

CHALLENGE

Pray with us through Challenge 2022

Friday, July 1

- Pray for travel safety and on-time flights as the Challenge Director Team and production company travel to Kansas City and get oriented.
- As students pack their suitcases, pray that the Lord would provide peace and spiritual protection. Pray that a longing would stir in them for more than just a fun week with friends.

Saturday, July 2

- Load-in day! Sound, lights, screens, offices, sports equipment, signs, registration, hotels, etc. Pray for physical safety, stamina, and effective communication.
- This is a travel day for many team Coordinators, Housing staff, and some youth groups (for some groups this is day one of two days of travel). There will be many airport runs. Pray that as Challenge team members fly and drive to Kansas City, the cares of what they are leaving behind would lift from their shoulders and joy would fill their hearts as they arrive to serve youth and youth workers.
- As youth groups drive to Kansas City, pray for the road trips to be great bonding times and the walls around students' hearts would begin to come down.

Sunday, July 3

- This is the start of many busy days as the remainder of youth groups and most Challenge staff arrive. Registration is open from 1-5 p.m. CST. Youth workers are often road weary. Pray for patience, grace, and good communication.
- Pray specifically for hotels to be ready to receive thousands of students and for no long lines. Such difficulties create an immediate rough start to the week, and this is completely out of the Challenge team's control.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves launches. It is a voluntary student-led prayer gathering.
- 7 p.m. CST: Challenge 2022 begins! Pastor Kempton Turner, from City of Joy Fellowship in East St. Louis, will open God's Word and begin our walk through the book of 1 Peter (Message title: "More Grace and Peace in Exile" - 1 Peter 1:1-2). Pray for God to use this message of gospel hope to set the stage, awaken hearts and for Christ to be seen clearly.

Monday, July 4

- 9:30 a.m. CST: The first full day of Challenge! Kempton Turner continues our walk through 1 Peter with "More Hope in Salvation" (1 Peter 1:3-12). The secular pool that students daily swim in saturates their lives with an overwhelming focus on making life right now as happy as can be. What happens when life is hard, and things fall apart? Students will hear of the present joy and future hope that Jesus brings through a genuine faith.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: Over 1,000 students will go out into the city to engage people through prayer stations or serve alongside various organizations. Pray for the Outreach team and their system of loading students onto buses (with drivers from the city) and off to ministry locations. Pray for safety, divine appointments and for God to use service both in the city and in the lives of students.

- Other students will participate in Equipping Labs, Recreation, or the ReachGlobal Experience. Pray that kids playing all sorts of sports in the Recreation Hall would simply be kids and have a blast without injuries. Pray for Equipping Lab facilitators to equip students with skills to live out their faith boldly and effectively.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves student led prayer gathering.
- 7 p.m. CST: ReachStudents Director Justin Wevers will open God's Word during the evening session. Justin will focus on "More Goodness in Obedience" (1 Peter 1:13-25). This passage emphasizes that life in God and obedience to God are so much better than anything sin pretends to offer. Pray for students to hear that obedience gives us freedom, and a far better reward than flimsy comforts. May they see how Jesus not only saves us from the penalty of sin, but He also saves us from the power of sin in our lives.
- Pray for intentional Huddle times (a time for youth groups to process together). Pray for all adult leaders to be led by the Spirit as they facilitate these conversations

Tuesday, July 5

- 9:30 a.m. CST: Rollo Casiple will introduce the next 1 Peter passage (chapter 2 verses 1-12). This passage poses questions that all students wrestle with: Is obedience really better than disobedience? Is God worth it? Is He actually good? Pray that students will hear how God has chosen a people for Himself so that together we can taste and see that He is truly good, and we are to proclaim His goodness.
- 1:00-5 p.m. CST: The afternoon is much like Monday. Another 1,000 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs, Recreation, or the ReachGlobal Experience.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves student led prayer gathering starts. By now this gathering will be around 700-1,000 students. Daniel Olson, Prayer director, has enlisted several teens to help facilitate this time with their peers. Pray for students to experience like never before the joy and freedom of communing with the Father.
- 7 p.m. CST: Pastor Eric Rivera from Chicago will help students find "More Honor in Relationships" (1 Peter 2:13-3:7). This text is the foundation for what relationships are supposed to look like...centered on the gospel and transformed by an others-centered grace.
- Pray again for the late-night group Huddle times. Pray for open, real, and honest conversations among students.

Wednesday, July 6

- Pray today for the 100 hundred staff and 600 hundred youth workers at Challenge. Everyone is getting tired after several 18-hour days and nights of little sleep. Pray for stamina, joy, patience, grace, good judgement, and spiritual discernment.
- 9:30 a.m. CST: Pastor Stephen Love from South Bend, Indiana, will speak on "More Life in Jesus" (1 Peter 3:8-4:6). This is a message about choices. Choosing to serve Christ means abandoning slander, pride, and evil. Choosing to do good means compassion, humility, and love. This seems like an obvious choice until it runs up against the pressures of peers, cancel culture, and one's own sinful flesh. This passage in particular fights against some of culture's biggest idols.
- 1:00-5 p.m. CST: An afternoon much like Monday and Tuesday. Another 1,000 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs, Recreation, and the ReachGlobal Experience.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves, the student led prayer gathering, is in its third night. Pray that students/groups that have not yet attended would prioritize this today.
- 7 p.m. CST: Jeff Vanderstelt will focus on 1 Peter 4:7-11 and "More Love in Community." Peter's message here to those living in exile shows us not only what Christian community should look like, but where the strength to live this way comes from. In this passage, students see a glimpse of something better – beyond broken relationship and twisted passions. They will see that even now, through Christ, there is a promise of a better community marked by love.
- Pray for the Huddle times tonight. Often, there is a greater openness as the week goes on. Pray for discernment as adults who love these students lean on the power of the Holy Spirit as they build into these youth.

Thursday, July 7

- It's the final full day of Challenge. Praise God for what He's already done this week and thank Him for responding to many prayers. We cannot wait to share stories of what He did through the Challenge conference.
- 9 a.m. CST: This morning is a bit different, but important. The plenary session begins a half-hour early and is very abbreviated. We call this morning the SENDING HUDDLE. Groups will have 90 minutes to walk through the week and assess how they are using their gifts to serve one another. Pray for rich and real discussion as well as a compulsion to put feet to the truths studied in 1 Peter. Pray that youth workers facilitate this discussion well and withhold from trying to give more teaching.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: 1,000 students serving in the city, most others in Equipping labs, the ReachGlobal Experience or having some down time.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Final Prayer Moves student led prayer gathering.
- 7 p.m. (CST): Pastor Bryan Lair Trinity City Church in St. Paul, MN speaks tonight. He will call students to find "More Reward in Suffering" (1 Peter 4:12-5:13). We are sending students home with the difficult task of faithful living in a wicked generation. We are not sending them home alone but equipped in the power of the Spirit, ready to do good strengthened by a good God. Students will be challenged to look forward to the restoration of all things by the Creator of all things. A few groups will leave the session and jump right on a bus driving home through the night. Pray for their safety.
- After the evening session, the staff goes into what we call "the night that never ends." Everything must be torn down and trucks reloaded. This usually takes us until 1 or 2 a.m. Pray for lasting energy and a spirit of cooperation.

Friday, July 8

- Starting early, groups and staff head home. It will be a morning of many airport shuttle runs. Chances for confusion and miscommunication are a reality.
- Pray that God would seal on the hearts of each person what He has spoken to them and that the Evil One would not be able to snatch it away.
- Pray for groups to use the ride home to intentionally process the week both personally and together.
- Pray that God moves every adult to pull a few students close to help them take their first steps into a deeper faith.
- Thank God for each and every adult leader who left family, jobs and even children to be alongside these students this week.
- The Challenge directors fly out/drive home this afternoon and a few in the evening. Pray that each one hears the Spirit say, "Well done good and faithful servant."

Thank you for following along with us for these eight days and for your prayers. We can do nothing of lasting value apart from Jesus. May He receive all the glory for this week and may lasting fruit abound!

On behalf of the entire Challenge team,

Laurie Seay, director
Challenge Conference and EFCA Events