

CHALLENGE

Pray with us through Challenge 2024 – June 29 to July 6

Saturday, June 29

- Pray for travel safety and on-time flights as the Challenge Director Team and production company arrive in Kansas City and get oriented.
- As students pack their bags, 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.

Sunday, June 30

- Load-in day! Sound, lights, screens, offices, sports equipment, signs, registration set-up, hotels, etc. Pray for physical safety, stamina, and effective communication.
- This is a travel day for many volunteer staff and some youth groups. There will be many airport trips. Pray that as volunteer staff fly and drive to Kansas City, the cares of what they leave 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 (for some groups this is day one of two days of travel), pray for the road trips to be great times of bonding and the walls around students' hearts would begin to come down.

Monday, July 1

- This is the start of many busy days as the remainder of youth groups and most volunteer staff arrive. Registration takes place 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 2024 begins! Will Hutcherson, pastor and mental health advocate, will begin our walk through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-10). The goal of this message is to surface the tension "maybe I don't know how to be happy (blessed)." And, in turn, show Jesus as the One who has a Creator's knowledge (authority) of what it means to be human, and how we can experience blessedness in Him alone.

Tuesday, July 2

- 9:30 a.m. CST: The first full day of Challenge! Eric Rivera, pastor of The Brook (EFCA) in Chicago, continues our walk through The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:11-16), with an invitation to experience life as we were created to be as image bearers of God in relationship with Him.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: Over 1,500 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 and off to ministry locations. Pray for safety, divine appointments, and for God to use for His glory service both in the city and in the lives of students.
- Other students will participate in Equipping Labs and Recreation. Pray that students playing all kinds 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: Elizabeth Woodson will open God's Word during the evening session. She will focus on Matthew 5:17-37, and we will be challenged that we are all in dire need of salvation—we are all both victims and perpetrators of evil. Elizabeth will present the gospel invitation, that only Jesus offers mercy and healing for the victim and justice for the perpetrator in His life, death and resurrection.
- 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

Wednesday, July 3

- 9:30 a.m. CST: Joey Woestman, EFCA pastor from Faith Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, will continue our learning in Matthew (5:38-48). This message focuses on love. This is a love that comes from a self-existent, self-sustaining God, and thus needs nothing in return. It is the kind of love that includes even our enemies.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: The afternoon is much like Tuesday. Another 1,400 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs or Recreation.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves student led prayer gathering starts. 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 Kempton Turner from East Saint Louis, Missouri, welcomes us to a life of quiet obedience that results in the greatest reward we could ever receive: a deep and personal relationship with God (Matthew 6:1-18).
- Pray again for the late-night group Huddle times. Pray for open, real, and honest conversations among students and leaders.

Thursday, July 4

- Pray today for the 100 volunteer staff and 800 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 Kempton Turner will again bring the message, this morning focusing on the Kingdom (Matthew 6:19-34), that in Him we have stepped into an unshakable Kingdom that doesn't depend upon the circumstances of life.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: An afternoon much like Tuesday and Wednesday. Another 1,200 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs or Recreation.
- 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: Daniel Olson, Challenge Prayer Director and Pastor at Pleasant Valley Church in Winona, Minnesota, will bring our message from Matthew 7:1-12. The session will include a guided prayer time, focusing on God as Father.
- Pray for the Huddle times tonight. Often, there is greater openness among students 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 their lives.

Friday, July 5

- 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 abbreviated. We call this morning the SENDING HUDDLE. Groups will have 90 minutes to reflect on the week and ask the question as a group and individual – what is God sending us home to do? Pray for rich and real discussion as well as a compulsion to put feet to the truths we've studied in Matthew. Pray that youth workers facilitate this discussion well and withhold from trying to give more teaching.
- 1 - 5 p.m. CST: We will again launch students to serve in the city, with others in Equipping labs or Recreation.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Final Prayer Moves student led prayer gathering.
- 7 p.m. (CST): Pastor Stephen Love from South Bend, Indiana, will close our conference with a message from Mathew 7:21-29. This will serve as a commissioning of students as they return to go and live as children of God. 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, packed up, and trucks reloaded. This usually takes us until 1 or 2 a.m. Pray for lasting energy and a spirit of cooperation.

Saturday, July 6

- 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 every adult leader who left family, jobs, and 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 faithful 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