

CHALLENGE

Pray with us through Challenge

July 13-17, 2026

Kansas City, MO

This daily guide is designed to help you pray specifically for students, leaders and staff throughout Challenge 2026.

Saturday, July 11

- 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, pray the Lord will provide peace and spiritual protection. Pray that a longing would stir in them for more than just a fun week with friends.

Sunday, July 12

- Load-in day! Sound, lights, screens, offices, sports equipment, signs, registration setup, hotels and more all move into place. 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 the road trips would be filled with bonding and the walls around students' hearts would begin to come down.

Monday, July 13

- This is the start of many busy days as the remainder of youth groups and most volunteer staff arrive. Registration takes place from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST, and youth workers are often road-weary. Pray for patience, grace and good communication.
- Pray specifically that hotels will be ready to receive thousands of students and that long lines would be avoided. 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, our student-led prayer gathering, launches with

around 700-1,000 students participating. Daniel Olson, Challenge 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.

- 7:00 p.m. CST: Challenge 2026 begins! Ricky Jenkins, pastor of [Wellspring Church](#) (EFCA) in Indian Wells, California, will begin our walk through the Psalms (Psalm 19). This session is titled, "When I Wonder," and our prayer is that students will encounter God's greatness, which will compel them to pursue the Word in a fresh way as it reveals the true nature of God.

Tuesday, July 14

- 9:30 a.m. CST: The first full day of Challenge! Taylor Walling, pastor of [Waves Church](#), speaks on Psalm 73, highlighting that God is just and in control, and we can trust Him with our circumstances and when things don't make sense.
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST: More than 1,500 students will head out into the city to engage people through prayer stations or serve alongside various organizations. Pray for the Outreach Team and their system for loading students onto buses and sending them to ministry locations. Pray for safety, divine appointments and for God to use this service for His glory, 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, and that they would be kept from injuries. Pray for Equipping Lab facilitators as they equip students with skills to live out their faith boldly and effectively.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves, our student-led prayer gathering.
- 7:00 p.m. CST: Pastor Eric Rivera from [The Brook](#) (EFCA) in Chicago, Illinois, will open God's Word during the evening session. He will focus on Psalm 51, addressing the gospel by emphasizing our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.
- Pray for intentional Huddle times, when youth groups process together. Pray for all adult leaders to be led by the Spirit as they facilitate these conversations.

Wednesday, July 15

- 9:30 a.m. CST: Carlton Harris, acting EFCA president, will continue our learning in Psalm 13. This message focuses on lament—how holy complaints are an act of dependence, not a crisis of faith but a pathway through it. This session will show students some biblical examples of expressing despair, anxiety, hurt and confusion in a faithful way.
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST: The afternoon is much like Tuesday. Another 1,500 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs or Recreation.

- 5:30 p.m. CST: Prayer Moves, our student-led prayer gathering.
- 7:00 p.m. CST: Pastor Eric Rivera is back, welcoming us to find ultimate rest in an unshakeable God (Psalm 62).
- Pray again for the late-night group Huddle times. Pray for open, real and honest conversations among students and leaders.

Thursday, July 16

- Pray today for the 150 volunteer staff and 500+ 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 judgment and spiritual discernment.
- 9:30 a.m. CST: Pastor Jeremy Carr of [NorthPoint Church](#) (EFCA) in Johnston, Iowa, will bring the message this morning, focusing on Psalm 100, reminding us that worship is not just about music or rituals—it's about recognizing God's greatness, expressing our thanks and living in joyful obedience to Him. Life is an act of worship!
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST: An afternoon much like Tuesday and Wednesday. Another 1,500 students deploy into the city to pray and serve. Others will head to Equipping Labs or Recreation.
- 5:30 p.m. CST: The third night of Prayer Moves. Pray that students/groups who have not yet attended would prioritize this today.
- 7:00 p.m. CST: Stephen Love, from [Redemption City Church](#) in South Bend, Indiana, is back, bringing a message from Psalm 10, titled, "When the World Fails." This is a powerful imprecatory psalm acknowledging the reality of injustice, boldly calling for God's judgment and ultimately requiring us to rest in the confidence that God defends the oppressed. It teaches us that seeking justice is not wrong—God himself is the ultimate judge who will one day set things right.
- 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 17

- 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 Challenge.
- 9:00 a.m. CST: This morning is a bit different, but important. The plenary session begins 30 minutes early and is abbreviated. We call this morning the Sending Huddle, a focused time for each group to reflect and respond. Groups will have 90 minutes to reflect on the week and ask, as a group and as individuals, "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 the Psalms. Pray that youth workers facilitate this discussion well and withhold from trying to give more teaching.

- 1:00 – 5:00 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.
- 7:00 p.m. CST: Daniel Olson, Challenge prayer director and pastor at [Pleasant Valley Church](#) (EFCA) in Winona, Minnesota, will close our conference with a message from Psalm 145, "When My Heart is Full." Challenge creates a great environment for celebration! Students will be encouraged that celebration is rooted in recognizing God's greatness, love, faithfulness and care. It encourages us to praise God daily, share His goodness with others, and trust in His everlasting reign. True celebration is not just about joy in this moment or this week together, but about declaring who God is—now and forever.
- 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 enters what we call "the night that never ends." Everything must be torn down, packed up and reloaded onto trucks. This usually lasts until 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Pray for energy and a spirit of cooperation.

Saturday, July 18

- Starting early, groups and staff head home. It will be a morning of many airport shuttle runs, with real chances for confusion and miscommunication.
- Pray that God would seal in 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 and help them take their first steps into deeper faith.
- Thank God for every adult leader who left family, jobs and children to come alongside these students this week.
- The Challenge directors fly out/drive home this afternoon and 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

