

PRAY FIRST

PRAYER GUIDE

JAN 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER MODELS

| | |
|--|----|
| THE LORD'S PRAYER..... | 2 |
| TABERNACLE PRAYER | 14 |
| PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & PETITION. . . . | 30 |

PRAY FIRST

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. PSALM 5:3

Dear Reader,

For most people, morning is when we take in the firsts of the day. It's when we first open our eyes, have our first cup of coffee, first encounters with those around us, and hopefully the first time when we are aware that we have been blessed with another day of breath in our lungs. For the sake of this season, we hope to focus on the "first" things of our day. So it begs the question, "Do I regularly have a time where I pray first?"

A focus on prayer provides for us a consistent reminder that we are not in control, and the things we can control are still surrendered to the one who created and formed us. When we look at Jesus' life he not only prayed regularly in the morning, but he also had other moments where he prayed "first." I recently read an article by Bob Hostetler, where he poignantly presented the 7 moments when Jesus turned to prayer, and I wanted to share them with you.

- On Special Occasions - Luke 3:21
- During Demanding Seasons - Matthew 4 and Mark 1
- Before a Big Decision - Luke 6:12
- When Loneliness Hit - Luke 5:16
- When Praying with Friends - Luke 9:28
- When in Need - Luke 22:40
- When in Pain - Matthew 27

These moments where Jesus turned to conversations with God modeled for us Ephesians 6:18: *"...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..."*

So as we jump into our 21 days of prayer, know that you can join wherever you currently are in your journey of faith in Jesus. There is room for all kinds of prayer and petitions, there is room for all kinds of people and seasons of life. We are all focusing these times on true communion and connection with our heavenly Father. Take a step with us, be it a small one or a big one, let's be together in these 21 days of prayer.

Praying together,



Carlos Ortiz, Senior Pastor

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

We don't have to follow a specific formula to talk with God, but practicing different ways to pray can help us find deeper purpose and connection to Him through our prayer time.

The goal of using this guide is not to add pressure or overwhelm you. The goal is simply to get comfortable with different biblical models of prayer and for your prayer life to become more natural, effective, and enjoyable. The most important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer.

The heart of this guide is to help you find a new level of purpose, effectiveness, and enjoyment in your prayer life. While prayer does take commitment and discipline to develop into a daily habit, we also want to remember that it's a "get to" not a "got to." It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer.

CREATING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

MARK 1:35 NIV

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

HAVE A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it up. Then, from there, grow into an ongoing conversation with God throughout your day!

HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." This outline, along with two types of prayer, are available in this guide. As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, praying with others, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

REMEMBER IT'S ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30) and yet Jesus spent time talking to God the Father in prayer. Prayer is primarily about knowing God and being known by Him, so be real in prayer. Tell God your deep doubts, fears, joys, and in doing so be fully known by Him. But also make space to listen to God. If God is Divine and the source of goodness, love, and wisdom, then what a gift we have to be in relationship with Him. As Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard said, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DAYS 1-7

When Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him to teach them how to pray, this is the prayer He gave them. It is a prayer that has echoed through the history of the church and is still recited all over the world. It does not just provide instruction for us, but a window into Jesus' heart and the Kingdom movement He is bringing on earth. It reflects God's greatest commandment to love God and one another. Therefore, Jesus intended for us to pray this regularly while we are alone with Him and in the community of believers, so that we might connect more with Him, our priorities would align with His and we would live more dependently on Him. We will walk slowly through each part of The Lord's Prayer, showing us how to pray the way Jesus instructed.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..."

LUKE 11:1 NIV

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NIV

01. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

“OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN”

God’s desire for us is that we would believe and live from the restored relationship of love He has bought for us through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus uniquely addressed God as “Father,” and as His beloved son, Jesus reveals the very nature of this God who is generous, self-giving, loving, patient, and just. He is inviting us to know God and address Him with the same intimacy He experienced with the Father.

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.”

ROMANS 8:15 NLT

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Talk to God like you would if He was your father. If you do not have a loving, earthly father as an example, picture the way you’d want your child, nephew, etc. to come to you and talk with you. Thank God for being a perfectly loving Father.

02. WORSHIP HIS NAME

“HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME”

By beginning with these words, we are proclaiming and petitioning for God’s name to be honored, revered, and holy (set apart) in our lives and throughout the world. It is a request for God to act in ways on earth that bring glory to His name here as it is in heaven.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

PSALM 29:2 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Ask for God’s name to be honored in your life and people in your sphere of influence - in the way we think, act, and speak. Invite Him to examine your life for any ways that you have not been living in accordance with who He is and what He wants. Acknowledge where you see the world around you dragging God’s name through the mud and ask Him to move in those places, showing His goodness, power and grace. Share with others how you can honor God with your life.

03. PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST

“YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN”

Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about and loving who He loves. If He is perfect love, which Scripture tells us He is, we know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Spend time focusing on what God is focused on. His priorities include:

- Us knowing and loving Him and being loved by Him
- Drawing near those who are far from him or don't know him
- Accomplishing His purpose in our lives
- Wisdom and guidance for those in every context of authority— parental, spiritual, governmental, vocational
- Caring for the poor and marginalized
- Unity that celebrates differences and commits to reconciled relationships across class, creed, gender, and ethnicity
- Justice and equity

04. DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”

God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, worries, and desires as we trust Him to provide.

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

PSALM 121:1-2 NLT

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. Bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. Open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him.

God has given us the church (God’s people) to walk through life with. Ask him to show you one person or a group of people you can share honestly with in your struggles, so they can help you to press on in your faith.

05. FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

“FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS”

When there is a wrong that is done, a debt is owed to make it right. We are God’s creation and our rebellion against God has left us with a debt owed. God has offered us complete forgiveness through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins (which simply defined are places where we miss the mark of what is good and right as defined by God) and receive His forgiveness, we begin to heal and our hearts are more prepared to forgive others as well.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

EPHESIANS 4:32 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Ask God to check your heart and life and show you areas where you might need to ask for forgiveness from Him. Then, it is your turn to forgive those who have offended you. We can even choose to forgive people in advance. Ask God to forgive you and to help you forgive others.

06. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.”

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us.

As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory that was won for us through Jesus as we’re empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God’s Word, and every lie the enemy has told us can be replaced with God’s truth.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

EPHESIANS 6:12 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

By recognizing that there is an enemy and that he wants to destroy you, you can shed light on his lies and claim God’s truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you’re believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Share these lies with a trusted and safe friend in your life. (A lie would be anything that goes against what God says is true through Scripture). Ask God to help you understand and receive His truth. Simply speaking the name of Jesus has great power in the spiritual realm. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us.

Through prayer, we can resist him and walk forward in freedom. If you have any questions about this and need help, come up after any Sunday Service and our prayer team would be happy to pray alongside you. We also have groups for healing, growing, belonging, and serving where you can begin or continue to practice speaking God’s truth.

07. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY

“FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER.”

God is more than able to move in every situation and one day He will make right all wrongs. Ending our prayer time claiming His authority and power focuses our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do.

Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You.

JEREMIAH 32:17 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Remind yourself of God's limitless power and then return to praising Him and declaring your faith in Him: (Use the prompts below or make it your own)

- “Yours is the Kingdom” – all authority belongs to You
- “Yours is the Power” – all mightiness flows from You
- “Yours is the Glory” – Your victory will be complete

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:

For generations, the church has prayed the Lord's prayer. Consider engaging with the Lord's prayer during quiet times with the Lord and use the structure you've learned over the last seven days to guide your time. Incorporate praying the Lord's prayer alongside others as you continue to learn to pray.

***OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,
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 LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT
DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.***

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NIV



TABERNACLE PRAYER

DAYS 8-14

In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God, built to His specifications, where He would meet His people. As they entered the Tabernacle, they passed through seven stations, following God's instructions, to experience His presence. Today, even though we no longer need the physical Tabernacle to meet with God, these same steps can help us connect with Him. This prayer model will take us through each station of the Tabernacle and use the purpose of each station to guide our prayers.

08. THE OUTER COURT

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The outer courts were the place where all people, even those who weren't Jewish could enter the Temple to be near God. The people were to enter the Tabernacle with thanksgiving and praise, and giving God the attention He was owed.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

PSALM 100:4 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Spend some time really thinking about all the blessings in your life for which you're thankful. You can write down a list, sing your own song of praise, or just spend quiet moments reflecting on your gratitude and praise toward God.

09. THE BRAZEN ALTAR

THE CROSS OF JESUS

In the Old Testament, The Brazen (or bronze) altar stood as the first thing people would see in the outer court to remind them that they (as sinful people) were not worthy to approach a holy God without a sacrifice. You would bring an unblemished male animal for sacrifice so that you may be considered pure and cleansed before God on behalf of the animal's blood. (It was a life for a life). Today, we don't have to do that because Jesus paid for our sins once and for all with His sacrifice (his life for ours) on the cross.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Thank God for the gift of Jesus. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and love. Let the power of the cross and what it means for your life settle into your spirit. You don't have to work to be clean enough, good enough, or perfect enough because Jesus was all of this for you. In addition to expressing your gratitude, invite Jesus to bring healing and transformation in every area of your life.

The cross provides us with four major benefits:

- Salvation - God forgives all my sins
- Reconciliation - God restores relationship to Him

- Redemption - God rescues me from the power and control of sin
- Transformation - God changes me into His likeness

10. THE LAVER

CLEANSING AND PREPARING

Only the Priests (those who went before God for people) could go further into the Tabernacle. Once they passed, the Brazen Altar reminded them they needed something to cover their sins so they could be in the presence of a Holy God. In the Tabernacle was a bowl of water, called a laver, made for the priests to wash themselves before going to meet with God. People were reminded of their sinfulness at the altar and then their need to be cleansed and forgiven by God at the laver. Checking our hearts and motives and surrendering our lives to God is an important part of daily prayer.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

ROMANS 12:1 ESV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can confess our sins to Him and receive complete forgiveness and a fresh start. In prayer, acknowledge where you've sinned or rebelled against God and humbly and sincerely turn away from your sins and allow God's forgiveness to help you turn back to Him . Then, continue to walk with God and allow Him into every part of your life .

11. THE CANDLESTICK

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The next piece of the Tabernacle was a seven-branched golden candlestick. It was the only light in the Tabernacle so the priests could still work on their various tasks and it burned perpetually as a reminder of the continual presence and guidance of God's life-giving Spirit. For us, we have Jesus, the true light that came into the world and called all His followers to be light in the world, as well.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

JOHN 8:12 NIV

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:14-16 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Jesus was called the light of the world. He showed us what God the Father was really like. When Jesus left the earth, Christians were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. He calls the Holy Spirit our "Advocate." We cannot do what God has called us to do without His supernatural power. It is through the Holy Spirit that

God comforts us, guides us, and empowers us. Take some time and reflect. Are you making space for God’s Spirit to lead you throughout your day? Consider where you might add space in your day to acknowledge God’s presence and ask for His guidance to bless neighbors, family, friends, and co-workers in your life.

12. THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

THE WORD OF GOD

Shewbread comes from a Hebrew word which means bread of presence. It was baked weekly and set before the Holy of Holies where God's presence was. Bread was a main staple in the people's diet at this time, so it was a source of life. The table of Shewbread had 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes (all the people of God). On the Sabbath, the priests would eat the bread symbolizing communion with God. In the New Testament, Jesus says He is the bread of life and that anyone who comes to him will not be hungry (John 6:35). We get to know Jesus through His Word, the Bible. As we read the Bible we behold Jesus and He transforms us.

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

JOSHUA 1:8 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

The Bible (also called God's Word) is an incredible gift that allows us to see and get to know God. It has great relevance and impact in our prayer life.

Pick one thing from this list to help you incorporate God's Word into your prayer time this week:

- *Pick a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and start*

reading as well as observing Jesus.

- *Take time to read and think about a passage of Scripture. Talk with God and a few others about what you notice.*
- *As you read Scripture consider what God is saying and then look for ways to live out what you read.*
- *Ask Him for a fresh understanding of His Word each time you read.*
- *Ask Him for clarity and perspective to help you as you go throughout your day (maybe He will remind you of something you read).*
- *Ask Him to show you how to apply His Word with your family, friends, co-workers, etc. in your life. (How does it affect your thoughts, actions, feelings, and beliefs?)*

Talk to God about setting up a consistent practice of reading and connecting to Him through Scripture

13. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

PRAYER & WORSHIP

A small altar of burning incense stood at the entrance to the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled. The priests entered God's presence as they offered up prayers and worshiped His name. This altar represents prayer and the pleasure it gives God when we bring our request to Him in honesty and worship Him for who He is.

I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

PSALM 141:1-2 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

In the time of the Tabernacle only the priests had access to God's presence and that only happened once a year for the High Priest. Now, because of Jesus, our Great High Priest, we ALL have access to God ALL THE TIME! Thank God for making His presence available to you. Talk to Him honestly about your life. Ask Him to move, bring change, healing, direction, and justice. Then, move to praising His name and worship Him personally and specifically for who He is and how He has moved in your life and in the lives of loved ones, co-workers, and neighbors.

14. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

INTERCESSION

The final place in the Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled. It was here on what was called the mercy seat that God would come and be with the priest. There were two angels on each end of the ark (on each side of the mercy seat.) There, the priest interceded by praying on behalf of the people of God. When Jesus was raised from the dead, Mary went to the tomb and found Jesus' body gone and on either side of where His body was laid was an angel. Jesus came down, and showed us perfect mercy, rather than giving us the punishment/ judgment we deserved, which opened up full access for us to God. So now, in the same way, we intercede on behalf of those around us.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 NIV

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

We can make a difference when we spend time praying for others. Pray for those with whom you interact and connect, including:

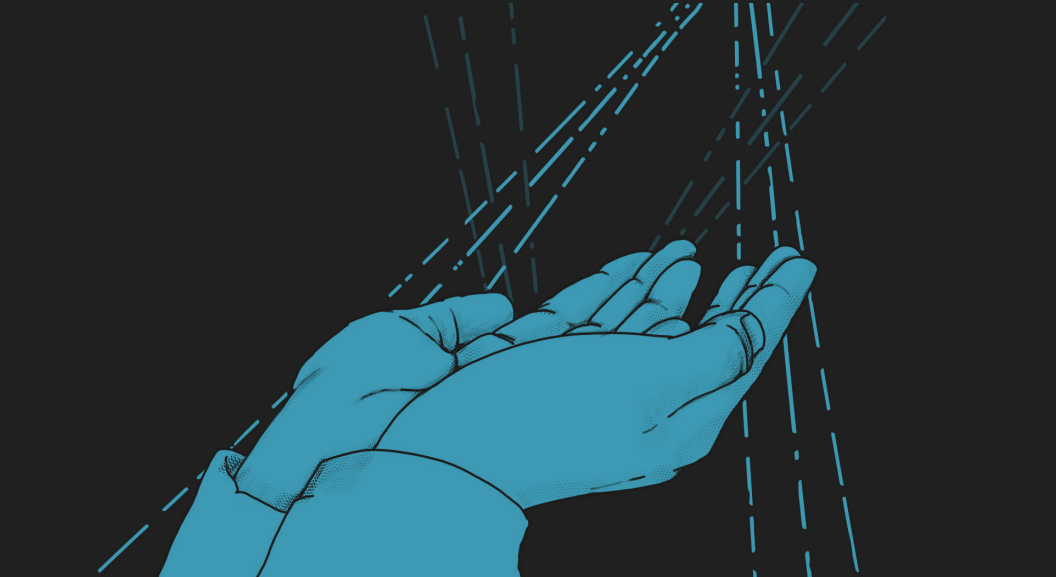
- *Those in authority - leaders in church, government (even*

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER:

We can pray using the outline of the stations in the Tabernacle Prayer anytime:

1. *Thankfulness for Salvation through Jesus*
2. *Confessing my wrongs (sin)*
3. *Inviting God's Spirit to lead me*
4. *Engaging God through Scripture*
5. *Telling God what I need and worshiping Him for who He is*
6. *Interceding for those around me and around the world*

Use this as a daily guide or use the structure you've learned over the last seven days to guide your time in prayer.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & PETITION

DAYS 15-21

Intercession is asking God to do something on someone else's behalf. Petition is asking God to do something on our behalf. As children of God we have been invited to come to Him with our needs and the needs of others. Just as a good father wants to meet the needs of his children, God wants to hear our needs and He longs to respond. Jesus tells His followers many times to ask for what they need.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

JOHN 15:7

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

JOHN 14:13

When Jesus tells His followers to ask for what they need He also says something like, “if you remain in me”, or “Ask in my name”. Jesus is saying we will see God answer our prayers with a “yes” when our prayers are aligned with His heart and His will. In other words, God is not a genie in the sky who grants wishes. He is a loving Father who wants us to be open and honest and ask for anything but with open hands and a trusting heart. There is no doubt we are invited to ask, and we need a heart that says: “your will be done” even as we share our heart. By the way, when Jesus mentions “ask in my name” this is because our name represents us, who we are and what we are about. Jesus wants us to walk so closely with God that we ask for the kind of things Jesus would ask for if He was in our position. We need to align with God in a way that partners with what He wants for the world (aligning with His words). That is the invitation before us this week as we intercede and petition God for His goodness to move in the world, our country, state, church, friends, family, and ourselves.

15. INTERCEDE FOR THE WORLD

And Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

LUKE 10:2

When Jesus mentions the harvest, He is referring to the many peoples that are ready to receive the message of God's Kingdom and the workers are those ready to spread that message. There is work to be done in our world. God has created us with a purpose to live out - to sow good seeds and tend the soil in the harvest field. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, though. What should we do then? He tells us to pray. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers and disperse His resources.

Gateway has partnered with incredible missionaries and organizations all over the world that are faithfully sowing seeds and tending soil in the harvest field. God is also inviting you to play your part. Some of our partners include the following:

- **Impact India 360**
Church Planting, Hospital, Orphanage, School, Elderly Rescue
- **East West - Nepal**
Church Planting, Pastoral Development, Discipleship Training
- **M4 -Europe**
Church Planting, Discipleship Training
- **Mission of Hope**
Church Advancement, Food Security, Education

- **East West - Egypt**

Evangelism, Church Planting, Discipleship

God is in complete control and has a plan. But, He has made it so that His plans move through our prayers. Our prayers move Him.

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

God has invited you into the harvest field. Begin praying by acknowledging God’s power and goodness and His love and pursuit of the world. Ask God to give you a heart that breaks for what breaks His heart and to show you how you can live out your identity and step into the harvest field and join His mission. Pray for each of Gateway’s partnerships around the world asking God to physically protect them from hostile governments, hostile neighbors, and uncertain global events. Pray that God would bless their ministries and that He would produce the fruit from their labors. Pray that God would energize them and refresh their hearts. Pray for financial provision. Our God is King of Kings and “...owns cattle on a thousand hills.” Pray that God would disperse His resources to each of these organizations so that they can function at full capacity. Finally, pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send out laborers into the harvest field.

16. INTERCEDE FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

We read news reports about Christians being persecuted and killed for their faith around the world and it can leave us feeling powerless to help. But prayer is SO powerful because we are asking God who created the world to move. Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament and was a missionary who traveled around telling people the good news of Jesus and planting churches says this:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

EPHESIANS 6:18-20

He is writing this to them from prison and in his persecution he is asking for prayer to be fearless in sharing the good news of Jesus!

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Take some time today and get educated about the persecuted church around the world by visiting Voice of the Martyrs online at www.persecution.com. Scroll down on their main page to their global prayer guide. Click on different countries and learn about

17. INTERCEDE FOR LEADERS IN OUR COUNTRY AND STATE

For those of us living in the United States, there is no doubt that our country is divided and political lines are drawn. As Christians our primary citizenship ISN'T as Americans, our primary citizenship is the Kingdom of God. So as citizens of God's Kingdom we can trust God, that He is our Savior and hope, AND pray for those in authority here in our country. The Bible doesn't tell us to only pray for leaders with whom we agree, it calls us to pray for everyone in authority.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

No matter your political ideology or feelings about those in positions of leadership in our country, state, or local government, God calls you to pray. Today practice aligning with God's heart and praying in agreement with what you believe He would pray for our leaders. Pray for our President, Vice President, Congress, Governor, State Legislature, City Mayor and City Council. Pray for them to seek the good of the people, be wise, and to have humility. Pray for them to know God and be guided by His Spirit. Look up their names and commit to praying for them by name.

18. INTERCEDE FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN OUR COUNTRY

As those who follow Jesus we get the immense privilege to share our faith with those who don't Jesus! We get to invite them into the greatest love story of all time- God's pursuit of humanity. God left the perfection of heaven, to come to earth, to suffer and die for our sins, and rose from the dead all in order to bring us back from the chaos and destructive ways we've gotten into and reconnect us to the God who made us and loves us. Over the next two days we are going to pray for spiritual awakening for our country and specific people.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

PROVERBS 14:12

Jesus said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

LUKE 19:10

Our country, like the world, is more and more a post-Christian land. People pursue their own ways and seek wisdom through their own means. We see time and time again in Scripture that when God's people pray for their land (and peoples), God moves and brings about a time of realization, repentance, and renewal. Let's join in with God's people across time and across the world to ask for a move of God that would bring spiritual revival and awakening to the USA and for those of us overseas - also for the countries in which we live.

19. INTERCEDE FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS

This week we have explored how God invites us into what He is doing in the world as we pray. It is a marvelous but mysterious reality and YOU are invited in to impact the world around you. This includes those you know and love who aren't in relationship with God. Jesus said this about God:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall 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

Who do you work with, live by, or call a friend, brother, sister, family member who doesn't know and follow Jesus? You are a part of God's plan to tell them the good news proclaimed in John 3:16-17!

Consider this:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

ROMANS 10:14-15

In case you don't know, if you have put your trust in Jesus and follow Him, you ARE sent! You are His plan A for those who are lost seeking truth (Matthew 28:18-20)!

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Who in your life hasn't recognized their need for a Savior and accepted God's free grace and abundant love? Pray for those who come to mind (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc). Pray that their deep desires/ longings that aren't being met by the world and all it has to offer would point them to Jesus. Also ask God to give you the opportunity and BOLDNESS to tell them the good news of Jesus. How could you intentionally build into your relationship with them, so that you can have deep conversations about faith? Pray anything else that comes to mind.

Commit to praying for these people regularly. Maybe pick one day a week where you pray.

20. INTERCEDE FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

Gateway is one of hundreds of churches in the Austin area who are meeting weekly to lead people to know, love, and follow Jesus. Through intercession we can ask for God to strengthen, encourage, and build up the churches in our city to be beacons of light that send out ambassadors of hope into the city and world.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

The church is the place Jesus has set up to gather people from all ethnicities, socio-economic levels, and backgrounds to make a diverse family that radically loves each other and brings God's goodness to the world around them. The church is made up of humans and therefore the church has often failed to live out its purpose. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can be the place of hope draws in the hurting, lost, broken, and weary and points them to the source of life.

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Pray for Gateway, that we would be a light to our city. Ask God how He might want to use you to build up the church by using your unique gifts to bless those who come. Pray for God to provide for all churches in the Austin area. Also pray that

Christians would have unity across different churches and that we would radically love our lost and divided city and world.

Prayer for the leaders and staff at Gateway by name and that God would lead and guide them as they lead His people.

21. PETITION GOD TO GUIDE AND DIRECT YOU

We wrap up our week of Intercession with a day of petition, asking God to move on your own behalf. Our greatest joy isn't found in gaining wealth, possessions, or accolades; it's found in knowing, loving, and following Jesus. Paul says it in this way:

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

If you have given your life to Christ, you are on a journey to know, love, and follow Jesus more closely. There is always more of God available to us. How might God be calling you to follow Him in this next season? How could you grow in your relationship with Him? Where do you need encouragement/ challenge to keep walking forward faithfully? Are you engaged at Gateway, in community? If not, how could you take a step toward our values to Come as You Are, Live Connected, Be Transformed, or Change Your World?

PRACTICE: MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

Petition God to show you what He has for you in this next season. Ask Him to show you where you have hurts, habits, hangups and need support through a group at Gateway. Maybe you are lonely and need community. Maybe you are disconnected and just

need to say yes to connecting with the place you call your church home.

Also ask God to show you where you have gifts that you could use to build up the Body of Christ through serving.



Gateway
CHURCH

gatewaychurch.com