



Monthly Emphasis of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI)

Theme: 2017-2021

Investing your life intentionally through Prayer and the Word of God, establishing personal relationships, and teaching and serving others in order that they are Christ-like Disciples.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

Subthemes:

Intentional Discipleship through ...

- Prayer and the Word (2018)
 - Relationships (2019)
 - Teaching (2020)
 - Serving (2021)
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- ◆ A congregation INTENTIONALLY DISCIPLING children.
 - ◆ A congregation INTENTIONALLY DISCIPLING youth.
 - ◆ A congregation INTENTIONALLY DISCIPLING families.

HOW TO APPLY THE EMPHASIS

Upon starting the year, review the monthly emphases and coordinate with each ministry leader to organize the emphasis that corresponds to them and their particular ministry.

PERMANENT EMPHASIS

PRAYER, BIBLE READING, AND ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS

DECADAL EMPHASIS

CONNECTING A NEW GENERATION TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Share the Decadal Emphasis with the whole church. Revise and/or establish goals, projects, and activity budgets for this emphasis to be accomplished throughout the year.





CALENDAR OF THE MONTHLY SDMI EMPHASES

JANUARY: Education

Theme: **A Powerful Prayer**

Text: “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Purpose: That the church is aware of the importance of Prayer for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Make a group prayer chain, with a specific request for the children and youth at risk, in order to cover this group for a whole day.
- Promote home groups for Bible Reading, with a focus on prayer and praying for others.
- Have a time for teachers for worship and praise of God, and for seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Teach new leaders to develop the personal discipline of daily devotions.
- Pray for those who have been absent. Send them a message, call them, or give them a brief visit.
- Train ushers with the gift of hospitality to take note of the names, addresses and phone numbers of visitors, and ask for prayer requests.

FEBRUARY: MARRIED COUPLES

Theme: **Prayer – the foundation of marriage**

Text: “Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.” (Genesis 2:22)



Purpose: To encourage married couples of the church to pray together and with other couples.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize or strengthen the Marriage Ministry.
- Invite unconverted married couples to these special activities so they can observe and feel the love, unity, and mutual interest through the fellowship of the group.
- Pray for marriages, so that their relationships will be enriched and strengthen while both submit themselves to God.
- Motivate and teach the newly saved married couples to become dependent on Christ.
- Form a counseling team to pray and help in the restoration of marriages, families, confused and broken relationships, or wounds from separation or divorce.
- Organize a cycle of conferences for the building up of marriages.
- Have a marriage retreat or camp.

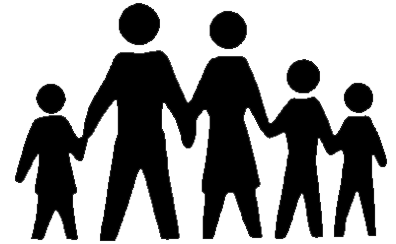


MARCH: The family

Theme: **PRAYER AND THE WORD BUILDING UP FAMILIES**

Text: "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:1)

Purpose: That families have a consistent devotional time.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Encourage families to have a family altar (family devotions), giving suggestions on how to conduct them.
- Have the education committee or church members develop materials or write articles about prayer and family love, and send them home to families.
- Have a time of taking Communion, grouping the congregation by physical or spiritual families.
- Preach about prayer, the experience of faith, and the counter cultural life of Christian families in today's society.
- Give choruses and songs to families to sing at home, with verses related to the family, memory verses and passages being studied, etc.

APRIL: The Importance of Childhood

Theme: **PRAYER FOR CHILDREN**

Text: "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" (Mark 10:14)

Purpose: To encourage children to love the reading of the Word of God as the guide that instructs and

provides wisdom for salvation, and encourage prayer for effective communication with God.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- First, the whole church - and particularly the leaders - must be convinced that children's ministry is important.
- Motivate parents to attend Sunday School with their children.
- As much as possible, children should be included in church services. In ideal cases, children should be able to participate together with their parents.
- Some families, depending on their calling and their particular abilities, can open their homes for other children in different ways: caring for children according to need; having evangelistic meetings for children or whole families of the neighborhood; adopting an orphan child; evangelizing children in the street; or simply having an "open home" so that the children of the neighborhood can visit when they want to.
- Promote the Children's Bible Quizzing Ministry in Sunday School classes, in Children's Church, camps, etc.
- Start small Bible study groups or cells for children, with follow-up activities such as children's month, Vacation Bible School, etc.
- Have biblical reading marathons for the children throughout the month.



- Give Bibles to children who are new to the church.
- Encourage children to pray for their friends and invite them to all ministry activities for children.
- Develop a prayer chain or special prayer time with the children to pray for the situations or needs in the children's church.
- Schedule a special prayer time for the children's teachers and leaders.
- Present the plan of salvation to new children and integrate them into the children's church where they can feel loved, cared for and important.

MAY: Women

Theme: **PRAYER WARS**

Text: "Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace." (Psalm 144:12)

Purpose: To help women grow every day in the image of God and reach out to other women through prayer and discipleship of service and love.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Ladies' Get-togethers
- Prayer services for women
- Visiting women who haven't been around for a while or new ladies.
- Have a prayer room that opens 15 minutes before the services. During this time the ladies will be praying for the service, the pastor who will preach, and the needs of the church and its members. It can simple be a time of prayer or you can have a devotion of 5 minutes before you pray.
- Have special mother/daughter dinners, banquets for those who are workers, friendship banquets, etc.
- The women can go to Women's Conference together. This can create unity among the ladies and it will give them opportunities to learn lessons that would help them in their personal and family lives.
- Retreat or walk for ladies.
- Friendship Tea or coffee - Ladies can have time together and share a cup of tea. They can have games and of course the Word of God.
- Discipleship for the ladies. You must be training women to disciple as well. Ladies should always be looking for more women to disciple. You can have a meeting where you teach what discipleship is and start a discipleship program for your ladies. You can use the leaders and mature women in the faith to help.
- Women's Bible studies.
- Bachelorette or baby showers
- Develop a ministry for widows
- Cooking for those who were in the hospital or someone who has had a death in their family. This can show that the church is there to help families during the most difficult times.





JUNE: Men in the Image of God (MIG)

Theme: **INSTRUMENTS OF HONOR**

Text: "She said to her husband, 'I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God.'" (2 Kings 4:9)



Purpose: That men realize the importance of their role in prayer.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize and carry out the Men's Ministry (MIG)
- Organize and have a Men's Retreat, where themes of interest are addressed from God's Word. These themes can address the unity of faith, love, service, and friendship that should prevail among all. Be sure to integrate the guests. This retreat could include several churches in the area.
- Have Men's Bible Studies to help the men know God personally, grow in the image of Christ, develop and use their gifts, love and care for others, ways to put into practice the love of God and the character of Christ.
- Have prayer services for men only.

JULY: Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Theme: **THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER AND BIBLE READING IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Text: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
(Jeremiah 33:3)

Purpose: That the church shows love to children and reaches out to their families to minister to them and reach them for Christ.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Two months before conducting the VBS, have prayer vigils, prayer chains, and other times of prayer for the VBS.
- Encourage children and the whole church to invite and bring new children to the VBS.
- Promote the VBS offering which will help sustain the worldwide special project of the year.
- Have a parade throughout the community to promote the VBS.
- Establish a committee or a person who will collect the contact details of the children who arrive for the first time in order to follow-up with them and disciple them after the VBS.
- Send an invitation to the parents of the visiting children to attend the Closing Ceremony and have an evangelistic emphasis on this day.
- Contact the parents of the children to invite them to continue attending Sunday School and church.
- Start small groups near the children's places of residence to continue studying the Word beyond Sunday.



AUGUST: SENIOR ADULTS (*FULLNESS OF LIFE*)

Theme: **OLD AGE: A SYMBOL OF EXPERIENCE**

Text: “My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long. Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.” (Psalm 71:8-9)



Purpose: To recognize the importance of senior adults and establish discipleship programs to address the needs and opportunities of this stage of life.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Allow the elders of the church to share their wisdom, their faith, their example of life and their dependence on God in prayer with the church and different age groups.
- Visit the elderly of the Church, especially those who cannot attend the services, sharing a time of fellowship, reading the Word, and prayer.
- Have activities with them that involve young people and children, where they can advise, pray and intercede, spend time with them, bless them, teach and give biblical reflections.
- Visit an retirement center or old age home and take them activities or games. Visit elderly neighbors of the church and help them with their needs and thus reflect Christ.
- Celebrate the International Day of Senior Adult (October 1 - may vary depending on the country).

SEPTEMBER: The Bible

Theme: **THE FAITHFUL WORD**

Text: “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8)

Purpose: To encourage and help people discover what the Bible says and how to apply it to their lives, both on their own in their daily communion with God and with a small group.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Promote the special offering to support the biblical work around the world. The Bible Society and Bible League are two institutions that we should support.
- Have the members of youth and children’s Bible Quizzing Ministries share the experiences they have lived and learned in reading and studying the Bible.
- Promote a systematic Bible reading plan.
- As a church, give out Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels, brochures for adults and children to new converts, members of small groups, local authorities of the community, etc.
- Have an exhibition of Bibles in a central or busy place in the community. You can ask a Christian Bookstore to support this. Also, you can carry out programs with choirs or singers and preaching the Word.
- Carry out the Bible Campaign: Engage the Word (engagetheword.nazarene.org)

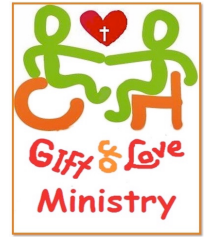


OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE DISABLED (GIFT OF LOVE)

Theme: **WE ARE ALL PART OF THE PLAN OF GOD**

Text: "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5)

Purpose: To create awareness of a healthy church that includes people with disabilities and handicaps, participating fully in the work and life of the church.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Take a census in the church to find out which members have relatives, friends or acquaintances with a disability, and invite them to a special fellowship service. Prepare refreshments and a simple gift like book marks with verses of God's love for them.
- Train and provide guidance concerning people with disabilities are. (Gift of Love Ministries have some great resources for this.)
- Depending on the disability, we can integrate them in the different activities of the Church, such as: Bible teacher, pastors, biblical reading, Christian theater, praise, prayer, preaching, evangelism, Bible studies, missions committee, helping in the organization of missions trips, discipleship, reading Bible stories or biographies of missionaries to children, participating in missionary trips prepared with them in mind, etc.
- Invite parents of children with disabilities to give their testimonies to other parents with children with disabilities to encourage them and pray for them.
- Have a service project for a person with disabilities or their family in the community, expressing the love of Christ that dwells in our hearts. Examples: Visiting an orphanage of people with disabilities, giving a "day off to the mother" by taking care of her child, etc.
- Mobilize the church by praying, giving, and educating; share the achievements and thank God for the commitment of a loving church for the most needy.
- Establish a day as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

NOVEMBER: UNITY AND THANKSGIVING

Theme: **GIVING THANKS TO GOD**

Text: "So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." (Col. 1:10-12)

Purpose: To remember God's mercy with which he permits us to grow in knowledge of His Word, and thank Him for everything, especially His love.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Promote the Thanksgiving Offering.
- Have each ministry carry out group celebration activities of thanksgiving to God.
- Conduct thanksgiving service, renewing our vows of service to the Lord.



DECEMBER: *EVANGELISM*

Theme: **Preach the Word**

Text: “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’” (Matthew 10:7)

Purpose: That the church feels the debt and privilege of fulfilling the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Distribution of evangelistic handouts to share the gospel to the unconverted.
- Make videos with the message of the Word that can be shared by internet through social media and links.
- Utilize the Jesus Film, Evangelism Cube, among other tools to share the message.
- Utilize the Growth Campaign that SDMI proposes for inviting other people to church.
- Have the church prepare radio programs to share the message of the Word of God.
- Involve the whole Church in the Celebration of the Christmas worship services. Be sure to encourage church members to invite their friends and family members who don't regularly attend.