

Youth eWeek of Prayer 2023

SCRIPT



#eWOP23

eWeek
of Prayer

11-17 NOVEMBER
2023

My circle of
INFLUENCE Amplified

CAMPUS ○ FAMILY
FRIENDS ○ CLASSMATES
WORKMATES ○ NEIGHBORS

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WILL GO | PCM | | | GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

The poster features a dark, starry background with a glowing horizon. The text is primarily in white and gold. A large, stylized rainbow arches behind the central text. At the bottom, there are several circular icons representing different organizations and initiatives.

Day 1 – **Hannah Drewieck**
Christ's *sacrificial* love

Impacting *Your* Circle of Influence

Key text: John 15:3

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

We live in a defined circle of influence. This 'circle' is a social, relational, or even interpersonal space which penetrates every area of our lives. This week we will look at how Christ's love for us should impact or guide our love for mankind and decisively affect our circles of influence.

John 15:3 depicts Christ's sacrificial love for mankind. This love is not vain or pleasure seeking, as is the case with our modern understanding of love. Rather, Christ's love is vicarious and places as the supreme object of its focus, the salvation of mankind. Christ's love offers itself unconditionally. It does not cease to exist when it is not reciprocated, it is given for the benefit and betterment of the 'other'. The disciples—with their many shortcomings and character defects—were as we are today, recipients of this all-encompassing love, freely given yet costing so much more in value.

Christ's agonizing death on the Cross, is the greatest expression of sacrificial love known to mankind. Through this single act of selflessness, we are called as young people to positively impact our circles of influence—prompted and guided by this eternal love.

By reflecting on your own life as a young person, how does Christ's sacrificial love inspire you to change your circle of influence? What can you do to become more intentional and responsible? You can start by praying.

Did you know that praying for others is one of the simplest, yet most important way you can impact someone for Christ? Prayer is the most influential tool you can use to turn your campus around. Test the effect of prayer. Today, make a list of those you would like to see accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, and make an effort to pray for them every day. Be intentional...write the names in a note book (journal), and everyday you make it your duty to pray for them. Trust God to do the rest.

Day 2 – **Ivonne Omana**
Love – an extension of *thankfulness!*

Campus Ministry service through love.

Key text: 1 John 4:8

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

While the college experience can be amazing, we have to admit that as Christian young people we may face extra challenges on the secular university campus. But, regardless of these challenges, and sometimes fears, we can always find ways to share our faith with others. Sharing our faith and finding ways to help fellow students on campus, through authentic acts of Christian service, among other things is a response of thankfulness to God for the same measure of unwarranted love He has so freely given us.

1 John 4:8 clearly defines who God is. The text distinctly defines God as love. Furthermore, the writer qualifies this definition by stating that anyone who does not love, does not know God. Love is therefore a key relationship indicator between those who know Christ and those who may not know Him. Let us attempt to explore the meaning of such love, as implied in the epistle. The use of the word “anyone” in **1 John 4:8** presents an open invitation to everyone. As a pronoun the word may refer to any person or people. This all-encompassing invitation shuts no one out, if anything, it says to the reader, despite your race, cultural persuasion, or linguistic roots, the moment you make a decision to express selfless love to others, through Christian service, you have begun your journey of learning and knowing who God is.

What are you doing on your university campus to display selfless Christian acts of service? Remember that true love means more than service to your friends, it means service to those who are oftentimes ignored, shunned, or totally forgotten by society.

During this week I want you to think about ways you can serve your fellow students on campus through genuine acts of Christian service.

Day 3 – **Pako Mokgwane**

Love – the heart of true *forgiveness*

Love and Friendships

Key Texts: 1 Corinthians 16:14, Do everything in love.
Luke 10:29, But the man wanted to show that the way he was living was right.
So he said to Jesus, “But who is my neighbour?”

Friendship. A simple, common word yet one that is so easily misunderstood. The desire of many, but sadly, the entrapment of some. As young people, how can we reflect Christ’s love in our friendships and interactions with those we come into contact with?

1 Corinthians 16:14 presents the overarching principle of all human interaction – unconditional love. This principle must be fulfilled without compromise, or favor, if it is to fulfill its biblical imperative. For clarity, we may present the principle of unconditional love in the following two parts.

1. Love must inform our interaction with society, not selfish gain!
2. In accordance with Luke 10:29, biblical love treats all with whom we come across with as our neighbour. The question, “Who is my neighbour?” necessitates that we have a renewed understanding of those who we are to interact with and those who are different from us, at least according to Christ’s reply to the rich young ruler.

Our friendships are to be fruitful spaces of interaction where love is governed by respect, service, and selflessness. Such love must be pure; not seek to harm, abuse, or take advantage of the other.

How do you show love to those with whom you share *no commonality*? More definitively, how do you secure the stability of your current friendships? What elements inform the *longevity* of any friendship?

Day 4 – **Christine Jin**

Love – A component of *trust*

Loving our workmates

Key text: *Jeremiah 17:7-8*

“But those who trust in the Lord will be blessed. They know that the Lord will do what he says. They will be strong like trees planted near a stream that send out roots to the water. They have nothing to fear when the days get hot. Their leaves are always green. They never worry, even in a year that has no rain. They always produce fruit.

Trust is the basis of every relationship, it binds families together, it binds marital unions and it strengthens relations between people. However, once broken, it takes effort, time, and patience to repair trust.

For the purpose of this lesson, we may delineate trust into the following central themes:

- 1) Trust in God – the beginning of wisdom (***Proverbs 3:5-6***). This text positions trust in God as the beginning of all wisdom. Furthermore, such trust must be undergirded by total submission to Him, so that all our plans may be brought to fruition in accordance with His will for our lives.
- 2) Trust as the antidote of fear (***Psalms 56:4***). Often, we are fearful of the unknown. This fear permeates throughout our lives and represents itself as a barrier to progress and development. Psalm 56:4 positions trust in God as the tool by which we are to overcome fear. By implication, when we trust God wholeheartedly, though fear may arise, we are not perturbed, we remain steadfast in the knowledge that God in whom we trust, will not fail us.

Our trust in God is our shield and protection. The workplace and school can be an environment of daily challenges, some of which call into question our very sanity and patience to endure. In this instance, our trust in God gives us the mental clarity to serve faithfully, respectfully, and wholeheartedly.

Consider the sensitive nature of trust and ask yourself if it is possible to remain loving and humble in a situation or an environment where trust is compromised or questioned?

Day 5 – Paige Swanson

Love – An act of *obedience*

Loving our family members

Key text: *James 1:22-25* ²² Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves. ²³ Hearing God's teaching and doing nothing is like looking at your face in the mirror ²⁴ and doing nothing about what you saw. You go away and immediately forget how bad you looked. ²⁵ But when you look into God's perfect law that sets people free, pay attention to it. If you do what it says, you will have God's blessing. Never just listen to his teaching and forget what you heard.

Providence, sustenance, and deliverance were all experienced by the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land. These experiences, unfortunately, were punctuated by moments of rebellion, anger, and unbelief. It is these moments of human frailty, wherein we find the true substance of obedience to God, as an act of love, in response to His faithfulness toward us.

In **James 1:22-25** we are admonished to be doers of the Word. The text encourages obedience to God's principles. Such obedience requires us to do the following:

- a. To live in accordance with the Word of God.
- b. To connect our hearing of the Word of God with a full application of what the Word encourages us to do.
- c. To be recipients of the blessing that comes with adhering to the Word of God.

Love and obedience are intertwined. The two are not entirely mutually exclusive. Charity begins at home since we are called to obey and respect parents in Ephesians 6:1-3; one cannot love God when such love is not first given wholeheartedly to family members. Obedience to one another is an extension of our devotion and love to Jesus Christ.

Family remains the bedrock upon which children are taught critical life lessons. In these modern times, how are we to strengthen our love for family members, when at times it is the very members who inflict untold pain, woe, and suffering upon us, consciously, or unconsciously?

Day 6 – **Busi Khumalo**

Love – The highest form of *worship*

Key Text: 1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel answered, “Which pleases the LORD more: burnt offerings and sacrifices or obeying his commands? It is better to obey the LORD than to offer sacrifices to him. It is better to listen to him than to offer the fat from rams.

Throughout the Old Testament, sacrifices were symbolic of worship and devotion to God. As we reflect on what it truly means to worship God, how can we redefine our understanding of love, in particular, God’s unconditional love toward faulty human beings whose love is temporal?

1. To ascribe glory to God – Psalm 29.
2. To remind us of the unending covenant between God and His creation 2 Kings 17:38 (You must not forget the agreement that I made with you. You must not respect other gods.).

True worship is not a self-seeking means of adoration. Biblical worship is Christ-centered and has as the object of its affection, the exultation of Christ. Glory belongs to God, so does the eternal covenant that He has with us. Love in this instance, calls for us to worship God in spirit and in truth, to give to Him that which is due only to Him. Jesus makes this clear in Matthew 22:37,38: “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.*”

1 Samuel 15:22 reminds us of the true principle of worship. God has no interest in sacrifices, rituals, or extensive, elaborate forms of mechanical worship. If anything, we are reminded that it is far better to obey God’s law, as opposed to keeping rituals yet living lives that are not aligned to the Word of God.

For your reflection, what connection is there between love as defined throughout the Bible and our worship of God?

eWeek of Prayer Promo – **Mwenya Mpundu**

Feeling downcast? Excluded, isolated, or forsaken? There is hope when we pause to reflect on the love of God. This love, unbound by religious institutions, theological norms, or cultural mores, is available today! When we lose sight of God's love for mankind, life becomes concrete and complex, and we feel overwhelmed by personal shortcomings and various pressures of life.

During this 2023 eWeek of Prayer, scheduled for November 11-17, you will have the privilege and the liberty of immersing yourself into a biblical investigation of the love of God. I invite you to take the journey with us and see how God's love brought restoration and healing to those who needed it. Learn how it brought wholeness to those on the verge of giving up. And discover how Christ longs to share this love with us and everyone else.

Please join us on GC Youth Ministries' social media platforms, November 11-17 as we take this journey and exploring God's love.