



Draw Near

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

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John Crowder
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FBC
West

The Draw Near Pattern

Prayer doesn't have to be complicated, but for many of us, it can feel that way. That's why we are using a simple pattern throughout this journey, one that helps guide your time with God while still leaving room for a real, personal relationship.

We call it the **D.R.A.W. Near Pattern** based on James 4:8, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."

D — Delight in the Lord

Prayer begins by turning your attention to who God is. Before you bring your needs, pause and remember His character. He is good. He is faithful. He is present. Worship shifts your perspective. It lifts your eyes off your circumstances and places them on your Savior.

R — Repent and Be Restored

As you draw near to God, He gently reveals what needs to change in your heart. Repentance is not about shame—it's about restoration. Confess your sin honestly. Lay down distractions, attitudes, or habits that are pulling you away from Him. And then receive His grace.

A — Ask in Faith

Now bring your requests to God. Nothing is too small. Nothing is too big. Pray for your needs. Pray for others. Pray for your church, your family, your community. But don't just ask—ask in faith.

W — Walk with Him

Prayer doesn't end when you say "Amen." It continues as you go. Walking with God means carrying His presence into your day. It means listening, obeying, and staying aware of Him in every moment.

A Word Before We Begin

I am so glad you are taking this journey with us. For the next forty days, we are doing something simple, but deeply meaningful. We are learning to pray, not just in theory, but in practice. As a church family, we are choosing to **draw near** to God.

That is really the heart behind this guide. This is not about checking a box or completing a challenge. It is about building a relationship. It is about slowing down long enough to meet with God and learning how to walk with Him in everyday life.

If you have ever felt unsure about prayer, you are not alone. Many people want to pray but do not know where to begin or worry that they are not doing it the right way. This guide is here to help with that. Each day is intended to be simple and clear so that anyone can step into a meaningful time with God.

Here is the best way to use this devotional guide:

Each week begins with an introduction page and a memory verse — read that on Sunday. Each day, read the suggested Scripture slowly, reflect on how it connects to your life, and use the prayer prompt as a *starting point*. Feel free to speak to God in your own words. The goal is not a perfect prayer. The goal is to be present with God. You will also see “Today’s Song” each day. Music has a way of helping truth sink deeper — listen whenever it fits your day.

As you go through these forty days, do not feel pressure to have a powerful experience every time. Some days will feel especially meaningful. Others may feel quiet or ordinary. That is okay. What matters most is consistency. And remember, you are not doing this alone. We are walking through this together. We are praying together. We are seeking God together. I am praying that these forty days will not just be a moment, but a turning point— a season where we learn what it truly means to draw near to God.

One more thing before you begin. Throughout these forty days, our entire church family is making a simple, shared commitment. Each day at 4:08, we are pausing together to draw near to God. The time itself is a reminder. James 4:8 is the verse this journey is built on: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” So at 4:08, wherever you are, whatever you are doing, take a moment to stop and turn your heart toward Him. It does not have to be long. It does not have to be elaborate. It just has to be honest.

Begin simply. Open your Bible. Quiet your heart. Talk to God. He is already near.

John



Week 1: Understanding Prayer

Learning What Prayer Really Is

For many people, prayer feels confusing or intimidating. Some think it requires special words. Others feel like they do not know what to say. Still others wonder if they are “doing it right.” Because of that, prayer can become something we avoid instead of something we enjoy. But prayer was never meant to be complicated.

At its core, prayer is relationship. It is the simple, honest act of turning our hearts toward God and speaking with Him. It is not a performance. It is not about impressing others or using perfect language. It is about coming to our Father just as we are.

This week, we will strip away some of the misconceptions about prayer and rediscover its simplicity. We will learn that:

- Prayer is a conversation, not a speech
- Prayer is rooted in relationship, not ritual
- Prayer is an invitation from God, not a burden placed on us
- Prayer is dependence on Him, not confidence in ourselves

We will also be reminded that God is near. He listens. He welcomes us. And because of Jesus, we can come to Him with confidence.

As you begin this journey, do not worry about getting everything right. Simply begin. Talk to God. Be honest. Be consistent. Over time, you will discover that prayer is not just something you do. It becomes a place where you meet with God.

So take a deep breath, quiet your heart, and begin.

Memory Verse (Week 1)

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
— Psalm 145:18 (ESV)

Sunday, April 26

Read Luke 11:1-4

Day 1 - What Prayer Is

The disciples had seen Jesus perform miracles. They watched Him calm storms, heal the sick, and cast out demons. Yet the one thing they specifically asked Him to teach them was, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Something about the way Jesus prayed caught their attention. His prayers were not formal speeches or complicated religious performances. They were the natural conversation of a Son with His Father. When Jesus responded, He did not give them a complicated formula. Instead, He gave them a simple pattern. Prayer begins by remembering who God is, expressing our dependence on Him, and bringing our needs honestly before Him.

Many people hesitate to pray because they think they must say the right words or sound spiritual. But Jesus teaches us that prayer is far simpler than that. Prayer is not about impressive language. It is about relationship. It is simply talking with God. The same Father Jesus prayed to is the Father who invites us to come to Him today. We do not need polished words or perfect sentences. We only need a willing heart that turns toward Him.

The journey of these forty days begins with this simple truth: God invites us to talk with Him.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that I can come to You through Jesus. Teach me to pray. Help me to speak honestly with You and to listen for Your voice. Over these forty days, draw me closer to Your heart. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: “Come as You Are” by Crowder

Monday, April 27

Read Matthew 6:9

Day 2 - Who We Are Praying To

Before Jesus teaches us *what* to ask for in prayer, He teaches us *who* we are speaking to, “Our Father.” Those two words change everything. Prayer is not approaching some distant force or an impersonal power. It is coming to a Father who knows us, loves us, and welcomes us. This was a radical truth when Jesus first spoke it. God was known as holy and sovereign, but Jesus invites us to know Him personally and relationally.

When we pray, we are not trying to get God’s attention, we already have it. A good father listens to his children. He cares about what concerns them. He delights in their presence. In the same way, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him freely and confidently.

At the same time, Jesus reminds us that He is “in heaven.” God is both near and holy. He is personal, yet powerful. Loving, yet sovereign. Prayer holds these truths together. We come with intimacy, but also with reverence.

Many people struggle in prayer because they carry the wrong picture of God. Some see Him as distant. Others see Him as harsh or uninterested. But Jesus corrects that image. He teaches us to begin prayer by remembering who God truly is. He is your Father. You do not have to earn your way into His presence. You are invited there. You do not have to impress Him. You are already known by Him.

As you pray today, begin with this simple truth. You are speaking to your Father. Let that shape your words, your tone, and your confidence.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that I can come to You as Your child. Help me to trust Your love and to remember that You care about every part of my life. Teach me to pray with both confidence and reverence. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Run to the Father” by Cody Carnes

Tuesday, April 28

Read James 4:8

Day 3 - Prayer is an Invitation

One of the most powerful truths about prayer is it begins with God, not us. We often think of prayer as something we initiate, as if we are trying to reach up to God and get His attention. But Scripture reminds us that God is the One who invites us to come near. Prayer is not forcing a door open. It is responding to an open invitation.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” That promise is both simple and profound. When we take even a small step toward God, we find that He is already moving toward us. He is not reluctant. He is not distant. He welcomes those who come to Him.

At the same time, this verse reminds us that drawing near involves our hearts. James speaks of cleansing our hands and purifying our hearts. Prayer is not just about words. It is about sincerity. God invites us to come honestly, laying aside pretense, divided loyalties, and hidden sin. The good news is that we do not have to clean ourselves up before coming

to God. We come to Him so that He can do that work in us. The invitation is not for perfect people. It is for willing people.

Today, remember that prayer is not an obligation you must fulfill. It is an invitation you are welcomed into.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank you for inviting me to come near to You. Help me to respond to that invitation with honesty and sincerity. Search my heart, cleanse what needs to be cleansed, and draw me closer to You today. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Draw Me Close" by Michael W. Smith

Wednesday, April 29

Read John 15:5

Day 4 - Prayer is Dependence

One of the greatest obstacles to prayer is self-sufficiency. We often live as if everything depends on us. We make plans, solve problems, and push forward in our own strength. Prayer can easily become an afterthought, something we turn to only when we have exhausted every other option. But Jesus makes a clear and humbling statement: "*Apart from me you can do nothing.*" He does not say there some big things we cannot do without Him. He says there is *nothing* we can do without Him.

Prayer is the daily reminder that we are not the source of our strength, wisdom, or fruitfulness. It re-centers our lives on dependence upon Christ. Just as a branch cannot survive or produce fruit apart from the vine, we cannot live the Christian life apart from Him.

Think about how freeing that is! We do not have to carry the weight of life on our own shoulders. We are invited to abide in Christ, to stay connected to Him, and to draw strength from Him moment by moment. Prayer is how that connection is maintained. When we pray, we are not just asking for help. We are acknowledging our need. We are choosing to rely on God instead of ourselves. Over time, prayer reshapes our hearts so that dependence on God becomes our natural posture.

Today, resist the urge to rely only on your own understanding and ability. Pause often. Turn your thoughts toward God. Ask for His help, His wisdom, and His strength.

Prayer Prompt: Father, forgive me for the times I try to live in my own strength. Remind me that I need You in every part of my life. Help me to abide in Christ and depend on You today for everything I face. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Cornerstone" by Hillsong Worship

Thursday, April 30

Read Psalm 145:18

Day 5 - God is Near

One of the most common struggles in prayer is the feeling that God is far away. There are moments when He feels distant. Our prayers seem quiet. Our words feel like they go no further than the ceiling. In those moments, it is easy to wonder if God is really listening.

Scripture tells us, "The LORD is near to all who call on him." Circle the word "all." It does not say "some." It does not say, "the most spiritual." It does say, "those who have perfect words." It says He is near "*all* who call on Him." God's nearness is not based on our feelings. It is based on His character. He is a God who draws close to His people. He listens. He responds. He is present even when we do not feel it.

This verse also reminds us that we are to call on Him "in truth." That means honesty. We don't have to be good with words or know a bunch of theology before we pray. We just need a sincere heart turned toward God.

Prayer is not about summoning God's presence. It is about recognizing it. He is already near. When you whisper a prayer, He hears. When your heart is heavy and your words are few, He understands. When you simply turn your thoughts toward Him, He is very present in that moment.

Today, do not measure God's nearness by your emotions. Trust what He has said. Choose to believe that He is close, attentive, and ready to meet with you.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that You are near to me. Even when I do not feel it, help me to trust that You are present and listening. Teach me to come to You with honesty and to rest in the truth that You are always close. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Closer" by Bethel Music

Friday, May 1

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

Day 6 - Confidence in Access

Many people approach prayer with hesitation. We may feel unworthy. We may think we have failed too many times. We may wonder if God is disappointed in us or distant from us. Because of that, we come to prayer cautiously, unsure if we really belong in His presence.

Today's passage reminds us that because of Jesus, we are invited to "draw near...*with confidence.*" That confidence does not come from our goodness. It comes from Christ. He is our great High Priest, the One who has made a way for us to come into the presence of God. He understands our weaknesses. He knows our struggles. And yet He stands for us, not against us.

Notice we are invited to come to the "throne of *grace,*" not a throne of judgment. This is not a place of rejection. We are welcome at the throne of grace, where mercy is given and help is found. This means we do not have to clean ourselves up before we pray. We come because we need mercy. We come because we need grace. Prayer is not the reward for getting everything right. It is the place we go when we need help.

Today, do not let guilt, fear, or shame keep you from coming to God. Jesus has already made the way open. Come boldly. Come honestly. Come expecting to receive mercy and grace.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for giving me access to You through Jesus. Help me to come to You with confidence, not fear. Thank You for Your mercy and grace that meet me in my need. Teach me to draw near to You freely today. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Give Me Jesus" by Fernando Ortega

Saturday, May 2

Read Psalm 16:8

Day 7 - Practicing the Presence of God

Prayer is not just something we do at certain times. It is something we learn to live in. It is easy to think of prayer as a scheduled moment. We sit down, bow our heads, say our words, and then move on with the rest of our day. While those moments do matter, God invites us into something deeper. He invites us to live with an ongoing awareness of His

presence. David said, “I have set the LORD always before me.” That is a deliberate choice. He was choosing to keep God at the center of his thoughts throughout the day. Whether he was leading, fighting battles, or resting, he was aware that God was with him.

This is what it means to practice the presence of God. It means learning to turn your thoughts toward Him throughout the day. It means speaking to Him in quiet moments, in busy moments, and even in difficult moments. It means recognizing that you are never alone. When we live this way, prayer becomes more natural. It is no longer limited to a place or a time. It becomes a steady conversation with God that continues as we go about our lives. With that awareness comes stability. David said, “because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.” When we remember that God is with us, it changes how we face everything.

Today, notice God’s presence. Pause often. Turn your thoughts toward Him. Speak to Him in simple, honest words throughout your day.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that You are always with me. Help me to be aware of Your presence throughout my day. Teach me to talk with You in every moment and to walk with You in all that I do. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Your Presence Is My Dwelling Place” by Gateway Worship



Week 2: The Pattern of Prayer

Learning from the Lord's Prayer

Now that we have begun to understand what prayer is, we turn to a simple and powerful question: How should we pray? In Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.” His answer was not complicated. He gave them a pattern. What we often call “The Lord’s Prayer” is not just something to repeat. It is a guide that shapes how we approach God. This week, we will walk step by step through that pattern.

Jesus teaches us to begin with relationship: “Our Father.” Prayer starts by remembering who we belong to. From there, we move into worship: “Hallowed be Your name.” Before we ask for anything, we recognize who God is and praise Him. Then our focus shifts outward, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done.” Prayer aligns our hearts with God’s purposes. It lifts our eyes beyond ourselves and connects us to what He is doing in the world. Only then do we bring our needs: “Give us this day our daily bread.” God cares about the details of our lives. He invites us to depend on Him daily. Jesus also teaches us to deal honestly with sin: “Forgive us our debts.” Prayer keeps our hearts clean and our relationship with God close. And finally, we ask for help in our struggles: “Lead us not into temptation.” We recognize our need for God’s strength in every spiritual battle.

As you read and pray this week, you might notice how the “Lord’s Prayer” fits our **DRAW** Near Pattern. On days 8 & 9 we will **Delight** in the Lord. On days 10-11 we will **Repent** and be Restored. Days 12 & 13 will help us **Ask** in Faith. On day 14 we will **Walk** with Him.

This pattern helps us move from self-centered prayers to God-centered prayers. As you pray this week, let this pattern guide you. Slow down. Take each part seriously. Let your prayers be filled with worship, surrender, dependence, and trust.

Jesus has shown us the way. Now we follow it.

Memory Verse (Week 2)

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

— Matthew 6:10 (ESV)

Sunday, May 3

Read Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

Day 8 – “Our Father” (Delight in the Lord)

Jesus begins His model for prayer with a relationship, not a request, “Our Father.” Before we say anything else, we are reminded who we belong to. Prayer starts with identity. We are not outsiders trying to gain access. We are children coming to a Father who loves us. This changes the tone of everything that follows. We do not come nervously, wondering if we are welcome. We come confidently, knowing we are loved. We do not have to perform or impress. We simply come as we are.

When you begin your time in prayer today, pause and reflect on this truth. You are speaking to your Father. Let that settle your heart. Let it quiet your fears. Let it deepen your trust. Before you ask for anything, remember whose you are.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that I belong to You. Help me to rest in Your love and to approach You with confidence as Your child. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Better” by Pat Barrett

Monday, May 4

Read Psalm 103:1-5

Day 9 – “Hallowed Be Thy Name” (Delight in the Lord)

After reminding us who God is, Jesus teaches us to worship Him, “Hallowed be Your name.” To “hallow” means to honor, revere, and set apart as holy. Prayer begins by lifting our eyes off ourselves and placing our attention on God. Worship realigns our hearts. When we focus only on our problems, they grow larger. But when we focus on God, we remember who He is. He is faithful. He is powerful. He is merciful. He is good.

Psalm 103 invites us to “bless the LORD” and to remember all His benefits. We recall His forgiveness, His healing, His love, and His faithfulness. As we do, our hearts begin to shift. Gratitude replaces anxiety. Confidence replaces fear. Worship is not just singing. It is speaking truth about God. It is remembering His character and responding with praise.

Before you bring your requests today, take time to honor God. Speak His greatness. Thank Him for who He is and what He has done. Let your prayer begin with worship.

Prayer Prompt: Father, You are holy and worthy of my praise. Help me to remember who You are and to honor You with my words and my heart. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music

Tuesday, May 5

Read Matthew 6:10; Matthew 28:18-20

Day 10 – "Your Kingdom Come" (Repent & Be Restored)

Prayer is not only about our needs. It is primarily about God's mission, so Jesus teaches us to pray, "Your kingdom come." When we pray these words, we are asking for God's rule and reign to be seen more clearly in the world and in our own lives. We are aligning our hearts with what matters most to Him. Jesus has already declared that all authority belongs to Him. He has sent His followers into the world to make disciples. When we pray for His kingdom to come, we are joining in that mission. This kind of prayer shifts our focus outward.

Instead of only asking God to bless our plans, we begin asking how we can be part of His plans. We pray for people to come to Christ. We pray for the gospel to spread. We pray for lives to be changed. We also invite His kingdom to rule in our own hearts. We surrender areas where we have held control and ask God to reign there instead.

Today, lift your eyes beyond yourself. Pray for God's work in your family, your church, and your community. Ask Him to use you as part of His kingdom purposes.

Prayer Prompt: Father, let Your kingdom come in my life and in the world around me. Use me as part of Your work. Help me to care about what matters to You. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Build My Life" by Passion

Wednesday, May 6

Read Luke 22:41-42

Day 11 – “Your Will Be Done” (Repent and Be Restored)

One of the hardest parts of prayer is surrender. We naturally come to God with our desires, our plans, and our hopes. There is nothing wrong with that. God invites us to bring our requests to Him. But Jesus shows us that true prayer goes a step further, “Not my will, but yours, be done.”

In the garden, Jesus expressed His honest desire. He asked if there was another way. Yet He ultimately surrendered to the Father’s will. This is the heart of prayer. Prayer is not about convincing God to do what we want. It is about trusting Him enough to accept what He knows is best. This kind of surrender requires humility and trust. It means believing that God sees what we cannot see and knows what we do not know. It means trusting His wisdom over our own understanding. When we pray this way, our hearts begin to change. We loosen our grip on control and rest in God’s goodness.

Today, bring your requests to God honestly. Then, like Jesus, place them in His hands, and trust Him with the outcome.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I bring my desires and plans to You. Help me to trust Your will above my own. Give me peace in knowing that Your ways are best. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Lord I Need You” by Matt Maher

Thursday, May 7

Read Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:19

Day 12 – “Give us This Day Our Daily Bread” (Ask in Faith)

God invites us to bring our needs to Him as we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” This simple request reminds us that God cares about the details of our lives. Nothing is too small to bring before Him. Our daily needs matter to Him.

At the same time, this prayer teaches us dependence. “Daily bread” points to a day-by-day trust in God. It reminds us that we are not self-sufficient. Everything we have ultimately comes from Him. Each day is an opportunity to rely on His provision. We often worry about the future, wondering how things will work out. But Jesus directs our attention to today. Trust God for what you need now. He will provide.

Philippians reminds us that God will supply every need according to His riches. That does not mean we always get what we want, but it does mean He faithfully provides what we truly need.

Today, bring your needs to God. Speak them clearly. Trust Him to provide.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for caring about every detail of my life. I trust You to provide what I need today. Help me to depend on You daily. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Hymn

Friday, May 8

Read 1 John 1:9

Day 13 – "Forgive Us Our Debts" (Ask in Faith)

Prayers like, "Forgive us our debts." keep our hearts clean. Sin always separates. It creates distance in our relationship with God. It does not remove us from His family, but it does affect our fellowship with Him. That is why confession is an essential part of prayer.

God already knows our sin. Confession is not informing Him. It is agreeing with Him. It is bringing our sin into the light and turning away from it. 1 John 1:9 gives us a powerful promise. When we confess, God forgives. Not reluctantly, but faithfully and justly. Through Jesus, our sin has been paid for, and we are cleansed.

Confession is not meant to produce shame. It is meant to restore closeness. When we regularly confess our sin, our hearts stay soft. We become more aware of our need for grace and more grateful for God's mercy.

Today, take time to examine your heart. Ask God to reveal anything that needs to be confessed. Then bring it honestly to Him and receive His forgiveness.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I confess my sin to You. Thank You for Your mercy and forgiveness through Jesus. Cleanse my heart and restore my closeness with You. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Clean" by Natalie Grant

Saturday, May 9

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

Day 14 – “Lead Us Not Into Temptation” (Walk With Him)

The Christian life is a spiritual battle, so we need to regularly pray “Lead us not into temptation.” Jesus teaches us to recognize our weakness and to ask for God’s help. We are not as strong as we sometimes think. Left to ourselves, we are vulnerable to temptation.

But we are not alone. 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that God is faithful. He limits the power of temptation and always provides a way of escape. He does not abandon us in our struggles. He strengthens us. Prayer is how we access that strength.

Instead of waiting until we are overwhelmed, we come to God ahead of time. We ask for wisdom, discernment, and strength. We ask Him to guide our steps and guard our hearts. This prayer also calls us to be intentional. As God provides a way of escape, we must be willing to take it. Prayer prepares us to recognize those moments and respond wisely.

Today, be honest about your areas of weakness. Bring them to God. Ask for His help before temptation comes.

Prayer Prompt: Father, You know my weaknesses. Help me resist temptation and walk in Your strength. Thank You for always providing a way of escape. Guide me today. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me” by Pat Barrett



Week 3: Growing in Honesty

Learning to Pray With Real Emotions

As we continue learning to pray, we now move into something deeply personal, honesty. Many people know *how* to pray but still struggle to pray *honestly*. We may feel pressure to say the “right” things, to sound strong in faith, or to avoid bringing difficult emotions before God. As a result, our prayers can become polite, guarded, and distant from what is really happening in our hearts. God is not looking for polished prayers. He is looking for honest ones.

Throughout Scripture, especially in the Psalms, we see people bringing their real emotions to God. They prayed when they were joyful and when they were broken. They prayed when they were confident and when they were full of doubt. They brought anger, fear, gratitude, confusion, and longing into the presence of God, and He welcomed it.

This week, you will learn that:

- You do not have to hide your emotions from God
- You can bring your fears, frustrations, and doubts to Him
- Gratitude and joy deepen your connection with Him
- Confession restores closeness when sin creates distance

Honest prayer is not disrespectful. It is relational. It is the kind of prayer that grows out of trust. When we are honest with God, we are not informing Him of something He does not know. We are opening our hearts to Him in a way that allows Him to meet us there.

You may find this week stretching at times. It can feel uncomfortable to pray with complete honesty. But this is where prayer becomes real. This is where your relationship with God deepens. So come as you are. Bring your real thoughts. Bring your real emotions. Bring your real struggles. God is not waiting for you to clean them up. He is inviting you to bring them to Him.

Memory Verse (Week 3)

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.”
— Psalm 62:8 (ESV)

Sunday, May 10

Read Psalm 5:1-3

Day 15 - Praying the Psalms

Sometimes the hardest part of prayer is knowing what to say. There are moments when our thoughts feel scattered or our hearts feel heavy, and words do not come easily. In those moments, God has already provided help. He has given us the Psalms. The Psalms are a collection of songs and prayers from real people in real situations. They are filled with honesty, emotion, and faith. They show us how to speak to God when we are joyful, when we are hurting, and when we are unsure. That is why all of our readings for this week come from the Psalms.

In Psalm 5, David begins his day by turning his attention to God. He speaks honestly, even mentioning his groaning. He does not hide his need. He brings it directly to the Lord. Praying the Psalms gives us language when we do not have our own. It teaches us how to express what we feel and how to direct those feelings toward God.

Today, let Scripture guide your prayer. Read a Psalm slowly. Turn its words into your own prayer. Let God's Word shape your conversation with Him. You do not have to come up with the perfect words. God has already given them to you.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for giving me Your Word to guide my prayers. Help me to speak honestly with You and to let Scripture shape my heart and my words. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Lord, From Sorrows Deep I Call" by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Monday, May 11

Read Psalm 13

Day 16 – When You Are Angry

Anger is one of the emotions we most often try to hide from God. We may feel that it is not appropriate to bring frustration, disappointment, or even questions into prayer. But the Psalms show us something different. They are filled with raw, honest expressions of emotion. David begins Psalm 13 with a question: "How long?" He feels forgotten. He feels distant from God. And he says it.

God is not threatened by your honesty. Bringing your anger to God is far better than carrying it alone or directing it in harmful ways. Prayer becomes a safe place to process what you feel. It allows God to meet you in that emotion and begin to shape your heart.

Notice that David does not stay in frustration. As the Psalm continues, his focus shifts to trust. Honest prayer does not leave us stuck. It leads us toward God. Today, do not hide your frustration. Bring it to God. Speak honestly. Then allow Him to lead your heart toward trust.

Prayer Prompt: Father, You know my heart. I bring my frustrations to You honestly. Help me to trust You even when I do not understand what is happening. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Hear My Prayer" by Shane & Shane

Tuesday, May 12

Read Psalm 56:3-4

Day 17 – When You Are Afraid

Fear has a way of taking over our thoughts. It magnifies problems and fills our minds with "what if" questions. In those moments, it can feel difficult to pray. But Psalm 56 gives us a simple and powerful response: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

Notice that David does not say *if* he is afraid. He says *when*. Fear is a normal part of life. The question is not whether we will feel it, but what we will do with it. Prayer turns fear into trust. Instead of allowing fear to control us, we bring it to God. We remind ourselves of who He is. We hold on to His Word. As we do, our perspective begins to change. Fear may not disappear immediately, but it loses its grip as trust grows.

Today, take whatever is causing you fear and bring it to God. Name it specifically. Then choose to trust Him with it.

Prayer Prompt: Father, when I am afraid, help me to trust You. Remind me of Your truth and give me peace in the middle of my fears. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Control" by Tenth Avenue North

Wednesday, May 13

Read Psalm 100

Day 18 – When You Are Grateful

Gratitude changes the tone of our prayers. It is easy to focus only on what we need or what is not going well. But Psalm 100 calls us to enter God’s presence with thanksgiving. Gratitude reminds us of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

When we take time to thank God, our hearts begin to shift. We become more aware of His blessings. We recognize His hand at work in our lives. Even in difficult seasons, there are always reasons to give thanks.

Gratitude deepens our relationship with God. It moves our prayers beyond requests and into worship. It helps us see that God is not only the One we turn to in need, but the One we celebrate in every season.

Today, make gratitude the focus of your prayer. List specific things you are thankful for. Let your heart be filled with praise.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness. Help me to recognize Your blessings and to respond with gratitude and praise. Amen

🎵 Today’s Song: “Count Your Blessings” Hymn

Thursday, May 14

Read Psalm 73:1-3, 16-17

Day 19 – When You Doubt

Doubt does not always come as outright disbelief. Sometimes it comes as quiet questions:
If God is good, why does life feel this way?
Why do things seem unfair?
Why does it look like others are thriving while I struggle?

In Psalm 73, Asaph wrestles with these very questions. He admits that his faith was shaken. His “feet had almost stumbled.” He was confused and discouraged by what he saw around him. But notice what he does with his doubt. He brings it to God. He does not hide his questions. He does not pretend everything is fine. He processes his struggle in the

presence of God. And as he does, his perspective begins to change. “Until I went into the sanctuary of God...”

Something happens when we bring our doubts into God’s presence. We begin to see more clearly. We are reminded of truth. Our perspective shifts from what is temporary to what is eternal.

Doubt is not the end of faith. It can be part of the journey of faith when it is brought honestly to God. Today, do not hide your questions. Bring them into God’s presence. Stay with Him long enough for your perspective to be renewed.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I do not always understand what I see or experience. Thank You that I can bring my questions to You. Help me to trust Your goodness even when I struggle to see it clearly. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Help Me Find Out” by Sidewalk Prophets

Friday, May 15

Read Psalm 42:1-2

Day 20 – When You Feel Distant From God

There are seasons when God feels distant. You may still pray, but it feels dry. You may still believe, but you feel disconnected. These moments can be discouraging, but they are not unusual. The Psalms give voice to this experience.

In Psalm 42, the writer expresses a deep longing for God. His soul thirsts. He feels the distance. Yet even in that longing, he is still turning toward God. Longing is not the absence of faith. It is evidence of it. The desire to be close to God is itself a form of prayer. It shows that your heart is still reaching for Him, even when your emotions feel empty. In these moments, do not withdraw. Continue to seek Him. Continue to pray. Trust that He is present, even when you do not feel it.

God meets us not only in moments of strength, but also in seasons of longing.

Prayer Prompts: Father, my soul longs for You. Even when I feel distant, help me to continue seeking You. Draw me close and refresh my heart. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Even If” by MercyMe

Saturday, May 16

Read Psalm 51:1-10

Day 21 – The Power of Confession

Confession is one of the most important, and often most neglected, parts of prayer. When we sin, our natural tendency is to hide. But David shows us a better way. In Psalm 51, he brings his sin fully into the light. He does not excuse it. He does not minimize it. He confesses it and asks God for mercy.

Confession restores closeness with God. It is not about earning forgiveness. It is about receiving it. When we confess, we agree with God about our sin and turn back toward Him. And God responds with mercy, cleansing, and renewal.

David's prayer goes beyond forgiveness. He asks for a clean heart and a renewed spirit. That is what God desires to do in us. Today, take time to examine your heart. Ask God to reveal anything that needs to be confessed. Bring it honestly to Him and receive His grace. There is freedom on the other side of confession.

Prayer Prompt: Father, have mercy on me and cleanse my heart. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Thank You for Your grace and forgiveness. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "White Flag" by Chris Tomlin



Week 4: Listening Prayer

Learning to Slow Down and Hear God

Up to this point, we have focused on speaking to God, but prayer is not meant to be a one-way conversation. Many of us have learned how to bring our requests, express our emotions, and even follow a pattern in prayer. Yet we often rush through those moments without ever slowing down to listen. We fill the silence with words, then move on with our day.

This week invites us to something different. It invites us to slow down. Listening prayer is not about hearing an audible voice. It is about becoming attentive to God's presence and responsive to His leading. God primarily speaks through His Word, by His Spirit, and through a quiet, attentive heart that is willing to pause and receive. That kind of prayer requires intentionality. It requires stillness. It requires trust.

This week, you will learn that:

- Prayer includes moments of stillness, not just speaking
- Silence can help us recognize God's presence
- The Holy Spirit helps guide and shape our prayers
- Scripture becomes a powerful tool for listening to God
- Reflection and journaling can help us notice what God is doing
- We can ask boldly while still trusting God with the outcome

Listening prayer is not about emptying your mind. It is about focusing your heart. It is choosing to be present with God long enough to notice how He is working, what He is teaching, and where He is leading. In a world full of noise and distraction, this kind of prayer may feel unfamiliar at first. That is okay. Do not rush it. Give yourself permission to be still. God is not distant. He is present. He is speaking.

Memory Verse (Week 4)

"Be still and know that I am God."

— *Psalm 46:10 (ESV)*

Sunday, May 17

Read Psalm 46:10

Day 22 – Be Still

Stillness does not come naturally to most of us. Our lives are filled with noise, activity, and constant movement. Even when we stop physically, our minds continue to race. In that kind of environment, it becomes difficult to recognize God's presence. That is why this command is so important: "Be still."

Stillness is not just about slowing down your body. It is about quieting your heart. It is choosing to step away from distractions long enough to focus on God. When we are still, we are reminded of something we often forget, God is God and we are not. He is in control. He is present. He is at work, even when we are not striving. Listening prayer begins here.

Before you speak many words today, take time to be still. Sit quietly in God's presence. Let your thoughts settle. Focus your attention on Him. You may not feel anything dramatic. That's okay. The goal is not an experience. The goal is awareness.

God is present. Be still long enough to recognize it.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me to be still before You. Quiet my heart and focus my mind on Your presence. Teach me to rest in who You are. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Speak, O Lord" by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Monday, May 18

Read Habakkuk 2:20

Day 23 – The Role of Silence

Silence can feel uncomfortable. We are used to filling every moment with sound. If things get quiet, we instinctively reach for the remote or something else to occupy our attention. But Scripture shows us that silence has a purpose, "Let all the earth keep silence before him."

Silence reminds us who God is. It places us in a posture of humility and reverence. It acknowledges that God is greater, wiser, and more powerful than we are. In silence, we stop trying to control the moment and simply recognize His presence.

When our lives are full of noise, it is difficult to notice how God is working. But when we quiet the noise, we become more aware of His Word, His truth, and His gentle leading.

Listening prayer often happens in those quiet spaces. Today, create intentional moments of silence. Turn off distractions. Sit quietly before God. Resist the urge to fill the space with words. Let silence become a way of honoring Him.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me to be comfortable in silence before You. Teach me to honor You with a quiet and attentive heart. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Be Still My Soul" by Kari Jobe

Tuesday, May 19

Read Romans 8:26-27

Day 24 – The Spirit Helps Us Pray

There are times when we simply do not know what to pray. Our thoughts feel scattered. Our emotions are overwhelming. Words fail us. In those moments, it can be easy to feel discouraged. But we are not left alone because, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness."

God has given us His Spirit to guide us, even in prayer. When we do not know what to say, the Spirit intercedes for us. He understands what is happening in our hearts and brings those needs before the Father. This means that prayer does not depend on our ability to find the right words. Even in silence, even in confusion, even in weakness, God is at work.

Listening prayer includes being aware of the Spirit's presence. It means trusting that He is guiding, shaping, and strengthening us, even when we do not fully understand how. Today, if you struggle to pray, do not give up. Sit with God. Trust that His Spirit is helping you. You are not praying alone.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for giving me Your Spirit. When I do not know what to pray, help me to trust that You are at work in me. Guide my heart and my thoughts. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Here Again" by Elevation Music

Wednesday, May 20

Read Colossians 3:16

Day 25 – Scripture-Guided Prayer

The most powerful way to listen to God is through His Word. God has already spoken. The Bible is not just something we read. It is something that shapes how we think, how we live, and how we pray. When Scripture “dwells in us richly,” it begins to guide our prayers. Instead of only praying our own thoughts, we begin to pray God’s truth. His promises, His commands, and His character shape our words. This helps keep our prayers grounded and aligned with His will.

Scripture-guided prayer is simple. Read a passage slowly. Notice what stands out. Turn those words into prayer. Thank God for what is true. Ask Him to help you live it out. In doing this, prayer becomes both speaking and listening. We respond to what God has already said.

Today, let Scripture lead your prayer time. Allow God’s Word to guide your thoughts and your conversation with Him.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for Your Word. Help it to dwell in me richly and shape my prayers. Teach me to listen to You as I read and respond to what You have said. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Abide” by Aaron Williams

Thursday, May 21

Read Psalm 77:11-12

Day 26 – Journaling Prayer

Sometimes it helps to slow down our thoughts by writing them down. Journaling can be a powerful way to pray. It allows us to reflect more deeply, process what we are thinking, and notice how God is working in our lives.

In Psalm 77, the writer chooses to remember and reflect on what God has done. That kind of reflection does not happen accidentally. It requires intention. Writing can help us do that. When you journal your prayers, you create space to think clearly and honestly. You can write out your concerns, your gratitude, your questions, and your prayers. Over time, you can also look back and see how God has been faithful.

Journaling is not about writing perfectly. It is about being present. Today, try writing your prayer instead of only speaking it. Let your thoughts flow freely. Reflect on what God has done and what He is teaching you.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me to slow down and reflect on what You are doing in my life. Teach me to remember Your faithfulness and to express my heart to You honestly. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "The More I Seek You" by Kari Jobe

Friday, May 22

Read John 14:13-14

Day 27 – Asking Boldly

Listening prayer does not mean we stop asking. In fact, Jesus invites us to ask boldly, "Whatever you ask in my name..." This is not a blank check for our personal desires. It is an invitation to pray with confidence as we align our requests with God's purposes. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are praying according to His character and will.

Bold prayer is rooted in relationship. We know who God is, and we know that He loves us. Because of that, we are not hesitant to bring our requests to Him. At the same time, that boldness is balanced with trust. We ask confidently, but we also trust God with how He answers. Today, do not hold back in prayer. Bring your requests to God with confidence. Ask Him to work in ways that only He can.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I bring my requests to You with confidence. Help me to pray in alignment with Your will and to trust You with the outcome. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Defender" by UPPERROOM

Saturday, May 23

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 28 – Surrendering the Outcome

There is a tension in prayer. We are invited to ask boldly, yet we are also called to surrender the outcome. We bring our requests to God, but we trust Him with how He answers. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart." This kind of trust is not always easy. We naturally want

clarity, control, and certainty. But God calls us to something deeper. He calls us to trust Him even when we do not understand.

Surrender is not giving up. It is placing our confidence in God's wisdom instead of our own. When we surrender the outcome, we are saying, "God, I trust You to do what is best, even if it looks different from what I expect." This kind of prayer brings peace. Today, bring your requests to God. Then release them into His hands. Trust Him to lead, provide, and respond according to His perfect will.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I trust You with my life and my prayers. Help me to release control and rest in Your wisdom. Lead me in Your ways. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Nothing Else" by Cody Carnes



Week 5: Intercession

Learning to Pray for Others

Prayer is not only about our relationship with God. It is also about our responsibility to others. As we grow in prayer, our focus begins to expand beyond our own needs. We begin to carry the needs of others before God. This is what Scripture calls “intercession.” To intercede means to stand in the gap. It is choosing to bring someone else’s needs, struggles, and burdens before the Lord. It is an act of love, faith, and obedience.

Throughout Scripture, we see the power of intercessory prayer. God works through the prayers of His people to bring comfort, guidance, healing, and salvation. He invites us to participate in what He is doing in the lives of others.

This week, you will learn that:

- Prayer for others is a vital part of the Christian life
- Intercession begins with a heart that cares deeply for people
- We are called to pray for family, church, leaders, and those far from God
- God uses our prayers in ways we may never fully see
- Intercession also changes us.

As we pray for others, our hearts begin to reflect God’s heart. We become more compassionate; more aware; more engaged in His work. Prayer moves us from being self-focused to being others-focused.

You do not have to have all the answers to help someone. You can pray. And that may be the most powerful thing you do for them. This week, begin to carry others before the Lord. Pray intentionally. Pray consistently. Trust that God is at work, even in ways you cannot see. You are not just talking to God. You are standing in the gap for others.

Memory Verse (Week 5)

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.”

— 1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)

Sunday, May 24

Read Joshua 24:15

Day 29 – Praying for Your Family

Some of the most important prayers you will ever pray are for the people closest to you. Your family is not just a part of your life. It is one of the primary places where your faith is lived out and passed on. Because of that, it should also be one of the primary places where you focus your prayers. Joshua made a clear declaration: “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” That kind of commitment is not sustained by good intentions alone. It is supported by consistent prayer.

Praying for your family includes asking God to work in their hearts. It means praying for their spiritual growth, their protection, their decisions, and their future. It also means trusting God with the things you cannot control. You cannot force faith in someone else’s heart. But you can faithfully bring them before God.

Today, take time to pray intentionally for each member of your family. Be specific. Ask God to draw them closer to Himself and to work in their lives in powerful ways. Your prayers matter more than you realize.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I lift my family to You. Draw each of us closer to You and help our home to reflect Your truth and love. Guide us and protect us. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Trust in God” by Elevation Worship

Monday, May 25

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

Day 30 – Praying for Your Church

The church is not just a place you attend. It is a family you belong to. Because of that, it needs your prayers. Paul urges believers to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.” Unity does not happen automatically. It is something that must be protected, nurtured, and strengthened. Prayer plays a key role in that process. When you pray for your church, you are asking God to work among His people. You are asking for unity, for spiritual growth, for wisdom in leadership, and for a shared commitment to the mission.

Prayer also changes how you see your church. Instead of focusing on preferences or frustrations, you begin to see people through God’s eyes. Your heart becomes more aligned with His purposes.

Today, pray for your church. Pray for your pastors and leaders. Pray for unity. Pray for spiritual growth. Pray that your church would be a light in your community. God works powerfully through a praying church.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for my church. Strengthen our unity and help us grow in faith. Guide our leaders and use us to reach others with the gospel. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Hymn

Tuesday, May 26

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Day 31 – Praying for Leaders

Scripture clearly calls us to pray for those in authority. This includes government leaders, community leaders, and anyone placed in a position of responsibility. Whether we agree with them or not, we are commanded to pray for them. Why? Because leadership carries great influence. Decisions made by leaders affect many lives. Prayer invites God's wisdom, guidance, and direction into those decisions.

Paul also connects this kind of prayer to our ability to live "peaceful and quiet lives." When we pray for leaders, we are asking God to create conditions where the gospel can move forward.

Praying for leaders also shapes our hearts. It moves us away from criticism and toward compassion. It reminds us that leaders are people who need God's help just like we do.

Today, take time to pray for leaders at every level. Ask God to give them wisdom, integrity, and a desire to do what is right.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I lift up those in authority. Give them wisdom, integrity, and guidance. Help them make decisions that honor You and benefit others. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Way Maker" by Sinach

Wednesday, May 27

Read Romans 10:1

Day 32 – Praying for the Lost

At the heart of intercession is a concern for those who do not yet know Christ. Paul's words are deeply personal: "my heart's desire and prayer...is that they may be saved." This is more than a passing thought. It is a burden that moves him to pray.

Prayer for the lost begins with a changed heart. We begin to see people the way God sees them. We recognize their need for salvation. We feel a growing desire for them to come to know Christ.

You likely have people in your life who are far from God. Family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors. Prayer is one of the most powerful ways you can impact their lives. You cannot change a heart, but God can.

Today, make a list of people who need Christ. Pray for them by name. Ask God to draw them to Himself and to give you opportunities to share your faith.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I pray for those in my life who do not know You. Draw them to Yourself and open their hearts to the gospel. Use me as a witness to Your truth. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Firm Foundation (He Won't)" by Maverick City Music

Thursday, May 28

Read James 5:13-16

Day 33 – Praying for the Sick

God invites us to pray for healing. James reminds us that when someone is sick, prayer is not a last resort. It is a first response. We bring physical needs before God, trusting Him with both the situation and the outcome. Praying for the sick is an act of compassion and faith. We ask God to heal, to strengthen, and to comfort. We also trust His wisdom, knowing that His ways are higher than ours.

Prayer for the sick is not about having the right words. It is about bringing real needs before a caring God. It also reminds us of something important: we are not meant to walk through suffering alone. Prayer connects us to one another and to God's presence in the middle of difficulty.

Today, pray for those who are sick. Be specific. Ask God to work in their bodies and in their circumstances.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I lift up those who are sick and hurting. Bring healing, strength, and comfort. Remind them of Your presence and care. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "He Will Hold Me Fast" by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Friday, May 29

Read Psalm 121

Day 34 – Praying in Crisis

Crisis has a way of revealing where we look for help. When life becomes overwhelming, we instinctively search for stability. Psalm 121 directs our attention to the only true source of help, "My help comes from the LORD."

Prayer in crisis is often simple. It is not polished or lengthy. It is a cry for help. It is a turning of our eyes toward God in the middle of uncertainty. This Psalm reminds us that God is not distant in those moments. He is present. He watches over us. He keeps us. He does not sleep or grow weary.

When everything around us feels unstable, God remains steady. Today, if you are facing a difficult situation, bring it to God. If not, pray for those who are. Lift your eyes to Him and trust that He is your help.

Prayer Prompt: Father, I lift my eyes to You. You are my help and my strength. In every situation, remind me to trust You and rest in Your care. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Battle Belongs" by Phil Wickham

Saturday, May 30

Read Ephesians 6:18

Day 35 – Spiritual Warfare

The Christian life is a battle. Ephesians 6 reminds us that we are engaged in spiritual warfare. The struggles we face are not just physical or emotional. There is a spiritual dimension that requires spiritual strength. Prayer is one of our greatest weapons, so Paul encourages us to be, "Praying at all times in the Spirit..." Prayer keeps us connected to

God in the middle of the battle. It strengthens us. It sharpens our awareness. It helps us stand firm.

Spiritual warfare is not about fear. It is about dependence. We do not fight alone. God equips us, strengthens us, and stands with us. Prayer is how we remain engaged and alert. Today, be intentional in prayer. Ask God to strengthen you and to help you stand firm in your faith.

Prayer Prompt: Father, strengthen me as I face spiritual battles. Help me to stay alert, to depend on You, and to stand firm in my faith. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Yes I Will" by Vertical Worship



Week 6: A Life of Prayer

Moving from Practice to Lifestyle

Over the past several weeks, you have been learning how to pray. You have explored what prayer is, followed the pattern Jesus gave, learned to pray with honesty, practiced listening, and begun carrying the needs of others before God. Each step has been building toward something greater.

Now we come to the goal: a life of prayer. Prayer was never meant to be limited to a moment in your day. It is meant to become the way you live your life. Not something you visit occasionally, but something you carry with you continually. Scripture calls us to “pray without ceasing.” That does not mean we are always speaking words, but that we are living with an ongoing awareness of God’s presence. It means we are learning to stay connected to Him throughout our day.

This week, you will learn that:

- Prayer can become a steady, daily rhythm
- Obedience and prayer are closely connected
- Fasting can deepen our dependence on God
- We can pray with expectation, trusting God to act
- The goal is not to finish a plan, but to continue a lifestyle

As this journey comes to an end, the invitation does not. The goal of these forty days is not completion. It is transformation. It is learning to walk with God in a way that continues long after this guide is finished. It is developing habits and rhythms that keep you close to Him. It is discovering that prayer is not something you add to your life—it is something that shapes your life. As you enter this final week, begin to look ahead. What will it look like for you to continue? What rhythms will you keep? How will you continue to draw near? God is not calling you to forty days. He is inviting you into a lifetime.

Memory Verse (Week 6)

“Pray without ceasing.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

Sunday, May 31

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Day 36 – Praying Continually

Prayer is not meant to be occasional. It is meant to be continual, “Pray without ceasing.” This does not mean we are speaking words every moment of the day. It means we are living with an ongoing awareness of God’s presence. Prayer becomes a steady conversation that continues throughout our day. It happens in quiet moments and busy ones. It happens in gratitude, in need, and in dependence.

This kind of prayer transforms how we live. We become more aware of God’s presence. We turn to Him more quickly. We rely on Him more consistently. Prayer moves from being a part of our life to becoming the way we live our life.

Today, look for opportunities to pray throughout your day. Keep your heart turned toward God. Let prayer become a constant connection.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me to stay connected to You throughout my day. Teach me to live in constant awareness of Your presence and to pray continually. Amen.

🎵 Today’s Song: “Daily Bread” by Pat Barrett

Monday, June 1

Read John 15:7-10

Day 37 – Prayer and Obedience

Prayer and obedience are deeply connected. It is easy to think of prayer as simply asking God for what we need, but Jesus shows us that prayer is also about alignment. As we abide in Him and His Word shapes our lives, our prayers begin to reflect His heart.

Obedience keeps us close to God. When we listen to His Word and respond to it, we remain in His love. Our relationship with Him deepens, and our prayers become more focused, more confident, and more in line with His will.

At the same time, prayer strengthens obedience. When we pray, we are reminded of who God is and what He desires. We receive the strength we need to follow Him, even when it is difficult.

These two go together. Prayer without obedience can become empty words. Obedience without prayer becomes difficult to sustain. But when they are connected, they create a

strong and growing relationship with God. Today, ask God not only to hear your prayers, but to shape your life. Be willing to respond to what He shows you.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me to abide in You and to walk in obedience to Your Word. Shape my heart so that my life and my prayers reflect Your will. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Christ Be All Around Me" by All Sons & Daughters

Tuesday, June 2

Read Matthew 6:16-18

Day 38 – Fasting and Prayer

Fasting is a practice that often feels unfamiliar, but it has a clear purpose. It is not about earning God's favor. It is about deepening our dependence on Him. When we fast, we intentionally give up something, like food, for a period of time. That physical hunger becomes a reminder to turn our attention toward God. It creates space for prayer and heightens our awareness of our need for Him.

Jesus assumes that His followers will fast. He says, "When you fast," not "if you fast." But He also reminds us that it is not about appearance. It is not something we do to be noticed by others. It is something we do to draw closer to God.

Fasting helps us reset our priorities. It reminds us that we do not live on physical provision alone. We need God more than anything else. You may choose to fast from a meal, from media, or from something else that occupies your attention. Whatever you choose, let it lead you into prayer. Let your hunger turn your heart toward God.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me depend on You more than anything else. As I fast, draw my heart closer to You and teach me to seek You above all. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be" Hymn

Wednesday, June 3

Read Jeremiah 33:3

Day 39 – Expecting God to Move

Prayer is not only something we do. It is something we expect God to respond to. God gives a clear and powerful invitation in this verse. He calls us to come to Him with the promise

that He will answer. This reminds us that prayer is not empty or meaningless. When we pray, we are speaking to One who hears, who responds, and who is actively at work. At times, however, we can fall into the habit of praying without expectation. We may say the words, but deep down we are not confident that anything will change. Over time, this can lead to discouragement or routine.

Scripture calls us to something different. It calls us to pray with faith and expectation. This does not mean we demand a specific outcome or try to control the answer. Instead, it means we trust that God will act according to His wisdom and His timing. When we pray with expectation, our faith begins to grow. We become more aware of how God is working, even in ways we did not anticipate. We learn to trust Him not only for answers we can see, but also for those we cannot yet understand.

Bring your requests to God with confidence. Trust that He hears you. Trust that He is at work. Expect Him to move in ways that reflect His goodness and His purposes.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that You hear me when I pray. Help me to trust that You are at work, even when I cannot see it. Strengthen my faith and help me to expect You to move according to Your will. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "Gratitude" by Brandon Lake

Thursday, June 4

Read Hebrews 10:22-23

Day 40 – Keep Drawing Near

You have reached the end of these forty days, but this is not the end of the journey. The invitation of Scripture is clear, "Let us draw near..." We are called to draw near to God with a sincere heart and with confidence in Him. This is not a one-time decision. It is a daily choice that shapes the direction of our lives.

Throughout these past weeks, you have learned what prayer is, how Jesus taught us to pray, how to pray with honesty, how to listen, and how to pray for others. Each of these practices is meant to become part of your ongoing relationship with God. The goal of this journey was never simply to complete a devotional. The goal was to help you develop a pattern of drawing near to God that continues beyond these pages.

There will be days when prayer feels strong and meaningful, and there will be days when it feels quiet or routine. In both kinds of days, God remains faithful. Your relationship with Him is not sustained by your emotions but by His unchanging character. Because He is

faithful, you can continue to come to Him with confidence. You can hold firmly to the hope you have in Christ, knowing that God will keep His promises.

As you move forward, carry these habits with you. Continue to make space for prayer. Continue to turn your heart toward God throughout your day. Continue to draw near.

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for meeting me throughout these forty days. Help me to continue drawing near to You each day. Strengthen my faith and help me to trust Your faithfulness. Amen.

🎵 Today's Song: "In Christ Alone" by Keith & Kristyn Getty

What Comes Next?

You do not need a complicated plan, just keep going. Keep setting aside time to meet with God, even if it is just a few minutes each day. Keep talking to Him throughout your day. Keep returning to the truths you have learned. You can revisit these pages anytime. You can continue using the simple rhythm we practiced together—delight, repent, ask, and walk.

There will be days when prayer feels meaningful and days when it feels quiet. Do not let that discourage you. God is just as present in the quiet moments as He is in the powerful ones. And remember, you are not walking alone. We are a church that is learning to seek God together. Keep showing up. Keep worshiping.

If you are not yet part of a Life Group, now is a great time to take that step. The Christian life was never intended to be lived alone, and a Life Group gives you a place to keep growing, keep praying, and keep doing life with others who are on the same journey. For help finding a group, reach out to our Associate Pastor, Robert Hiller, at robert@fbcwest.com.

If you found a prayer partner during these forty days, do not let that relationship end here. Keep reaching out. Keep praying for one another. Some of the most meaningful friendships in the life of a church are built one prayer at a time.

God is still inviting you to come near, so don't stop now. Keep drawing near.

John