

2012 FAITHLIFT WOMEN'S RETREAT

HELPS FOR INTERCESSION



FaithLift Women's Retreat
April 13-14, 2012,
Starkville, MS
Theme: "When God Ran"

*This Guide provides you with Scriptures that you may choose to use as you pray.
It is prepared for all men and women who will join us
to intercede for this upcoming women's retreat.*

*Would you pray with us for God to do great things?
May the Spirit lead you as you apply these prayers day by day
for all who are or will be preparing and participating in FaithLift 2012.*

Prayer is the greatest resource of the Body of Christ and the most effective means of preparing the way of the Lord available to us as Christians. As we meditate on how God might use FaithLift to touch our community and our churches, let's pray that we will each spread the fragrance of Christ to everyone our lives touch day by day, and that He will make us gracious witnesses to those who don't know Him, as well as a blessing to those who do.

Andrew Murray prayed: "Dear Father, how I long to know You better. Reveal yourself to me in new ways as I wait quietly before You. Make Yourself more real to me than anyone or anything on earth. Open my eyes to see You in the Scriptures; quiet my mind and emotions to be still and know that You are God. Calm my heart, taking away my strain and stress. Make me conscious of Your presence as I wait before You with holy reverence."

*May this guide help us all bathe this retreat.
May we see God do marvelous things in us all:
May the effects overflow from our hearts and lives,
and impact our families, our churches and our community.
May our Precious Savior and Lord be honored and praised.
May His purposes for FaithLift be fulfilled.*

March 10 Your Word says you inhabit the praises of your people, O God! We are grateful that you are worthy of our praise. We lift our hearts in gratitude that You are the only wise God, Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. We thank you, Lord, that we are free to gather to worship and ask that you prepare us to receive your Word through Lee Ann, Lori, and Susan as they share in music and from your Word. Help all of us participating in this FaithLift to come to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

March 11 Your Name, O Lord, is a strong and mighty tower into which the righteous can run and find safety. As we pray for, plan and participate in this FaithLift, we choose to run to you and not to the world for answers to our deepest needs and questions. As participants, open our ears to hear and our hearts to respond to the truths of your Word. May we offer ourselves to you as living sacrifices, trusting that you will transform us by the renewing of our minds so that we will not be conformed to the world's way of thinking and acting. Bless each person helping to prepare this retreat. May each wait on you, seeking to know how best to carry out their team's responsibilities.

March 12 Almighty God, you alone are holy, holy, holy, and we bow in praise before you. As we work to build your Kingdom as individuals, families, and as your church, may we daily seek your face and submit to your Lordship, presenting ourselves as instruments to be used by you. Prepare us for this FaithLift, by breaking up the fallow soil of our hearts that we might be ready to receive the seed of your Word as its truths are proclaimed. Guide us as we invite others to attend. Point us to people who need to hear what you will speak through this FaithLift.

March 13 Lord, we praise you that you are a God of mercy and grace and we thank you that morning by morning your mercies are renewed and poured out on us. Teach us how to accept your mercy and forgiveness and how to become channels through which they flow out to a world that is desperately in need of a message of hope. As we pray for FaithLift today, we offer ourselves to you and pray that you will live in us to will and do of your good pleasure. We ask you to direct the steps of Lee Ann, Lori, and Susan and every FaithLift team member, so they will be able to discern your specific will and not be overcome by the urgency and abundance of all they have to do.

March 14 You are worthy, O God, to receive glory, honor, and power; for you have created all things for your pleasure and by the word of your power. May we stop today to consider all that you have made and to be amazed by your creative genius. Fill us with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so that we might walk worthy of you, pleasing you in every way, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in our knowledge of you. Give us a hunger and thirst to know you more. Draw over 200 women to this retreat—women with hearts open and hungry for more of you.

March 15 We praise you that you loved us so much you gave your only Son to die on the cross for our sins, that as we place our faith in His shed blood, we might have eternal life. We are humbled that Jesus willingly clothed Himself in humanity and walked in the world as one of us, but was without sin. We thank you that you have delivered us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of your dear Son, in whom we have redemption through His shed blood. May we live today as children of the Light, spreading the hope of freedom from sin to all we meet. As all FaithLift leaders and team members walk in your light this day, may it also show the way to others.

March 16 Our praise rises to you this morning as we contemplate your goodness and greatness. Truly you are an awesome God, and we willingly submit to your Lordship. As your body, may our love abound more and more in knowledge and judgment so that we will approve things that are excellent and be without offense to you, filled with the fruits of your righteousness. Fill all FaithLift leaders and team members with your love and draw them closer to each other and to you. May they work together with one mind and purpose, discerning your guidance in every decision for this retreat.

March 17 We praise you, God, that you are rich in mercy and that you love us with a great love, so much so that even when we were dead in sins, you gave us life through Jesus Christ. Thank you that nothing, neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from your love, revealed to us in Christ Jesus!! May we and our leaders be channels of your love to all whom we meet today. May all FaithLift speakers be able to communicate to those at FaithLift the wonder of your love and acceptance.

March 18 To you who are able to keep us from falling and present us without fault before God's glorious presence; to you, the only wise God our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority! May we be challenged to build ourselves up in our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping ourselves in the love of God as we wait for the mercy of Jesus Christ to bring us to eternal life. Show us your way, O Lord, teach us your paths, lead us in your truths, as we hope in you all day long. Bless our FaithLift leaders and teams as they walk in your paths today, and give them hope in you.

March 19 Lord, you are our light and our salvation, the stronghold of our lives. Thank you that we have no reason to fear, knowing that you will keep us safe and hide us in the shelter of your dwelling place. There are many whom we will meet today who do not know this. Help us to be sensitive to those who need to hear it from us. There will be women at FaithLift who desperately need you as their stronghold and their dwelling place who may never have grasped these truths. We pray for open hearts and receptive spirits - may they hear you speaking to them through our leaders, and through us as fellow-participants.

March 20 We praise you, Father, that you are a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God...that even if the mountains depart and the hills be removed, you will not forget your everlasting covenant with your people. Thank you that you are present with us at all times and that you go before us to fight the enemy who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. We trust you to watch over us and guide us today and especially, to lead us during this critical time of preparation for FaithLift. Continue to make plain to Lori, Lee Ann, and Susan what we will need to hear.

March 21 Father we praise you that there is no other god beside you; there is no rock like our God, and that those who place their trust in you are blessed. Remind us that we have not been redeemed by things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb without spot and blemish. May we hold fast our profession of faith, coming boldly to your throne of grace to obtain mercy in our times of need. Help us to walk worthy of your call on our lives so that others may sense your presence and hunger to know you more. Please draw Lee Ann, Susan, and Lori -- and all FaithLift team members -- close to you and make their paths straight before them.

March 22 The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the firmament shows your handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge. The whole earth is filled with your glory and we join the saints of all ages in praising your glorious Name! May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened that we may know what is the hope of your calling and the exceeding riches of the glory of our inheritance, as well as the exceeding greatness of your power toward us who believe. We extol you and bless you, we praise your Name forever, and we cry out for those who do not know you, who do not recognize you in every bird and tree, and flower, that their eyes may be opened to the wonders of Who You are! May our FaithLift leaders and teams remember to praise you each day, even in difficult or annoying circumstances.

March 23 Lord, we acknowledge that you are righteous in all your ways and holy in all your works. You reign supreme over all and your Name is excellent in all the earth, your glory is above the heavens!! We stand in awe and we bow in humility. We know little how to live in the world and not be of the world. Please forgive us. Draw us to yourself and give us a desire to grow so close to you that the things of this world will have no attraction. Help us to come out from our culture and be separate, so that others will know that we have been with Jesus. We ask that you enable Susan, Lee Ann, and Lori so to communicate your love that every lady attending FaithLift will be able to see, if only in the distance at first, the Father who runs to embrace her and have fellowship with her.

March 24 We praise you that you are the Rock, your work is perfect; you are a God of truth and without iniquity, totally just and right. We thank you that underneath are your everlasting arms so that we need never be cast down and defeated. You cause us always to triumph as we walk in obedience to you, and you supply all our needs according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. You are our salvation, our strength, and our song. May every FaithLift participant and team member become a channel through whom you flow in ministry to a hurting world. Strengthen and guide us as we go about our various tasks today.

March 25 We praise you Lord that you are the God who is enough!! Enough for whatever is going on or whatever our need may be. Thank you that our sufficiency is of you, that your strength is made perfect in our weakness, that your grace abounds to us, that in you we lack nothing. Enable us to see needs around us and respond with compassion, that others would come to know you, too. A God Who would run to us rather than turn away from us can be such a foreign concept. Open our understanding and increase our faith to believe that even with us you long to be in intimate relationship. Be strong in all the weak places that might manifest themselves in us and may we choose daily to receive your embrace, believing that you rejoice over us with joy and singing!

March 26 Lord, you are a great God, and a great King above all gods. In your hands are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is yours also. The sea is yours, you have made it, and your hands formed the dry land. We come; we worship and bow down; we kneel before you, Lord, the One who made us. Give us a deep sense of our need to move beyond the milk of the Word to the meat, so that we might grow and mature and nourish others in things of the Spirit. May many take advantage of the opportunity to hear your Word proclaimed through FaithLift and may we all leave this retreat strengthened in our inner being.

March 27 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom....Forgive us for living so far beneath our inheritance in Christ. Open our eyes to see the incredible riches of your love toward us and give us a growing hunger to live in the fullness of your blessings. Cause Lee Ann, Susan, and Lori to walk as heirs of your glorious grace and to be able to communicate to others the blessed privilege of belonging to You.

March 28 Father, we rejoice this day in your majestic splendor and we honor you as our Sovereign Lord. Thank you that you are our reason for being, our help now and forever, the only ground of our hope. May we always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us and may we live so that others will sense that hope and be curious as to its origin, thus opening a door for us to give witness to you. May we be true witnesses to your faithfulness as we work together to take care of FaithLift details that may seem unimportant, but that are part of a necessary whole.

March 29 Unto you, O Lord, we lift up our souls; oh, our God, we trust in you, and to you we give thanks. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Though there is trouble on every hand and many things that threaten our way of life, may we not live in fear, but know that you are our strong tower, that your Word is true, that there is no danger so near that you are not nearer still. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus in complete trust that He is with us. Whatever we face each day, may we do so with confidence in your care.

March 30 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were formed and before you created the earth, you are God!! Greater are you within us than he who is in the world. Give us understanding that we are engaged in warfare, that our enemy is very real. But help us to know that we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Help us to cast down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. Help us, in a word, to grow up and learn who we are as your children so that we can help others who do not know that the enemy of their souls would destroy them, but that You are greater in them than he who is in the world.

March 31 All your paths are faithful and loving for those who keep your commandments, Lord. Please instruct us in the way chosen for us. Thank you that you have a plan for our lives to prosper us, to give us hope and a future. Thank you that though we make plans you are the one who guides our steps. We give thanks to you, for you are a good and gracious God. Make our hearts steadfast as we follow after you and may you be exalted in all the earth as we live to the praise of your glory. May we be very aware of your desire to direct our steps as we live out the everydayness of life.

April 1 Morning by morning your mercies are renewed and poured out upon us! We are blessed, indeed, to belong to you, to be planted in your garden and experience your tender care. May our roots grow deep in the soil of your love so that we might bring forth much fruit for your Kingdom. Remind us that only as we abide in you, the true vine, can we be fruitful. Apart from you we can do nothing, we have no hope. Draw us ever nearer to the source of all life, Jesus Christ. Help us to have the mind of Christ as the days grow nearer for the ministry weekend.

April 2 You are great, Lord and worthy of praise; no one can fathom your greatness, but we long to be diligent in telling others of your mighty acts, in speaking of the glorious splendor of your majesty. May we not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. We choose to meditate on your Word day and night so that we are like trees planted by rivers of water which bring forth fruit in its season; our leaves do not wither, and whatever we do, it prospers. This is our heritage as we feed on your Word and we are grateful. No matter where we've been, what we've done, or how we have squandered our spiritual inheritance, you still run to meet us when we turn toward home. What an incredible thought! What an indescribable gift of love!

April 3 Thank you that we are your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which you have prepared in advance for us to walk in, Father. Give us an increasing hunger and thirst for your righteousness and may it become increasingly difficult to distinguish us from you as we take on the mind of Christ. Show us how to love those in our community in practical ways so they might come to know you. Open our eyes and hearts to embrace those who are not like us, who don't understand what it means to be a Christian, and who are skeptical of all things spiritual. May they see in our relationship with you a reality that speaks to their deep needs. Give to Lee Ann, Lori, and Susan wisdom and discernment to zero in on ways to challenge us to be more effective than we have been previously in reaching others for Christ.

April 4 Who is like unto you, O Lord among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? There IS no god like you. There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved except Jesus!! May we never waver in our confession that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the only way to eternal life. And may we have a sober understanding that those who believe in Christ have life, whereas those who do not believe stand condemned already because they do not believe in the name of your only Son. Give us a sense of urgency to go and make disciples in the Name of Jesus. Forgive us our complacency. Thank you for the desire Susan, Lori, and Lee Ann have to tell the Good News of Jesus' saving grace, and for the doors you have opened to them.

April 5 May your Name be magnified, O Lord, our help and deliverer. Cause us to enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. May we shout with joy before you and serve you with gladness as we know that you alone are God: you are good and your faithfulness endures forever. May the hearts of other believers be refreshed through us as we bring encouragement and hope. May the sharing our faith become effective as we perceive our responsibility to walk our talk, to follow hard after you, to fight the good fight of faith. Cause us to hear your loving kindness in the morning and to know the way in which we should walk, as we lift up our souls unto you and trust in you all day. You are our God; we RUN to you from all that would separate us from your love and grace.

April 6 Lord, you are greatly to be praised, for you alone do wonders. The whole earth is filled with your glory and you are our greatest joy!! We bless you with all that is within us; we bless your Holy Name. We ask you to work in our hearts today, to make us willing to hear you speak to us specifically and then to obey all that we understand of your will for our lives. Prepare us, Father, to be revived in heart, mind, and soul, that you might be glorified in our lives. Give to our FaithLift leaders a holy boldness to sing and proclaim your Word with power.

April 7 Today, Lord, we wait before you. We expect you to show up, to speak to us individually, to make a difference in our lives and in our churches, so that we can go out to make a difference for Christ in the world. Come, Lord Jesus!. Fill us with your Holy Spirit; kindle a fire in us that will never grow dim. We ask that you would bring hungry people into your house for our FaithLift sessions and fill them with the knowledge of your love and your will for their lives. Live in us to will and do of your good pleasure. Thank you that you will. Empower and inspire Susan, Lori, and Lee Ann as they lead us into your presence.

April 8 Father, please don't let this be another retreat which ministers to us but leaves us unchanged, unchallenged, unmoved, and stuck in the same rut we've been in! Speak to our spirits! Bring deep conviction. Make us uncomfortable. Help us to understand how far below your best we've become satisfied with. Show us your glory. Stir our hearts and give us direction for the future. May your Kingdom come and your will be done even now. We pray for those in whose lives turmoil is a constant, that they would come to understand that you see their situations, you hear their cries for help, and you stand with open arms to welcome them into the peace and rest only you can provide.

April 9 Holy Spirit, glorify the Father by taking possession of our hearts. We cast on you the entire responsibility of closing against our steps any and every course that is not of you. Let us hear your voice behind us whenever we turn to the right hand or the left, giving guidance and instruction. Grant that we might live in such a relationship to you that our lives will produce a longing after you in other lives. Cover us with the blood of Jesus, cleanse us, purify our motives and desires, and may all our springs be in you. Speak your truths through the leaders of FaithLift, so that lives may be changed and you may be glorified.

April 10 Lord, we praise you that you are the ever-present God, the God who knows all things, the God who is all powerful. You are infinitely worthy of all glory and honor and we lift our hearts to you. May this retreat be far from the end of your work among us. Let this be the beginning of a whole new relationship with you. May our determined purpose be to know you on an ever deepening basis. May we be rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, established in our faith, abounding in thanksgiving. May we become a force in this community for good and may many people be set free from the bondage of satan as they see the evidence of your work in your people and in this community. Grant, O God, that we may be one in spirit with you, that we may walk in the light as you are in the light, and that others may come to know you as we share the Good News of your saving grace. Bless Susan, Lee Ann, Lori, and all committee chairs and members, multiplying back to them the time and energy they have expended in being your ministers to us. May they continue to bear fruit for your Kingdom.

April 11 May we be bold and loving in our witness for you. May we have forgiving and giving spirits; may your wisdom and discernment operate through us. And may we recognize daily how great is the love that you, our Father, who runs to meet us at every turn, have lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!! To you we offer praise, before you we bow in humility, and together we worship you as the only true God. We pray that you will bring forth much fruit for your Kingdom!

April 12 May our faith be the impetus for our work; may our love motivate our labor, may our hope in Jesus Christ inspire endurance. As we work together to proclaim your Word, may it be with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. May we so live in obedience to your Word that we demonstrate to other believers what it means to seek to please you and not men. Cause those who hear your Word to receive it as the Word of God and not the Word of man so that it may accomplish its purpose in those who believe. May your love increase and overflow through us to others. Strengthen our hearts so we will be blameless and holy in your presence. Sanctify us through and through that our spirit, soul and body might be blameless at your coming. May we rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances.

April 13 How often have we ended spiritual gatherings and moved immediately on to other things...back to the usual, having checked off one more thing on our "to do" list? May it not be so this time. As you send forth your Word into our hearts, Father, let it dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May it not depart from our mouths and may we meditate on it day and night so we may diligently act on it. Thank you that your Word is the incorruptible seed, abiding in our spirit, growing in us, producing your nature and life. May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path to keep us in your way. Order our steps according to your Word. We are confident, Father, that you are at work in us both to will and do of your good pleasure. Our hearts are fixed and established on the solid foundation of your living Word and we praise and magnify your Holy Name!! Help us, Lord, to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others as ourselves. May we be what we profess to be and bear such a striking resemblance to you that others will take note that we have been with Jesus.