

Operation Lydia™
A Fourteen Day Prayer Strategy

**Adapted for
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**

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Operation Lydia™ is a strategy designed to start churches which are indigenous, biblical, self-sustaining, self-governing, reproducible, and growing. *Operation Lydia™* offers interested person's intensive, proven training in effective ways to share their faith, lead simple Bible studies, and see people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

The principles shared in the training seminar have been proven throughout the United States and other countries around the world where rapid church planting and church growth is underway. They have been verified as well in Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan, the place where *Operation Lydia™* began.

While *Operation Lydia™* began as a Pilot Project of both the Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, it has spread rapidly, even beyond the borders of the United States. So in November of 1998 Holly Lindsey came down to Brazil to conduct a statewide training for the pastors of the Alagoas state Baptist Convention under the direction of IMB missionary Wade Cobb. At the conclusion of the lectures all the participants went by bus to a new church start location and practiced on the field what they had learned in the classroom. From that day on we did not start another new work except first we participated in a prayer walk. I would like to thank Holly for doing such a great job as she communicated *Operation Lydia™* through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Operation Lydia

PURPOSE

- To test for responsiveness to the gospel in the neighborhood Matthew 13:18-23
The geographical area that we will focus on is: south of Cuthbert, north of Illinois, west of Midland Dr., and east of Loop 250. The streets that we will focus our prayers on are: San Jacinto Dr., Bowie Dr., Alamo Dr., Goliad Dr., Storey Ave., Amigo Dr., Laura Dr., Crockett Dr., Edgewood Dr., Woodcrest Dr., Eastwood Dr., Bentwood Dr., Sweetbriar Dr., Stoneybrook Dr., Ric Dr., Belaire Dr., Sunneyside Dr., and lastly Mesa Dr. Also, included in this area are the Lake Apartments and the House Park.
- For God to show us the households and individuals He has already prepared to respond to the gospel---the persons of peace. (Luke 10:1-7 with Acts 16:11-15)
- As a congregation, ask God to renew our hearts toward a more intimate relationship with Him so that we will be ready to join the work He is already up to in His world Colossians 1:9-12

PRAYER

DAY 1

The Attitude of Christ

Prayer for the prayer team

Meditate on Philippians 2:1-4, 3:15-19.

- That they will pray with authority and thanksgiving.
- That they will develop an ache for the lost in the neighborhood.

- That they will see the harvest with the eyes of Christ.
- That the people praying will confess their sins to one another so they will not hide iniquity in their hearts.
- That their minds and emotions will be renewed so there is not conflict between the Lord's priorities and theirs.

DAY 2

Total Prayer

For Blessings over the entire area

Meditate on First Timothy 2:1-6

- That God, by His Spirit, will move on every home and business to restrain wrong and refresh right.
- That the Lord will pour out His Spirit on the area and raise the level of awareness of God during these weeks.
- That the Lord's power will be on each Christ-follower in the area.
- That Christ-followers will have a growing burden for their own neighborhood.
- That the Lord will bless each member of local government: for them to use their position and authority to bless and not oppress the people under their jurisdiction.
- That community leaders will commend the gospel not obstruct it.
- That the Lord will watch over schools and playgrounds, limiting the activity of the Adversary so the gospel might be shared with the children.

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DAY 3

Spiritual Warfare

Equipping team members to clearly see the Spiritual struggle we are engaged in

Meditate on Ephesians 6:10-12

- For team strength to be in God's enabling, not social, economic, educational or any human-created might.
- For full armor outfitting to withstand any schemes of the Adversary.
- To clearly see and grasp that our struggle is in no way against other people.
- To claim authority against the area's spiritual rulers and heavies: binding in Jesus' Name the spiritual powers ruling over the area.
- To announce undefeatable light against the dark forces of this world, so lies and half truths will be exposed for what they are.
- To have a broken heart and steadfast will against the spiritual forces of oppressive wickedness in this community.

DAY 4

Spiritual Warfare

Equipping team members to be spiritual combatants

Meditate on Ephesians 6: 13-16

- That each team member will personally resist assaults against them personally.
- That each team member will experience a

greater level of personal firmness than ever before, resolutely standing for God.

- That our core commitment will be truth: reliable in all our relationships.
- That every teammate will have invincible integrity, a breastplate against accusations.
- That we are not so wrapped up in doing our supposed program today, that we are unprepared to share the good news of peace now.
- That trust in God's Word will shield us against all evil targeted attacks.

DAY 5

Spiritual Warfare

Location and salvation of a person of peace
Meditate on John 4: 31-38

- That we may discern and perceive who the Lord has prepared.
- Thanksgiving for those who were faithful sowing the gospel before the arrival of our labor by faith.
- That the Lord will stir up an interest and hunger for Himself in people's hearts.
- That people (especially men) will be at home when the visiting team comes.
- That the eyes of people's hearts will be enlightened, to gather fruit for life eternal.

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DAY 6

Spiritual Warfare

Specific prayers for persons and *oikoses*
(Personal sphere of influence: family, friends,
neighbors,
And co-workers)

Meditate on Ephesians 6: 17—20, 23-24

- Thank the Lord for your salvation and the difference it makes as you see the lives of others.
- Claim in thanksgiving the power of your salvation to helmet your past, present, and future.
- With specific petitions, pray household by household for those indicating responsiveness to the gospel.
- That every participant, regardless of personality or past experiences, will speak boldly, as each one of us ought to speak.
- That as these intense weeks roll on, our love will be incorruptible.
- That the prayers of Day 2 will expand with power: check them out carefully.

DAY 7

Small house group gatherings

To experience the presence of the Lord in
convincing power

Meditate on First Corinthians 13:1-14:3, 24-25

- That Christ's love will be communicated to those who come.
- That the secrets of people's hearts will be

disclosed through the small group gathering
times of edifications, exhortations, and
consolations.

- That excitement and expectation will grow in the hearts of those who visit.
- That the Holy Spirit will fill the Christ-followers with frank boldness.
- That team members will have sensitivity to the hurts and needs of people.
- That the team will learn and grow in skills of communicating the truth in love.
- That in the first small group gathering the sense of a mandate from God for this neighborhood will start in the hearts of new Christ-followers from this neighborhood.

DAY 8

Spiritual Warfare

House by House Praying

Meditate on Second Corinthians 10: 3-5

- That we will utilize surveys, demographic studies, and other studies to further the gospel.
- That the weapons of our warfare are not of human ingenuity, manipulations, or psychological games – they are not of the flesh.
- That there are fortresses that need demolition: Lord, make us demolition teams for uprightness.
- Intercede today according to the pattern of Days 3 and 4.

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DAY 9

Special Groups

New Immigrants, Elderly, Widows,
Handicapped, Children, and Fathers

Meditate on Luke 14: 7-24

- That God will deepen their understanding and desire for Him.
- That they will sense in a greater way that they have nowhere else to turn.
- That God will use the special uniqueness of their circumstances to create hunger in their hearts and ready them for team visitors.
- That God will stir up those with a calling to minister to those with special needs.
- That disobedient Christ-followers will have new opportunities to repent and return to a love relationship with their Heavenly Father.

DAY 10

The Hidden Future

Children and Youth House by House

Meditate on Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:1

- Pray for parents caring for their children, that they will sense their need for God.
- For protection of young minds from the corrupting influences of mass media.
- For a special blessing on teachers and that their influence will be directed by God for good in children's lives.

- That God will draw children and teenagers to Himself as we visit in the homes, at the parks, and any other gathering of the young.

- For protection from abuse, fear, and activities of the Evil One.

- The youth will turn to the Lord and have the veils over their eyes melt, seeing that some of the things they love best now are hurting them most.

DAY 11

The Freedom of the Gospel

Salvation and Spiritual Freedom in the Area

Meditate on First Thessalonians 3:1-5

- Pray for the rapid and radiant spread of the Word.
- That any with devious intentions will be thwarted by God's providence.
- That steadfastness will characterize our labors.
- Pray according to the patterns of Days 4 and 5

Operation Lydia

DAY 12

Reception of the Gospel

House specific praying where God has revealed His truth

Meditate on First Thessalonians 1:1-10

- That they will be sufficiently freed from the things which would blind their understanding.
- Blessings and preparation of the fathers' hearts to hear and respond to the Word.
- For God to ready the Church to respond to their needs.
- That God will expose a need so great, that their old answers and philosophies no longer work.
- That God will put Christ-followers into their lives that will be faithful to the Great Commission task.

DAY 13

Spiritual Ministry

The prayer teams, visitation teams, and the small group teams

Meditate on Second Corinthians 1:3-12

- That we will help the teams in tough spots today by our prayers.
- That we will bestow favor on team members by our praying.

- That God will deliver the teams from dangers He is aware of but are hidden from us.

- Pray, remembering the prayers of Days 1, 6, and 7.

DAY 14

Spiritual Fruit

Eternal Results in Lives

Meditate on First Thessalonians 2:19-3:5

- That spiritual fruit in peoples' lives will remain and be incorporated into small groups and the Church.
- That God will strengthen the initial contacts with the persons of peace.
- That the conversions will be held tight in good and honest hearts, maturing into solid obedience.
- That God will prepare the new groups to minister, instruct one another, and care for new believers.
- That the Holy Spirit will give wisdom to the leadership to follow the steps to keep everything on track.
- That the new small groups will begin praying for the opportunities to do for others what they have also experienced.