

But when you pray . . .

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DAY 6—YOUR KINGDOM COME

“The kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21b, NKJV).

Salvation Has Entered

In Luke 19 Jesus offers to enter Zacchaeus’ house. Then Jesus says, “Today salvation has come to this house” (verse 9). When Jesus lives in your place, heaven is there. And before you can enter God’s kingdom, God’s kingdom must enter your heart. In John 17 Jesus prayed not that His followers would be separated physically *from* the world but that they would not be *of* the world (John 17:15, 16).

We must get used to already living here as we would live in heaven. If we focus on the things of the world, we will become like the world. “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21, NKJV). But if we focus on God and on His kingdom, His kingdom will move in us and around us. “The faces of men and women who talk with God, to whom the invisible world is a reality, express the peace of God. They carry with them the soft and genial atmosphere of heaven” (*Medical Ministry*, p. 252).

On one of my evangelistic trips to Cuba, many children and their parents came to listen. I found out from the pastor that all these visitors came because of one lady. I asked her what she said to get them to come. She replied, “It is not what I said to them,” and then she invited us to visit her the next day and watch. So we went.

She had an extremely small house, like a tool shed. No furniture inside except two bunk beds, a small table, two small chairs, and a camping stove. Early in the afternoon she went out in front of her home. And then they came—almost two hundred children! She had them sit down on the dirt and show her a paper signed by their parents. Then the kids formed a line and she gave them all rice. They sat down and ate.

While they were eating, she explained to us that most of her neighbors didn’t have a job, but she was blessed to have one. Her salary wasn’t enough to buy a variety of food, but she could buy rice. And then she said, “We are called to be like Jesus, to show what God’s kingdom is like so people desire it. We are to use Jesus’ method. To feed them and build friendships. If I live for myself, how am I like Jesus? And if I just give people physical bread, how does it really help them? So I am using rice to show these children love. Then I also give them spiritual bread. But kids often get distracted. To make sure that the kids listen, they must go home and, as proof that they have paid attention, tell their parents the story and the song they learned today. In this way I also reach the parents. Now that I’ve been doing this for a while, they all love me, trust me, and are willing to listen.”

As soon as the kids finished eating, she started to teach them about Jonah and then taught them a song. Afterward, they gave her hugs and thanked her. I heard them saying, “We love you, Auntie!” She had a big grin on her face. She said, “It is not only that I am trying to show them God’s kingdom, but they also bless me and fill me with joy too. A greater joy is to see them coming to church and praying and learning about God. But my greatest joy will be to see them in heaven. So I want them to taste a little drop of heaven now.”

Jesus is coming soon! But for you to be ready to enter His kingdom when He comes, you must have His kingdom live within you *now*. You must daily pray, “Lord, please come with Your kingdom into my heart today.” God is calling you to make His kingdom a reality today. Through daily prayer, study of the Word, and joyful service, live here as you would in heaven. Let heaven live in you. Be God’s hands here, just as people of faith were His hands in the past.

God wants to move His kingdom into your heart and home today and every day. He wants you to get used to living in His presence as citizens of heaven. Daily invite heaven into your heart and let His love spill over to others through your actions.

Let's pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

All prayer groups have different ways of praying together. We encourage you to spend the next 30-45 minutes in united prayer, in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads. We encourage short conversational prayers (1-3 sentences). This allows for more people to pray multiple times. Below are some examples of praying through Scripture based on the theme. You may pray through other passages also and include other subjects in your prayer time. See the Leader's Guide and World Church Prayer Requests for prayer ideas.

Praying God's Word — Luke 17:21b

"The kingdom of God is within you."

"The kingdom of God"

Lord, we know Your kingdom is not about worldly power or force. Give us wisdom to understand and live out Your humble kingdom in our lives today. Fit us to serve, to comfort, and to encourage Your earthly children.

"Is within you"

God, help us to live like citizens of heaven starting today. Turn our eyes from ourselves to others. Which person around us needs a listening ear right now? Who needs a warm meal or clothes for their children? Who needs to hear our testimony about the transforming power of Jesus? Speak to our hearts and plant Your kingdom in our lives today.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Live Out Thy Life Within Me (#316); He Lives (#251); So Send I You (#578)

Other Songs: We Are His Hands; Brighten the Corner, This Little Light of Mine