

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the 50 Days of Prayer. I am praying that these next seven weeks are exciting and encouraging for you and your family. I am overwhelmed at the response of people that want to grow in Christ and seek to work for His Kingdom and purpose. My prayerful desire is that this would be a challenging and empowering seven weeks on your knees in prayer, close studying of Scripture and renewed fellowship with your loved ones and church.

The main themes will include praise, families, churches, and our own hearts. In addition to the prayer guides, you'll have the opportunity for Bible studies that you can do alone or with others, and "Reach-Out" assignments that will take you to putting faith in action and showing God's light to people in your life.

I also want to encourage you to keep going, do not tap out. Do the studies and activities as you are led but stay focused on the prayer time. When we begin to be serious about growing in the Lord, that's when circumstances strike, it's when relationships become challenging, and distractions move in. I urge you to resist the traps of everyday life and stay the course.

Sundays are not included in the guides as (hopefully) you're already gathering with fellow believers in prayer and worship and hearing your pastor preach what God has laid on his heart for you.

Please let me know how you're doing through this time together. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to let me know. I am praying for every name that signed up for this. If there is a way that I can walk with you through this, just let me know.

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Called by Him to love His people,

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1 Timothy 1:5

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Monday March 25th

“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.” Exodus 15:2

This week let us stand before Him and praise His name! We often put the emphasis on ourselves when we pray, asking for blessings and favor. It’s important in the discipline of prayer to remember that He is the One to be revered and worshipped.

In the Lord’s Prayer in **Matthew 6: 9-10**, Jesus teaches what comes first in the model he puts forth:

“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Today, begin your time by praising Him, proclaiming His glory and wonders. From His creation to His work in history, thank Him for his **omniscience** (knowing all) and His **omnipotence** (all-power).

Thank Him for His protection.

Thank Him for His perfect will.

Most of all, proclaim His name as Holy! His name is set apart, pure and perfect! He has no rivals or equal!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Scripture Reading and Study: Psalm 100; 1 Peter 1: 3-9

- Name three things that Peter calls us to be thankful for.
- According to 1 Peter 1: 3-9, what is the purpose for struggles?
- In your own words, describe the Glories of God you’ve seen and experienced.

Tuesday, March 26th

“Our God is a God of salvation, and escape from death belongs to the Lord my Lord.” Psalm 68:20

Today, we continue our week of praise and thanksgiving by remembering that He is the author of salvation.

Remember mankind’s condemnation because of sin and the price that had to be paid. Specifically, remember your condemnation and the price owed.

Praise Him for his perfect love and plan to rescue us from the condemnation we deserved.

Thank Him for the salvation of your loved ones.

Thank Him for the salvation that is freely offered to those who would believe.

Thank Him for the supreme and perfect sacrifice of His only son.

Thank Him that our salvation is lasting, not dependent on circumstances or works; His grace is complete and sufficient.

Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrew 7:25

Scripture Reading and Study: Romans 8: 1-11; John 3: 1-21

Wednesday, March 27th

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give them food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom the master finds doing his job when he comes.” Matthew 24: 45-46

We owe everything we have, physical and spiritual, to our Father in Heaven. He is the provider. But we also need to remember those who were faithful in their service to God. These are the men and women who told us about Jesus, who ministered to us and disciple us. Today, we give thanks for the faithful believers who are in the trenches, serving the Master and loving His people.

Thank Him for bringing forth people in our lives who have been committed to service.

Thank Him for the ones who told you about Jesus.

Thank Him for the leaders and teachers in your church. Pray for them and their continued focus in serving.

Remember and thank Him for the missionaries, local and international, that exist to spread the Gospel to the lost and disciple the found.

As you thank Him, pray for opportunities where you can serve with faithfulness.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

Scripture Reading and Study: 1 Peter 4: 7-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9

- Paul was thankful for the ones who would help in the ministry. Many times he would call out names of those whose service for the Kingdom he appreciated.
- Write down a list of names of those whose Christian service you've appreciated. After you have completed the list, thank God for them individually.

Thursday, March 28th

We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you has for one another is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Jesus established the Church as a means for His followers to come together with, to serve with, to worship alongside and to build one another up. It is a vital part of our lives as followers of Christ. We know that there are always going to be struggles in our churches because we are imperfect. Finding a perfect church on this side of Heaven will be impossible. But we can embrace and thank God for the bodies of believers we know are committed to glorifying God and loving His people.

Thank Him for His gift of the Church; thank Him for His providing an institution where believers can grow and serve.

Thank Him for your church. Don't use this time to think of all the things you'd like to see differently.

Give thanks to God for the gift of a group of people whom you can worship Him alongside with.

Thank Him for the blessings, big and small, you've seen in the house of worship you attend. Thank Him for what he provided for your church.

Give thanks for the leaders who work diligently to facilitate a time and place of worship.

So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2: 19-22

Scripture Reading and Study: 1 Corinthians 12

- What makes a healthy church?
- When and how has God used a church to bless you? List those times, big or small.

Friday, March 29th

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 1 Corinthians 15: 56-57

All this week, we've been praising and thanking God for His holiness, His salvation for us, His faithful servants, and His church. Today, let's shout praise and give thanks for His victory!

Whatever our struggle, wherever our life's battlefield is, we as believers have been assured victory. Do you remember this? Do you realize that your hope is assured?

Today, thank Him for His victory over sin and death!

Thank Him that through that victory, you are not under the curse of death, and that everlasting life is yours!

Thank Him for the struggles and trials you face because they grow you in Christ and they do not have the power to defeat us!

Thank Him that NOTHING has the power to snatch us from His grasp!

If you're in a storm now, praise Him! If you're in a battle, utilize the power of His name!

Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25

Scripture Reading and Study: Romans 8: 18-39; Revelation 12: 1-9

- What does Paul say about our inner groanings in Romans 8?
- What does Paul mean about "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" in Romans 8:28?

Saturday March 30th

I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1: 3-6

Spend some time today reflecting on the last week.

- Take time to be still before God and listen to His voice.
- What has He revealed to you this week in your prayer time? Write it here or in a prayer journal.

WEEKEND REACH-OUTS!

These activities are designed for you to connect with people in a way you might not usually do. As we grow in Christ, it's important that we also grow together. For some of you, this may be difficult. Be encouraged! Your contact with a fellow believer may be the blessing they need. Allow God to show you who you should go to or call. You can do this on Saturday or at your Sunday worship. This is a great way to pray with and show your love for your brother or sister in Christ.

Remember the list you made on Wednesday? Seek out people on that list and tell them of your thanksgiving for their service, whether it was in your life or the church you attend. If your parents raised you in a Christian home, let them know your gratitude. Make a card or write letters to those people serving, saying thank you for taking the time to teach and love.

Then pray for and with these people, praising God for their ministry with them and praying for their continued service.

Monday April 1st

**“For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.” 1
John 2:16-17**

This week, we continue to follow in the model of prayer that Jesus gave us.

In the Gospel of Matthew 6: 10, after Jesus shows us how to honor and praise God, His first request is that God’s will be first.

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Today, pray for His perfect will to be continued to be revealed to you.

Pray for your church. Pray that as a group of believers, you would be centered on His will and purpose and nothing else.

Pray that your motives, thoughts, plans and desires be in line with His perfect will. If they aren’t, pray that God would show you His vision for your life and that you would be receptive.

Pray that you, your family and your church would be dependent on nothing else but God and His perfect will.

Pray for a deeper understanding and reliance in His perfect will.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.” Matthew 6:33

Scripture Reading and Study: Romans 12; Matthew 6

- According to Matthew 6: 10, what is Jesus praying for in regard to God’s will?
- What happens when we seek what God wants us to seek? (Matt. 6:33)
- In Romans 12, how do we come to know and understand God’s will?
- According to Romans 12, how do we live out our purpose? What are our duties?

Tuesday April 2nd

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

Today, we pray that we would be focused on the Kingdom of God by ministering and witnessing to the lost.

Pray for the lost (people who have not turned over their lives to Jesus). Pray for the lost in your community and throughout the world.

Pray that believers would hear the call to spread the gospel.

Pray for a burden for the lost. How can you use your abilities, skills, talents and gifts to reach people for Jesus?

Pray that God would give you a name (or names) that you can begin to pray for.

Scripture Reading and Study: Romans 10: 1-15;

- Write down your testimony of how you came to know Jesus. Include the name of who shared the gospel with you.
- How was your life changed after salvation?
- Do you have the passion for the lost that someone had for you? If not, pray about how God can remove complacency.
- Has God laid a name of a loved one who is lost on your heart? Write their name here _____
- Begin to pray for that person specifically. Pray for influences in their lives (especially yours). Pray for opportunities to talk to them about Jesus.

Wednesday, April 3rd

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18-20

Jesus’ point of interest in the Great Commission is all nations; that they would know Jesus and be disciplined in His ways.

Today, we remember and pray for those who have dedicated their lives to evangelizing and discipline around the world.

Pray for the missionaries that are being faithful to their call to spread the message of Christ’s hope to a dying world.

Pray for missionaries who are in hostile countries; pray that they would be protected and find God’s favor amongst governments that are hostile to the gospel.

Pray for missionaries that are serving in third-world countries and their work with the poor, orphans and sick. Pray that these people would see Jesus in the actions of these servants.

Pray for the missionaries and church planters laboring in our own country.

Pray for your church’s involvement and care with those who would commit to going to all nations with the gospel.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:3

Scripture Reading and Study: Acts 14; Psalm 67;

Pray for missionaries and their families and safety.

Here are some websites that feature missionaries that you can pray for.

International Mission Board www.imb.org

North American Mission Board www.namb.net

Wycliffe Bible Translators www.wycliffe.org

Thursday, April 4th

“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. John 17:20-23

Today, pray for your church and its ministry to the Kingdom of God.

Pray that your church will be a lighthouse for the lost.

Pray for your church’s ministries to the poor and ill.

Pray for opportunities for your church to get out to the community as well as opportunities for people to come into the church.

Pray for the discipleship of believers, new and old.

Pray for leaders to rise up with Godly vision a burden for the lost and a passion for teaching the word.

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. Acts 16:5

Scripture Reading and Study: Colossians 3: 12-17; Acts 2

- What was the purpose of the first century church in Acts 2? Is there one verse in that chapter that defines the mission of the church?
- What is the importance of discipling new believers?
- List some things that distract a church from being a place of evangelism and discipleship.
- List ways and plans your church is effective for the Kingdom.

Friday, April 5th

Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who will I send? Who will go for us? I said: Here I am. Send me. Isaiah 6:8

Have you been encouraged on how important your testimony and influence can be to someone?

Today, pray for your witness; pray for your influence on someone who may not have hope.

Pray that you would see the equipping of the Holy Spirit in your life to minister to those in need of the Gospel.

Pray for opportunities to share with someone the hope you have and why you have it.

Lay down fears of failure (or fears of success) down at God's feet.

Pray for the name or names you wrote down on Tuesday. Continue to pray for ways you can reach out to that person with the Gospel of Christ.

“[B]ut in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15

Scripture Reading and Study: John 4:1-26; Acts 8: 26-40

- What scares you about reaching out to others?
- Describe in your own words how Jesus dealt with the Samaritan woman and how Phillip shared the gospel with the Ethiopian official.
- In both cases, how important was it that Jesus and Phillip established a conversation? Why do this?
- How can you be encouraged in sharing your faith?
- Talk to and pray with your pastor about seeking opportunities for ministry in your life.

Saturday, April 6th

Then he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

Let me encourage you to spend Saturday’s time reflecting on the last week. Take time to be still before God and listen to His voice. What has He revealed to you this week in your prayer time? Write it here or in a prayer journal.

WEEKEND REACH-OUTS!

Call or take someone in your church aside and pray for the ministry of your church in Kingdom work. Pray for missionary work, evangelism, and discipleship in your church body. Pray for each other in their own walks; that they would be encouraged to share their faith.

What Prayer Looks Like

- Types of Prayer
 - Devotional Prayer
 - **Hebrews 10:19-23** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus— 20 he has inaugurated[e] for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)— 21 and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. 23 Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.
 - Carve out a time daily for reading Scripture and praying.
 - This is your quiet time with God and His Word.
 - Everyday Prayer
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
 - Develop a practice of prayer.
 - Always rejoicing in Christ and His Word.
 - Throughout the day.
 - Be thankful.
 - Event Prayer
 - **Matthew 15:35-36** After commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
 - Praying for the events in our lives, whether it's daily or occasional.
 - This conditions ourself to both rely on God for everything in our lives and to be thankful for all things, big and little.
 - Event examples include meals, meetings, driving, exams, and other moments that come up in our lives.

- Crisis Prayer
 - **Matthew 26:39** Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”
 - For all of us, there will be times unexpected troubles and crises. Prayer is appropriate and crucial for us in these times.
 - Take these moments to God. **Psalm 50:15** Call on me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will honor me.”
 - Jesus modeled a crisis prayer before on the night He was arrested. His prayer addressed His situation while submitting Himself to His Father’s will.
- Intercessory Prayer
 - Praying on behalf of other people.
 - Examples of intercessory prayer
 - Everybody (1 Timothy 2:1)
 - Friends (Job 42:8)
 - Leaders (1 Timothy 2:2)
 - Pastors and church leaders (Philippians 1:19)
 - People who are sick (James 5:14)
 - People who do not like us (Matthew 5:44; 2 Timothy 4:16)
- Lament Prayers
 - 1 Peter 5:7 **casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.**
 - We can bring to God our anxieties, and depression. He will hear our prayers where we confess our doubts and fears; He will hear our prayers of despair.
- Repentance Prayer
 - This is a prayer that addresses our sin.
 - **Psalm 51** is an example of a repentance prayer.
 - These prayers are about confession, grief and humiliation, forgiveness, and restoration.

- Prayer Tools
 - While we do not need anything for God to hear our prayer, there are some items that will assist your devotional time.
 - A Bible
 - Essential to our devotional time. The Bible is the primary means of hearing God’s voice.
 - A Journal
 - A means of recording what God is showing us through His Word and prayer.
 - A journal can also be a place where we can write our prayers out.
 - A Devotional Guide
 - This is not necessary and is more for those who feel they need a guide to help understand and apply God’s Word in our lives.
- Prayer Preparation
 - Focus and Breathe
 - Take time to ponder on what God’s Word is saying.
 - **Matthew 6: 9-16 “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**
 - Begin with Praise and Thanksgiving
 - Remember His Forgiveness
 - Repent of our sin
 - Ask God about who you need to forgive
 - Petition