

PRAYER NIGHTS

BLUEPRINT



PRAYER NIGHTS

Thank you for being open to creating more space for prayer, unity, and encounters with our living God in your city. We are so grateful you are here.

This season, we are thrilled to witness prayer nights in towns and cities, big and small, right across our country. We truly believe that prayer is the foundation and join with you in praying for God to move in big ways in Canada.

Like you, the next generation is on our hearts and minds. We know the massive challenges they face today, and we also see the huge potential God has placed in them. They are the next generation of church leaders—they are the present and future of the church in Canada. We don't have all the answers, but we know God does. And so, in this season we feel called to prayer.

In this kit, you will find resources and suggestions to help you bring together people to pray for the next generation in your city. As you create space in your community for prayer, unity and encounter, this kit is meant to be a helpful reference and base. While we hope that you will include the core components of the Prayer Night, we acknowledge the unique needs of your specific context and encourage you to adapt where appropriate for your local expression. If there's something you need that isn't here, please let us know—it is our joy to serve and journey with you.

It is our prayer and hope that your gathering will spark a new season of unity in your city, with a refreshed commitment to prayer and to the next generation.

We are here for you and cheering you on!

Love,

The Alpha Canada Team

OVERVIEW/SCHEDULE

In prayerfully considering what a run sheet for Prayer Nights could look like, we hope to inspire and support you in planning your own event. Though not prescriptive, we believe this provides a helpful flow of structure designed to facilitate a space for prayer and encounter. You can utilize this schedule in whatever manner best suits your context—whether to the minute or doing away with it completely. The goal remains the same: creating an atmosphere of prayer, together. Each component of the run sheet has been fully fleshed out in the Blueprint, giving language to the goal of each moment.

TIME (SAMPLE ONLY)	DURATION	COMPONENT
6:30 pm	30 minutes	Arrival + hospitality
7:00 pm	5 minutes	Pre-Roll video
7:05 pm	12 minutes	Worship; 2-3 songs
7:17 pm	5-7 minutes	Introduction & Welcome, Opening Prayer
7:25 pm	15 minutes	Corporate prayer with prompts: 3-5 prayer movements
7:40 pm	15-20 minutes	Worship
8:00 pm	7-10 minutes	Guided conversation/short talk
8:10 pm	30 minutes	Personal/group prayer, utilizing prayer stations
8:40 pm	20 minutes	Prayer/contending for revival + awakening
9:00 pm	30 minutes	Closing prayer; dismiss guests, allow 30 minutes for those who wish to linger.



UNITY

The Bible says that when we come together and pray, God hears us! This Prayer Night is a moment for your community—for all generations and across all churches in your city—to come together and pray for the next generation. The challenges we face are enormous and the challenges the next generation faces are complex, but our God is greater.

Unity means reaching out to other leaders who are close friends, leaders you may only know in passing, and other leaders you may not know yet. Share your heart for your city with them. Let us know if you need support connecting with other churches in your region. Let's do this together!

INVITATION TO REGIONAL LEADERS

As you seek to engage with other leaders in your area and invite their youth students and broader community, we encourage you to leverage relationships you might already have with pastors. Our hope is that Prayer Nights would be a hyper-localized expression of the Body of Christ—multi-denominational and multi-generational. As you invite other pastors, consider who might have other connections and may be able to invite as well. We also recommend sharing the spiritual authority and hosting this event with other pastors, not taking full responsibility for every aspect of the night. Below is a sample email you could send to a fellow regional pastor.

Dear [insert name],

My church is hosting a Prayer Night in partnership with Alpha Canada on [date] and we would be honoured to have your church join us. We hope this evening will spark a hunger for a move of God in our city as we gather together to pray. These nights are focussed on unity, prayer, and Holy Spirit encounter, specifically highlighting the next generation, with a multi-generational, multi-denominational element. During this gathering, we will be praying with and for the next generation and for [city name].

We are inviting you and your congregation to join in—both your youth group specifically as we focus on praying for the Next Gen, and your broader church community as we cultivate a sense of unity among every generation. Please also share this with other churches in your denomination and extend the invitation. For more information, please contact me directly and/or visit alphacanada.org/prayernights.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

INVITATION TO CHURCH COMMUNITY

We've put together a collection of resources for you to use as you invite your community. These Prayer Nights are designed to be Next Gen focussed with a multi-generational edge. They are for everyone, and we hope that as you invite your church community and those from churches around you, there will be a sense of unity. The following materials will be included in the Prayer Night kits:

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL (PRE-EVENT)

- Digital assets for social media; Stories, posts: customizable with regional date/time, etc.
- Copy for: social posts, church invitations, how to communicate effectively in an announcement block
- Print assets: Customizable posters
- Sample Letters to churches — see above

EVENT MATERIALS (ON THE NIGHT)

- Slide decks
- Promotional material for the Alpha Youth Series (AYS) and upcoming Alpha initiatives
- Postcards (printable PDF)
- Prayer cards (printable PDF)
- Youth Pocket Prayer Booklet (printable PDF)
- Posters (printable PDF)

PRAYER

The harvest is ripe in Canada, and we are hungry for more of God across our nation and in the next generation. Prayer Nights are just a small part of joining in the work that God is already doing—we will not see revival without prayer. These gatherings are meant to be spaces of prayer—in repentance, intercession, and personal devotion.

PRAYER MOVEMENTS

During the Prayer Night, there will be multiple planned segments of specific, outward prayer that we are calling “prayer movements.” Within the context of different prayer movements throughout the night, take this time to pray for specific needs of youth in your area. We recommend choosing a few people from different generations, or Gen Z/Gen Alpha specifically, to pray through various topics for each of these prayer movements. They should be chosen before the Prayer Night. They might come prepared with a written prayer or simply lead a short prayer in the moment, allowing time for the congregation to pray in their own words. We would also encourage them to prayerfully consider a brief Scripture passage to ground their prayers. The details are up to you!

We recommend asking your youth students and other youth leaders what common prayer needs their generation might have (or their students’ generation). As you consider prominent prayer needs among youth in Canada, consider if there are people from different generations who might be able to give thoughtful, Spirit-led language to these needs in a corporate prayer moment.

SUGGESTED PRAYER MOVEMENTS:

1. Mental health - identity, anxiety, depression, addictions
2. High schools in your area
3. Families — broken homes, parents, siblings
4. Generation to generation
5. Awakening in Canada

PRAYER MINISTRY

A moment of personal prayer leading into prayer ministry should be led pastorally, with spiritual authority. It is to be communicated with grace, ensuring that it is Biblical and intentional in approach. This is not a time for overly emotional or manipulative language but simplicity. The invitation is for students (and all present) to let go of the old in order to receive the new, as they invite the Holy Spirit to come. There might be an opportunity here for an older pastor or leader to pray with a student, highlighting cross-generational ministry and unity.

A PROPOSED ORDER FOR THIS MOMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

- (Pastor) Introduces the moment and value of repentance.
- **PSALM 139:1-3** – “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.”
- **ISAIAH 1:18** – “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”
- **1 JOHN 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- Invite those present to consider what they might need to hold before the Lord; what do they need to let go of so they can encounter God?
- Lead the room in prayer (this could be written or pre-prepared), repenting, and accepting Christ’s love and grace.
- Transition the moment into prayer ministry, inviting those present to participate in different prayer stations, receive prayer, pray individually, or pray with one another.

A helpful prayer resource could be the prayer of exchange, or Nicky Gumbel’s example of “Sorry, Thank You, Please.” Please note, this is not a salvation moment, rather it’s an opportunity to intentionally let go of areas of sin in order to allow space for God throughout the rest of the night. You might choose to encourage those gathered to forgive someone specific or pray with a friend during this moment. For more information regarding the prayer of exchange and prayer ministry, please visit: awakeninglibrary.com/core-learning/how-to-minister-in-prayer/.

In the context of prayer ministry, we recommend ensuring that individuals offering prayer ministry have been trained and are prepared to administer prayer in a safe, healthy, and spiritually sensitive manner. If a teen mentions self-harm, suicide, or substance use, have a plan in place so they can talk safely and privately with a trained professional.

PRAYER STATIONS

During the personal prayer ministry segment where students are encouraged to look inward and respond to what God is saying to them, we envision multiple expressions of prayer being available. These could be present in different stations throughout the room. We've outlined ideas for stations below.

REGIONAL MAP

In a desire to highlight the high schools in your region, we'd love there to be a physical representation of the high schools and their respective areas. On a map outline of your region, you can invite students to place pins or mark an X on their high school or suburb for prayer. You might have a list of high schools in that region on a board next to the map or just a list of high schools without the map. Students can be invited to find their school during a corporate prayer movement for their generation, or it could be something that occurs throughout the night as they feel led.

ARTIST'S CORNER

There may be people present who are artistic or want to express what the Holy Spirit is saying to them through art. There could be an area of the room with easels and paints available for people to utilize as prayer and worship.

JOURNALLING

People often connect with God through writing and may feel the need to write during the Prayer Night. One of the prayer stations could have pieces of paper and pens for people to write and journal. There might also be journalling prompts - 'What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?' 'What do you want prayer to look like for you?' 'What are you taking away from tonight?'

PRAYER TEAM

This is a great time for you to have trained prayer team members around the room for people who are seeking to pray with someone. These people should be prepared and ready to administer through prayer ministry in a safe and healthy manner. We recommend asking members of your prayer team, as well as any other church that is hosting alongside you.



WORSHIP

Worship is an integral component of the gatherings, though not the main focus. It serves as facilitation for moving of the Spirit and gives language to prayer focusses. As you plan what worship looks like, we encourage involving trusted, Spirit-led worship leaders who are sensitive to what is happening in the room as people pray and receive prayer. Where possible, we invite you to involve Gen Z in the worship, as we pray for and unite with the next generation.

In an effort to keep the nights simple and unified in a posture of prayer, the worship team should be intimate and stripped back. This will look different in each context, but the purpose is that there would be minimal distraction and attention specifically on musical worship, as we facilitate an evening of prayer.

In thinking of setlists, be cognizant of a variety of denominational backgrounds that may be present. Songs that your church community is familiar with may not be as well known by people from other traditions. Try to incorporate hymns or well-known songs as you build sets. Focus the songs on seeing Jesus, exalting him, and giving language to praise. There will likely be space for reflective songs, but keep the majority of the songs focused on praising Jesus.

View the [Song Ideas for Prayer Nights](#) resource for references and setlists.

SPACE & SETUP

The name of the game is simplicity. To encourage unity and minimize elevation of leadership, the “stage” area can be in a circle in the middle of the room. This is where the worship team will be and where people can speak from. Keep the lighting simple and minimal, but don’t be afraid to incorporate the colourful themes of the new Alpha Youth Series. Stage lights reflecting on the walls can be enough to add to the space without creating distraction. The use of Prayer Stations in different corners of the room contributes to an intentional lean toward prayer and adds visual interest to the space.

In the foyer, along with hospitality, utilize the Alpha Youth Series and Prayer Night posters and materials. You might choose to have a booth with materials specifically related to the new Alpha Youth Series.



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is essential to any Alpha experience, and Prayer Nights are no different. We value a “WOW” hospitality moment and encourage you to embody a spirit of hospitality as you invite your congregation, youth group, and other churches to Prayer Night. We picture the hospitality element as being a front door to the evening—a space around 30 minutes before the program starts as people arrive, building a sense of unity and connection. We would like to share a preview of Episode 1 of the new AYS by playing it in the background.

WHAT COULD “WOW” HOSPITALITY LOOK LIKE?

- Greeting people as soon as they exit their cars
- Food/drink in the foyer/entrance area
- Smiling, friendly greeters
- People serving food & drink
- Signage outside & inside the building, in the parking lot
- Parking lot attendants
- Accessibility

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

It is important to have real spiritual authority present. The first priority of spiritual authority is covering the evening in prayer. Active, passionate prayer preceding the event cultivates and prepares the space for what the Holy Spirit will do. As you think about what hosting a gathering looks like in your region, we encourage you to gather with other pastors and pray together, sharing the spiritual authority and weight.

Gather together before the evening to pray with the pastors, and speak about how you will discern together if people come forward with words to share. If people want to speak and have not been previously asked to do so, listen and discern whether it is edifying for the room. In times of prayer ministry and worship, there is often time and space for sharing. It is in these moments where you are listening to the Holy Spirit, potentially exhorting the room, and leading moments of encounter according to what he is speaking to you. This requires trust with the worship team, as well as other pastors present.

During the night, be attentive to the Holy Spirit and what he is doing in the room. Share the spiritual authority with other key pastors of churches that are present, and together discern what the Holy Spirit is doing. Although the schedule aims to finish by 9 pm, discuss the implications if young people want to continue to pray into the night (eg. if a separate room can be designated).

6-8 WEEKS OUT CHECKLIST

1. Date & location locked in
2. Invitations sent to other leaders and churches
3. Invitations sent out to your church community
4. Discern team leads (worship, hospitality, prayer)
5. Promotion to community (print & digital)
6. Prayer with other leaders
7. Team preparation
8. Connect with Alpha Team if you have any questions!

1 WEEK OUT CHECKLIST

1. Prayer — gather with team members helping facilitate, church that is hosting, other pastors in area
2. Worship team rehearsal
3. People to lead prayer movements
4. Room setup
5. Prayer stations
6. Circle-like stage
7. No chairs (available if requested), optional mats, cushions for kneeling
8. Lighting
9. Audio-visual
10. Schedule volunteer teams (hospitality, clean up / set up where needed, etc)
11. Social promotions — from host church and other church leaders in attendance

DAY OF EVENT CHECKLIST

1. Worship team rehearsal
2. AV checks; AYS video checked
3. Hospitality setup (food, prayer stations, etc)
4. Pre-service prayer

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