conversation, service, and proclaiming that the peace that was offered at the Cross is offered to every person who will receive Jesus and be reconciled to God!

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance
Review the chart illustrating how sin separates humans from God.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sinful Human Beings</th>
<th>Sin Separated Humans From God</th>
<th>A Holy God</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romans 3:23</td>
<td>Romans 3:23</td>
<td>God gave Jesus as His gift of reconciliation to all people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Corinthians 5:17-19
John 3:16

Thank God for Jesus who bridged the gap between God and humans. If God reveals a sin to be confessed, confess it to God so that you can be reconciled into full fellowship with God. Use the space to write your devotional thoughts/prayer.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity – Air Prayers Using Balloons
With chairs in circle have the students offer aloud one-by-one a prayer for someone who does not know Christ as Savior that they will receive Christ and be transformed into a new creation. Then tell students to blow up the balloon, write their first name and the first name of the person they prayed for on their balloon, tying it with string. Outdoors, students are to send their prayer balloons into the air!
Living As “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Gospel In the Park!
Sponsor an evangelistic event at a local park. Serve free hot dogs/hamburgers. Youth gospel group/musicians should provide music, mime or praise dancing. Emphasis should be presenting the gospel of reconciliation to the unsaved. Invite people via social media and with a visit to neighbors with a personal invitation. (People that are personally invited tend to respond better). When God brings the mission field to you, your group should mingle and proclaim the prophetic gospel message of Christ whenever they can!

Suggested Prayer
Dear God, thank You for Jesus’ sacrificial death, for when Jesus died, He opened the door for the world to be saved. Inspire us to share the reconciling gospel of peace with everyone, always praying for the salvation of the global community. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will be challenged to live a life dedicated as agents of reconciliation. Participants will learn that as an agent of reconciliation they become agents of hope in a broken, troubled world. Participants will also come to understand as agents of reconciliation, every Christian has been entrusted with the great message of the gospel to share with every person, both near and far.

Materials or Advance Preparation: Pen, pencil, Bible.

Bible Study Title: Actively Engaged in the Ministry of Reconciliation

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

NIV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

KJV

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Bible Exposition

The Apostle Paul founded the church in Corinth and he is the author of the epistles to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:1, 15:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 10:1). The ancient city of Corinth consisted of a mixed population of Romans, Greeks and Jews and had a reputation for being morally depraved. Due to the problems the Corinthian church was having, Paul made a quick visit to Corinth to hopefully straighten out some of those problems (2 Corinthians 13:1-2). In Corinth, Paul experienced opposition to his apostleship. A group had turned against Paul and were encouraging others to do so (2 Corinthians 2:5; 7:12). Paul left Corinth. In Macedonia, on his third missionary journey, Paul wrote this Second Epistle to the Corinthians after receiving good news from Titus that many who had rebelled against Paul in Corinth had repented (2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:4-16).
In the final lesson of this series, we are reminded that Jesus is our mediator of reconciliation. Even though sin separated humans from God, God offered His Son, Jesus, so humans can be given the opportunity to be reconciled to God (v. 19a). To be reconciled implies the relationship or friendship has been broken. That is what sin has done between God and the world after Adam sinned in the Garden (Genesis 3:6). Sin broke every human’s relationship with God. But God did not count or impute our sins against us (v. 19b). Impute means to charge to one’s account. Our sins have been imputed to Christ’s account. It’s not that God does not remember or has excused our sin; but after salvation God chooses to blot out (satisfy) our transgression (sin). Finally, Paul says, every believer has been committed “the message of reconciliation” (v. 19c). Being entrusted with the prophetic message of reconciliation is an undeniable privilege. The message of salvation is much too important to only share it with others when it is convenient. As agents of reconciliation, Christians should regularly participate in the prophetic action of engaging the community with the message of God’s love, mercy, grace and reconciliation that they need to hear and receive. As Christians share the prophetic Word of God, it releases God’s power and prepares the way for God to work out His purpose in people’s hearts.

**Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance**
Living as an agent of reconciliation heavily involves the Great Commission of Christ. The church is not to conduct mission in a vacuum, but to extend its mission to the world. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and write below how you plan to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation:

v. 19: Go and make disciples of all nations:

_________________________________________________________________________________________

v. 20: Teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded:

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Write out a short prayer asking God to use you as a living example of an agent of reconciliation in a broken, troubled world.

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________
Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity – Role Play
Students are asked to act out a role play to teach reconciliation using the following scenarios:

Group #1 - Friend lied on you
Group #2 - Friend betrayed your trust and let you down
Group #3 - A Friend posted a half-truth about you on social media

Each group will be assigned a scenario and given a few minutes to collaborate. After collaboration, groups will be asked to act out their scenario, which must include a solution and a reconciliation of the parties.

Living As “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Living the Prophetic Gospel Through Word and Action!
Plan a mission outing to one of the local self-service grocery stores. Offer to bag groceries or load groceries into customers’ cars. Be sure to seek permission of the store manager in advance. Group members should wear either matching t-shirts or hats that identifies their organization. Note: Youth are not to accept any money or it will cloud what the group is trying to do and that is to live the prophetic gospel through word and action!

Suggested Prayer
Heavenly Father, we rejoice that because of Jesus’ work of reconciliation on the Cross, there is life in Jesus to all who believe in Christ! Empower us to be active agents of reconciliation as we share the message of reconciliation with a sinful world! In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
2017 Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer

Prayer Requests

AFRICA
1. For our upcoming AABYF Continental Conference in Nigeria August, 2-6 2017 under the theme: “YOUTH, THUS SAYETH THE LORD!” & our strategy to reach many countries.
2. For the AABYF new leadership to be elected in Nigeria in August 2017
3. For the francophone conventions and unions in general and especially those in the Central part of Africa
4. Thank God for setting Africa free from Ebola
5. For the countries in conflict in Africa and in the world.

ASIA
1. Asia Pacific Baptist Youth (APBY) will be choosing two persons to rotate as President/Chair (2017-2019).
2. APBY will be launching the ‘Making-Multiplying Disciples’ Training for APBY during the September APBF Congress in Yogjakarta, Indonesia.
4. Pray for APBY (Pacific Region) leadership conference in Fiji scheduled in August 2018.
5. Pray for the main APBY Conference that meets every 5 years. Scheduled for May 2019.
6. Pray for an Exponential Growth of the Asia-Pacific Baptist Youth as discipleship emphasis/training is offer to each country through APBY.

CARIBBEAN
1. For the world to cease in berating and demonizing the Church
2. For Christians to live as God calls, rather than work to maintain appearances (pretense and falsehood)
3. For patience and hope, as we try to cope with these violent times and look to GOD for protect and peace
4. For prosperity, but the kind that honors GOD and seeks after the benefit of others, to HIS praise
5. For guidance, as we pursue education, relationships, families, careers, good health, etc.
6. Genuine and sincere worship in the Church, and among all brethren
7. Violence against women and children
8. Unemployment of my qualified young people
9. The fear of God to be returned to the nations
10. Substance abuse among teens
11. Ruthlessness in youth and males
12. Corruption across all levels in the country (politics, schools, banks, churches)
13. Lack of moral values
14. Spirits of discord, murder, mischief, disbelief, depression, suicide, sexuality
15. Rise of homosexuality and sexual confusion
16. Lack of discernment in the church.
17. Personalizing/living out your faith.
18. Living in an anti-Christian culture
19. Sexual purity pressures/temptations
20. Identity and self-image issues
21. Divorce and family issues
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Prayer Requests

22. Negative media influences
23. Business
24. Absent father figures
25. Lack of discipline
26. Materialism
27. Leaders of our churches and nation
28. Young people not being committed
29. Crime and violence, especially by young people and against young people
30. New vision for our nation
31. To live purposefully
32. Finding a Godly marriage partner
33. Proper financial planning as and individual and as a nation
34. Growth corporately (in employment) in spiritual walk and divine relationship
35. Courage to dream and live beyond the economic crisis
36. Release the baggage of past failures and live the chosen life of Christ
37. Rise in satanism and cults

EUROPE
1. HORIZONS - ongoing online youth and children’s training scheme. Please pray for the participants and mentors as they journey together and for encouragement for all involved
2. Pray for the EBF y and Children’s committee as they meet in March and September to consider next year’s conference in January and for wisdom to know who they financially support to enable people to come to the conference and also receive training scholarships.
3. The Refugee crisis – Pray for Christians and churches across Europe who are seeking to help those who are attempting to cross into Europe and pass through its borders. Many are traumatized and many are children and young adults. Pray God’s blessing on those who are caring and those who are travelling
4. Terror – Once again a major European City has been targeted by so-called Islamic State Terrorists. Pray for those who live there to know the peace of Christ amidst all the uncertainty.

LATIN AMERICA
1. Pray for regional and national meetings in different countries of the continent
2. Pray for the youth leadership across Latin America
3. Pray for the Executive Committee of the Juventud Bautista Latino Americana (JUBLA) President: Pastor David Silva
5. General Assembly of JUBLA
6. UNIÓN BAUTISTA LATINOAMERICA Congress – August 15-18, 2017 – Foz Iguazu –Brazil
7. Youth Evangelical Crusade – Nicaragua 2017 (July 16-22, 2017)
10. Missionary work in El Salvador (December 9-17, 2017)
11. Economic resources for the development of JUBLA.
12. Continental Sports Games of the Bautista Latino American Youth 2018
13. Pray for all the young Baptists of our continent to take on the challenge of obeying the call of God to serve in their work.
14. Pray for the youth of our continent to open their hearts to Christ.
15. Pray for the work of the Ministry NO MORE VIOLENCE “a message from God” that is taking place in different countries of Latin America.
16. Pray for the teams of Radical Latino that are working in several countries of the continent.
17. Pray for youth groups in every church in Latin America and its leaders. May they continue to grow not only in quantity, but also in quality in their relationship with the Lord and with brothers and sisters in Christ.

NORTH AMERICA
1. Pray for North American youth to have the spirit of dedication to passionately engage in God’s mission.
2. The many immigrants and refugees in our country that are currently living in fear due to recent political decisions.
3. That we will be open to conversation about many things and not just arguing with each other.
4. That youth will rise up and actively engage their faith through crises and become a generation of influencers.
5. Pray for a deeper understanding of the concerns of the rest of the world.
7. Pray for tolerance and dialogue with other faith groups.
8. Pray for the leadership of the youth departments across North America.