

My Challengers® Prayer Vigil

A vigil is a “watch” with God. It’s a time when you pay attention to what God wants to say to you. It’s a time for you to look at yourself and your situation through God’s eyes. To listen and watch with God, you need to stop, get alone with God, and take time to think and listen. The best way we have to listen to God is through His Word.

Take your Bible and turn to Psalm 139. Slowly read verses 1–12.

Now read the same verses again and this time read them aloud. Do not be surprised or embarrassed by the sound of your voice. Go ahead. Speak up as you read. Yes, God is present. He is with you right now. In the same way God was with Moses speaking out of the burning bush, God sees you and knows all about you, even your thoughts. In fact, He knows you better than you know yourself. Can you be objective and honest with yourself? The best way to be honest with yourself is to be honest with God.

This is the time in your prayer vigil to be honest with God and yourself. Look at Psalm 139 again. This time read verses 23–24 aloud.

My Spiritual Checkup

Now let God help you search yourself. As a Challenger, you have made a missions commitment to God. Read and answer each of the following questions related to your development and progress as a missional Christian.

Circle Yes or No for each of the following questions.

Do I gather regularly with other youth for fellowship, mission study, and mission action? Yes No

Do I intentionally involve myself in groups and activities with others in an effort to grow spiritually? Yes No

Do I deliberately try to become better informed about missions opportunities through my church and denomination? Yes No

Do I give myself regularly to sharing my Christian life and faith with others? Yes No

Do I try to help others discover their gifts for ministry? Yes No

Do I try to encourage others to reach their full potential? Yes No

Do I develop friendships with Challengers and other Christians in an effort to grow and minister? Yes No

Do I belong to a group of Challengers as a way of gathering for fellowship and mission accountability? Yes No

Do I encourage others to show up for times of fellowship, study, and missions/ministry activities?	Yes	No
Do I accept responsibilities in ministering to others?	Yes	No
Do I take time to regularly read literature devoted to missions activity?	Yes	No
Do I encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study?	Yes	No
Do I have an established time and place to meet God each day?	Yes	No
Is Bible reading a part of my daily life?	Yes	No
Do I allow God to speak to me daily through the Scripture?	Yes	No
Do I take time to study the Bible using commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and other study helps?	Yes	No
Does prayer have a central part in my daily life?	Yes	No
Are worship, confession, thanksgiving, and petition all regular parts of my prayer life?	Yes	No
Do I intercede persistently for specific lost people?	Yes	No
Do I pray for others in my family, my pastor and other church leaders, school leaders, neighbors, and my missions partners?	Yes	No
Is my devotional life truly meaningful to me?	Yes	No
Are my daily devotional times satisfying to God?	Yes	No
Am I discovering my calling to and gifts for service, witness, and ministry?	Yes	No
Do I ask God to form and shape me into the person He wants me to be?	Yes	No
Do I offer God my personality and skills for His daily use?	Yes	No
Have I been sharpening my spiritual gifts and mission skills?	Yes	No
Do I want to share God's love and message with others?	Yes	No
Am I involved in witnessing to others?	Yes	No

Am I receiving training in witnessing and other missions and ministry skills?	Yes	No
Am I developing my own personal and natural style for sharing the gospel with others?	Yes	No
Do I find personal satisfaction and fulfillment in serving others?	Yes	No
Am I willing to explore new avenues of ministry and develop new skills?	Yes	No
Do I consult with others to help me find my place of service?	Yes	No
Do I participate in ongoing missions projects and ministry opportunities through my church?	Yes	No
Am I sensitive to and aware of the needs of others at home, at school, at work, and around the world?	Yes	No
Do I allow my awareness and sensitivity of the needs of others to move me to action?	Yes	No
Am I involved in ministry with my Challengers group?	Yes	No
Am I a minister of God's love in my family?	Yes	No
Do I use ministry action as opportunities to share the gospel?	Yes	No
Do I encourage other Christians to join in ministry?	Yes	No
Do I undertake my share of leadership roles in my church?	Yes	No
Am I growing in my ability to effectively meet the needs of others?	Yes	No
Do I find joy and fulfillment in ministering to others?	Yes	No
Is missions and ministry my lifestyle?	Yes	No
Am I give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program?	Yes	No
Do I see myself as a steward of God on earth?	Yes	No
Do I thank God for all He has given me?	Yes	No
Do I willingly tithe my income/allowance?	Yes	No

Do I financially support other Christians who are on mission with God?	Yes	No
Do I understand how the missions offerings of my denomination are used to spread the gospel?	Yes	No
Am I a “cheerful giver”?	Yes	No
Am I an advocate for missions giving to others in my church?	Yes	No
Do I support my church and denomination through the Cooperative Program?	Yes	No
Do I view time as a gift to be given to my family, church, and others?	Yes	No
Do I joyfully give my time to ministry and service?	Yes	No
Am I becoming an informed and responsible follower of Christ?	Yes	No
Do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?	Yes	No
Do I love others as I love myself?	Yes	No
Am I following Jesus’ example in my relationships with other people?	Yes	No
Do I know the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ?	Yes	No
Am I becoming a “fisher of men”?	Yes	No
Do I try to see the world through the eyes of Christ?	Yes	No
Is it important to me that everyone in the world have the opportunity to hear the gospel?	Yes	No
Do I live as an example of the believers?	Yes	No
Do I follow rules of physical and mental health to help reach my fullest potential as a follower of Christ?	Yes	No
Is pleasing Christ a sincere goal in my life?	Yes	No
Do I celebrate the Christian life through weekly worship in my church?	Yes	No
Am I an active member of a local church?	Yes	No

Do I regularly attend the worship services of my church?	Yes	No
Do I prepare to worship?	Yes	No
Do I participate in all aspects of the worship services—singing, praying, hearing, and responding?	Yes	No
Do I truly meet with God in worship?	Yes	No
Do I prayerfully support the worship leaders of my church?	Yes	No
Is worship a lifestyle for me or merely a Sunday activity?	Yes	No
Do I see my everyday work as a way to worship God?	Yes	No
Do I seek to bring glory to God in all I do?	Yes	No
Do I fulfill my share of leadership responsibilities in church worship services?	Yes	No

Thanksgiving

Now that you have answered each of the questions, look back and reflect on your answers.

Are there items on the checkup that pleased you because you were able to answer yes? If so, thank God now for what He has been doing in your life to help you grow and mature in these areas.

Are there other things God has given you, mentors He has used in your life, and experiences He has led you through that you should think about and thank Him for now?

Write down a few of the things you are particularly thankful to God for as you look back over your life.

Confession

Are there items in your checkup that do not please you? If so, it is important to do something—the right thing—about it. As you focus on the areas where you need to grow and develop, think about the kind of person you want to be. Think about the kind of person God wants you to be.

As you look back over your life from God's perspective, do you see sin and failure? If so, you need to confess and repent. To confess means to admit to God you have sin in your life.

As you search your ways, have you found areas or habits that need to change? Have you neglected God's plan and will for your life? If so, you need to confess and ask God for forgiveness. To repent means to change your mind and change your ways. Talk with God now about the areas in your life that disappoint you and/or Him.

Write down things you want to change in your life.

Commitment

Once you have asked for forgiveness and cleansing, you must commit yourself to God. Read Romans 10:9–10 in your Bible. Have you named Jesus as Lord of your life? Do you want to be committed to His will in every area and at every moment of your life? Do you want Him to exercise absolute power and authority over you? Are you willing to give Him full “veto power” in your decisions?

If so, take time now to invite God to live in and through you in whatever way He wants. Take your time with this segment of your prayer vigil. Do not rush. Talking to God demands your time. Ask Him to make whatever changes He wants in your life. Think about what changes He may have in mind. Remember, you cannot change your nature or your personality for good any more than you can create yourself. But God can, and He will if you ask Him to.

Get Up and Go Forward!

Read about the vigil that Jesus and His disciples held in the Garden of Gethsemane the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested (Mark 14:32–42).

Peter, James, and John were not able to watch with Jesus for an hour. Have you been able to watch with Him today? Jesus warned His disciples about coming trials and temptations. Because He had spent time committing Himself to His Father’s will, Jesus was able to withstand His greatest trial and accomplish His mission to redeem the world. On the other hand, when Jesus said, “Get up! Let’s go!” (v. 42), His disciples were not prepared, and they all failed.

Only God knows what temptations and trials you will face tomorrow or even later today.

Are you prepared?

Has your prayer vigil really prepared you to meet the enemy? Or do you need to spend more time with your heavenly Father?

Before you end your prayer vigil, write down the commitment you made today. Although it is a personal commitment between you and God, it will help you to share with your Challengers group at least some of the discoveries and realizations you made during this time with God.

My Commitment

Date: _____
