

# PRAYER

DOES GOD HEAR OR ANSWER MY PRAYERS?

WHAT IS PRAYER? WHY PRAY?

HOW DO I PRAY? ARE THERE BAD PRAYERS?

HOW DO I PRAY FOR MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

WHAT SHOULDN'T I DO WHEN I AM PRAYING?



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## Introduction

**Why should I pray?** During this 7-week series and study, we will be learning about what prayer is, and how to pray. Our hope is to help bring understanding and deeper communication with God through prayer, dispel common misconceptions, and present the foundation of relationship as the key to effective prayer. We will be exploring answers to questions such as: How do I pray? What should I pray about? Why should I pray - doesn't God already know what my prayer will be? Are there prayers that are harmful or wrong to pray? **Does God answer prayer?**

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Philippians 4:4-9

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Verse 9 says we are to "think" on things that are lovely, pure, of good report, etc. The word "**think**" in other Bible translations is also "meditate" or "dwell". (See *Key Concept box*.) God wants to talk to us! He wants to hear our requests, but He also wants us to focus on Him instead of our needs. When you pray, what are you focused on?

**Key Concept:**

***Think***

Greek translation:

logizomai:

to reckon, count,  
decide

**Question for Journaling:** Part of prayer is thinking or deliberately focusing on God's goodness in the situation. How can you practice this as you pray?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Exodus 33:7-23

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 11, Moses had a special role. What was this role? How did God speak with Moses? Do you think God wants to talk to you in this way?

**Question for Journaling:** Prayer is about having a relationship and being in God's presence. Prior to Jesus' crucifixion, the chosen priest went to God on behalf of the people. After Christ's death and resurrection, all people who want to know God can go to Him personally and directly. How does knowing this change your view of prayer? This week when you pray, practice acknowledging that you are in God's presence.

*You are in the presence of God*

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 6:9-15

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Often called "The Lord's Prayer", this is actually our prayer taught to us by Jesus. Verses 12, 14-15 are focused on an important issue – what is it? Why do you think Jesus teaches this? Is there someone you need to forgive?

**Question for Journaling:** Prayer may change circumstances in our lives and accomplish much; however, our prayers never change God. Who should be changing? How has prayer changed you?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 51:1-19; I Timothy 1:15-16

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** The author of this Psalm, King David, had sinned against God by having an affair and committing murder. This Psalm is his prayer of forgiveness. As you read you can hear his pain as he recognizes his sin. What does he ask God to do? What does he tell God he will do as a response (Psalms 51:13)? How does this apply to you?

**Key Concept:**  
*Repentance*

To be broken or  
crushed

**Question for Journaling:** What is the sacrifice God desires of us? Sin should break our heart. One of the ways we know we are maturing in Christ is the increasing awareness of sin in our lives and the desire to not sin. Is this taking place in your life? Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16. These verses show the Apostle Paul's increasing awareness of his own sin. According to these verses, what is the purpose of Jesus' mercy?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 46:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** When our life is in chaos, we often respond by becoming more active trying to fix things. What does God tell us to do in verse 10?

**Question for Journaling:** Being still doesn't always mean do nothing. One thing we should always do in all circumstances is pray – but there are many things that are distractions that keep us busy. What distracts you when you pray? What can you do to “be still” when you pray?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Today's Reading:** Mark 14:32-42; Hebrews 4:15-16

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In the Mark passage, Jesus is about to endure suffering on the Cross. What was His response?

**Question for Journaling:** Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Although Jesus was distraught to the point of death, He submitted His desires to His Father. He endured the cross because it was best for us! How does this truth impact you? When you are suffering, do you pray that God's desires will be done in your life? This week as you pray, practice asking God for His will to be done in the situation.

**Key Concept:**  
*Will*

An act of will, wishes or desires.

The preferred desires in reference to God.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 6:1-8

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is Jesus warning against in this passage? What is the reward of those who try to get attention?

**Question for Journaling:** Praying for the same thing consistently is not the problem, it is the motive. What is your motive when you pray?

**Key Concept:**

***Babble***

To stammer, use idle words or repeat over and over.

*Use caution that our prayers don't become empty and meaningless. Be mindful of the danger of different practices of prayer that are ungodly.*

**My Prayer...**



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today’s Reading:** Luke 18:9-15

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** For what reasons did the Pharisee think God should listen to him? How did he view himself? Who do you think “other people” are?

**Question for Journaling:** The tax collector in this passage demonstrated the right attitude. Take a moment to honestly examine your heart right now. Do you ever think God should answer your prayers based on the good things you do? How can you practice the tax collector’s attitude in prayer?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today’s Reading:** Psalms 66:16-20; Isaiah 56:1-2

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to both passages, what is a barrier to prayer? Can you think of a time when you felt God wasn’t listening? Was there anything in your life that could have been hindering your prayers?

**Question for Journaling:** Much like parenting, when our kids disobey, it’s not that we can’t hear them, but that we can’t give them good things because of rebellion. Are you rebelling against God in any way? If you’re not sure, ask Him to show you.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today's Reading:** James 4:1-10; Luke 16:10-13

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Prayers can often be self-seeking. According to these verses in James, what is the result?

**Question for Journaling:** Have you ever prayed for God to change another person? What was your reason? Have you ever asked God for anything extravagant? Read Luke 16:10-13. Where in your life can you practice being more faithful?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today’s Reading:** Matthew 6:24-34

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What dominates the thoughts of unbelievers? What are we to pursue instead?

**Question for Journaling:** Do you ever worry that God will provide for your needs? How does it challenge your faith in God? This week when you pray, practice thanking God for providing for all your needs rather than asking. Note if it strengthens your faith and trust in Him.

**Key Concept:**  
*Worry*

- 1) To be anxious or troubled with cares
- 2) To promote one’s own interests

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Saturday, June 16, 2018 | What It Isn't

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

**Today's Reading:** Jonah 3:1 - 4:4; Luke 6:36

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How did the people of Nineveh respond to God's message? How did Jonah respond?

**Question for Journaling:** Jonah was a prophet of God so it is odd to think he would have been angry about people repenting and turning toward God. Have you ever been angry or felt a person didn't deserve God's forgiveness? Did or do you deserve God's forgiveness? This week as you pray, ask God how you can show mercy to others (see Luke 6:36).

The Assyrian capital Nineveh was a huge and powerful city filled with violence and wicked behavior.

**Key Concept:**  
*Mercy*

To help the afflicted; to bring help to the wretched.

### My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** 2 Corinthians 11:14-15; John 8:43-46

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who does Satan disguise himself as? What is he the father of?

**Question for Journaling:** Satan is often referred to as an imitator – he imitates God but in a distorted way. His goal is to deceive people into thinking they are hearing from God when Satan is actually who is whispering to them. In John 8:47, how can we know if it's God? When you pray, how do you discern if you are hearing from God or the devil?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** 1 John 4:1-6; James 2:19

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who has the spirit of the antichrist? According to James, is belief in God enough? Who else believes in God?

**Key Concept:**  
*Antichrist*

An opponent of the  
Messiah

**Question for Journaling:** As Christians, what are we to test and why? It is so important for us to test everything we read, and every teacher/pastor we listen to, through the truth of scripture. Are you currently doing that? If not, this week begin to practice looking up scripture to check the truth of what you read and who you listen to. *(If assistance is needed, we would love to help. Please contact us.)*

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 6:14

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to scripture, who are we to worship? What are we not to worship?

**Key Concept:**

*“Bow down” or worship*

To serve or work for, to prostrate one's self

**Question for Journaling:** We may not “worship” other gods, but we often elevate material possessions, people or relationships above God. That can be considered idol worship. Is there anything in your life you have put before God? How does this please Satan?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 1:1-3; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 6:7

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to Psalms 1, what are we to be doing?

**Key Concept:**  
*Meditate*

To think, ponder or study

**Question for Journaling:** Romans says we are not to copy the world's ways. Biblical meditation is to focus on God's word. The world teaches other forms of meditation and prayer which include chanting, mystical or contemplative prayers or sending good thoughts. How do these practices conflict with what the Bible teaches? (See Matthew 6:7)

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** James 1:2-8; James 1:12-15; 1 Corinthians 10:13

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does the testing of our faith produce? What can we ask God for?

**Question for Journaling:** When you are going through a trial and ask God for help, do you believe He will give you the wisdom you need? Do you think God should just stop the trial? See James 1:12-15 and 1 Cor 10:13. If you are going through a trial, ask God to show you the test versus the temptation. This week when you pray, thank God for the trial and how He wants to mature you through it.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**Today's Reading:** 2 Corinthians 7:8-10; Romans 8:1-12; Revelations 12:10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to 2 Corinthians, what kind of sorrow does the world produce? What does godly sorrow produce?

**Question for Journaling:** One of the ways Satan destroys is to condemn and remind God's people of their failures. Read Revelation 12:10. What is Satan called? Satan stands before God accusing us; however, what is the hope we have as stated in Romans?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 17:1-15; 1 Peter 5:5-6

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does David ask of God? For what reason does he believe God will act on his behalf? (vs 3)

**Question for Journaling:** David says God examined His motives. What are your motives when you pray? Read 1 Peter 5:5-6. Who does God oppose? This week when you pray, ask God to test your heart and examine your motives. Note how it changes your prayers.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Luke 11:9-13; 1 John 5:13-15; Matthew 6:33

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to Luke, what are we encouraged to do? In the first two passages, what does God do for us?

**Question for Journaling:** These verses indicate an active role on our part to approach God in prayer. How actively do you pursue God besides praying to Him? See Matthew 6:33. What is God asking you to do?

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 10:8-13; 1 John 1:6-10; Hebrews 10:26-29

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In Romans, how is a person saved? In 1 John, what is the caution and hope we have as followers of Christ?

**Question for Journaling:** God will always answer the earnest prayer of a person who genuinely repents and understands their need for His grace. That said, a change must take place – we can no longer go on purposely sinning (see Hebrews 10:26-29). This week when you pray, ask God to show you if there is a sin you need to stop, ask forgiveness and make a plan to avoid that temptation.

**Key Concept:**  
*Liar*

One who breaks faith; a false and faithless man

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 23:1-12; Matthew 11:28-30

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In Matthew 23, Jesus confronts the religious leaders. What is the problem He is addressing?

**Question for Journaling:** The challenge of Jesus' time was the legalistic methods the religious leaders burdened the people with. What does Jesus say we have when we come to Him in Matthew 11? Is there any prayer or biblical practice in your life that has become legalistic? What in your life do you need rest from?

**Key Concept:**  
*Phylactery*

Small leather cases containing Old Testament (OT) scripture verses, worn on the arm and forehead by Jews, especially when praying. The custom was derived from such OT passages as Exodus 13:9 & Deuteronomy 6:8.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 7:14 – Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:13-26

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Here in Romans, the Apostle Paul tells us his struggle. What it is?

**Key Concept:**  
*Law, Mosaic law*

Custom, law,  
command; instruction  
given by Christ

**Question for Journaling:** We all battle the desires of the flesh – to do things we know we shouldn't.

When we are in Christ, we will still be tempted, but what are we freed from? This week when you pray, thank God for giving you the ability to serve Him and make right choices in the area of your life where you are struggling. (See Galatians 5:13-26)

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 9:35-38

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In these verses, who is the harvest? Who are the workers? What did Jesus tell His disciples to pray for?

**Question for Journaling:** As Christians, we have the awesome role of telling others about Christ. Is there someone God has placed on your heart to talk to? This week when you pray, ask God for an opportunity to talk with them. If this worries you, read Luke 12:11-12.

*Is there someone  
God has placed on  
your heart to talk to?*

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** John 17:1-26

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who and what does Jesus pray for? Why is it important that His followers be unified?

**Question for Journaling:** Jesus actually prayed for all believers throughout history – including you! Write your thoughts on how this truth affects you.

**Key Concept:**

*One*

The Greek form of this word is in reference to the numeral one.

Jesus is literally saying one, as is in “oneness” - singular

**My Prayer...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 5:43-48

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How does Jesus say we should treat our enemies? Who is your enemy?

**Question for Journaling:** Sometimes our enemy can be those closest to us – spouse, friend or family member. The defining characteristic of Christians is to love our enemies and actively do good to them. This week when you pray, pray for that person and ask God how you can bless them. Take note of how it changes your heart.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who are we to pray for? What should our attitude be?

**Question for Journaling:** Is there any leader you can be praying for? This week, pray for all leadership – our president, government and military, church, educational system, and all others in a position of leadership. If you are in a position of leadership, ask God how you can show Christ through your leadership (read Ephesians 6:9).

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** James 5:13-16, Matthew 5:23-24

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How can believers pray for each other? Although we can and should pray for physical healing, these verses are also speaking of spiritual healing. Unconfessed sin in our lives can make us sick, both physically and spiritually.

**Key Concept:**

*Sick*

To grow weary, to be weary or sick

**Question for Journaling:** Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness of? (Read Matt 5:23-24)

Is there a sin, attitude or action in your life that is making you sick? This week when you pray, ask God for forgiveness and healing. If you would like prayer, you can submit your request on the church app or through the website at [www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org](http://www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org).

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-20

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Prayer helps us stand firm against the devil - in verse 18, who are we to pray for?

**Question for Journaling:** All believers everywhere include missionaries in other countries. Do you pray for them? If not, commit to pray for them consistently. This week when you pray, pray for your church and the Missions Team here at Crossroads and in Ridgecrest.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

**Today's Reading:** 1 Peter 3:1-12

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How can wives witness to unbelieving husbands? How are husbands to treat their wives? How does this affect their prayers?

**Question for Journaling:** Husbands and wives can and should be praying for each other. If you are married, do you pray for your spouse? What do you pray for? Satan often tries to destroy marriages by tempting us to focus on each other's faults. This week when you pray, pray for marriages in general and/or pray for God's will in your spouse, while you personally seek to be a godly husband/wife.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

## Monday, July 9, 2018 | Thank You

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 12:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does God give believers? What is the example given to describe the church and how it functions?

**Question for Journaling:** When someone is given a gift, it is proper to say “thank you”? In Christianity, we say thank you in our prayers, but a majority of our thankfulness is shown through giving back to God through service. How do you show thanks to God for what He has done for you? What can you be doing?

### My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 136:1-26

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is the psalmist thanking God for in verses 1-9? The remainder of the verses express thankfulness for the deliverance, protection and provision of Israel.

**Question for Journaling:** What endures forever in this Psalm? There are many things to be thankful for. This week as you pray, make a list of everything you are thankful to God for including those mentioned above.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Philippians 4:4-13; James 1:1-4

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** When we make our requests to God, we are to do it with thanksgiving. What is the result in Philippians 4:7?

**Question for Journaling:** No matter what our circumstances, we can thank God in and for the situation. What are we to focus on (Philippians 4:8)? Read James 1:1-4. What does God want to produce in you through trials? This week when you pray, thank God for your current trial and ask what He wants to show you.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 23:1-6

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to this Psalm, what does the Lord do for us?

*Are you aware of  
God's presence  
in your daily life?*

**Question for Journaling:** It is comforting to know that God walks with us at all times. Are you aware of God's presence in your daily life? This isn't dependent on feeling, but on knowing He is there. As you go throughout your days, practice being aware of God's presence with you and thank Him.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Galatians 3:26-Galatians 4:7

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** When we are in Christ, who do we become? God chose us to be His children! It is a deeply personal relationship by which we can call Him Abba (or Daddy). Only children called their fathers by this term.

**Question for Journaling:** How hard or easy is it for you to think of God this way? This week, thank God for loving you and choosing you to be His child.

**Key Concept:**  
*Adopted*

To be legally made son or daughter

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 5:6-11; Revelation 2:4-5

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How did God demonstrate His love toward us? Who are we before we decide to follow Christ?

**Question for Journaling:** It is amazing to know we don't have to come to God as a perfect person; we are helpless to save ourselves. How does this knowledge change you? If you have decided to follow God, thank Him for sending Christ to die for our sins. Take some time to remember and reflect when you made that choice, and renew your love for Him! (Rev 2:4-5)

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** Acts 2:32-47

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** This passage tells of the time after Christ ascended to heaven and He sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Peter preached a powerful message to the people – what was the result? What did the believers do daily? How did they change their daily lives?

**Question for Journaling:** Christ changes us and should change the way we live. This is evidence to the world that we follow Him. What evidence is present in your life that shows you are a Christian? Do you think the Christian church is making a positive influence in the world? What do we need to change?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, God has answered King Solomon's prayer to be present in the temple he built. In verses 13-15 God makes it very clear that when bad things happen, prayer isn't the only thing we need to do. What else does He say His believers must do?

*Prayer changes us*

**Question for Journaling:** Do you recognize our current national condition (and the world) in this passage? Prayer changes us, not God. Prayer isn't a means of changing His mind but looking at what we need to change regardless of the outcome. This week when you pray, think of where you may need to practice humility, repentance and seek God in the situation.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** Luke 18:1-8; Romans 12:9; 2 Peter 3:9

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is Jesus encouraging His disciples to do in this passage?

**Key Concept:**  
*Justice*

To avenge, to protect or defend, to vindicate one's right

**Question for Journaling:** There are a lot of injustices in this world. Do you find it hard to wait patiently for justice? Read Romans 12:19 and 2 Peter 3:9. What is our encouragement in these verses? God is not on our timeline and although it can be hard to practice patience, we should never stop praying, knowing He is patiently waiting for us!

## My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 122:6-9; Zechariah 12:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In Ps 122, who are we to pray for? Throughout history, God has protected His faithful remnant and gives a strong warning against those who are opposed to Israel. What should our heart, individually and as a nation, be toward Israel?

**Question for Journaling:** Do you think it's important to pray for and be in support of Israel? Why or why not? Israel's timeline of events is critical to believers so it is important for us to be aware of what is happening in the Middle East. This week pray for Israel.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 34:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** This Psalm of King David is an encouragement to people. What are the ways he says God helps us?

**Key Concept:**  
*Refuge*

Shelter, to flee for protection, put trust or confident hope in God

**Question for Journaling:** This Psalm is about trusting God in all circumstances. How easy or hard is it for you to trust God? God doesn't need to earn our trust; He is trustworthy whether we believe it or not. Building trust comes with stepping out in faith so He can show us we can trust Him. What do you need to trust Him with? This week, commit to trusting God in this area and take note how it changes you.

## My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Today's Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What are the instructions of how to treat one another? According to verse 17, how often are we to pray? What is the result? (vs 23-24)

**Question for Journaling:** Although this verse may not mean to stop everything to pray constantly, it does mean a constant and open dialog with God. Often called "open-eye prayers," where you pray while continuing to interact or do tasks, we can communicate with God constantly – as if He were standing next to us! Do you think this is possible? Why or why not? This week try practicing this and note how it changes your thinking.

**Key Concept:**  
*Constantly*

Without intermission,  
incessant, without  
ceasing

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for: