

APRIL

Prayer Devotionals

APR 2 - 29

DANIEL 10:12
THE 
FIGHT
THE YEAR OF PRAYER
TAFT AVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Monday, 4/2, John 4: Just as Jesus shared with the Samaritan woman that God seeks our worship and the praise of His people, we need to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Our prayer should be that our hearts and our houses of worship should not allow our worship to become a lost art. We need to allow God to inhabit our heart and life as we allow Him to guide and direct our path. He promises to give us a spring of living water welling up to eternal life. (vs 14)

Tuesday, 4/3, John 5: In chapter 5 of John, Jesus speaks of His relationship with His Father. He can do nothing by himself but only what He sees His Father doing. We should thank God for sending His Son to this earth to save us from our sins and that we can serve a living Savior because of His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

Wednesday, 4/4, John 6: Jesus is teaching in vs 48 that He is the Bread of Life. If you eat the bread, you will not die. Pray that you will eat this bread and believe and have eternal life. Jesus came to fulfill the spiritual hunger of our souls. Ask Him to do that today.

Thursday, 4/5, John 7: In John 7, we read not only of the unbelief of the Jewish Leaders but also of His own brothers (vs 3). As we share our faith, we often may not get a positive response. Our prayer should be that we be consistent in our Bible reading, prayer and fellowship with other believers. Then we will not become discouraged and our faith become parched. Jesus invites us to come to Him and drink of the living water and He will meet our thirst. We need to welcome His teachings and let Him show us His will for our lives.

Friday, 4/6, John 8: In Chapter 8, Jesus defends His position of authority with the Pharisees. He tells them that He is the light of the

world, and those who follow Him will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life. Our prayer should be that we, as followers of Jesus, will reflect this light that comes from Him. Pray also that His radiance will shine through us as we walk and talk with others.

Saturday, 4/7, John 9: In Chapter 9, the focus is on Jesus restoring sight to a man blind from birth. The Pharisees could not accept this miracle and Jesus pointed out their spiritual blindness. Our prayer should emulate the faith of the healed blind man as he defended his healing and acknowledged Jesus as the Son of Man (vs 35). He believed in Jesus and then worshiped Him. Let us remember to give God the praise and glory.

Sunday, 4/8, John 10: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life on the cross for His sheep. We are His sheep. He knows us and loves us. He came that we might have abundant life. Pray that you, as one of His sheep, will hear His voice and follow Him and experience abundant life.

Monday, 4/9, John 11: In Hebrews 4:14-16 we are told that Jesus Christ is our great High Priest who can sympathize with us as we go through temptations and times of need. In John 11 Jesus experiences, as a man, the death of his close friend, Lazarus. First he knew Scripture that helped him know the promises of God. Secondly he emotionally felt the loss of his friend and wept. Third, he prayed that God would use this sad event for God's glory. We can use these same steps to help us when we go through difficult times.

Tuesday, 4/10, John 12: John 12 is filled with many important events but when we think about Mary pouring about a pint of expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and wiping his feet with her hair, we should be struck and perhaps ashamed because we often are stingy with our

expressions of devotion. Mary was lavish and kept nothing back. Jesus said it prepared him for his death and burial. In verse 3 we read that the house was filled with the fragrance. We should pray that we are willing to give of our best to the Lord.

Wednesday, 4/11, John 13: When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he demonstrated in a powerful way, what it means to be a servant. This was a lowly task, but Jesus was willing to do it – to serve others. Most of us want to be first, to be important, to be acknowledged, to be mentioned. Jesus said we are to serve one another and then we will be blessed, or happy. Pray for a servant's heart.

Thursday, 4/12, John 14: Jesus comforted his disciples by promising them several things. First, he promised to prepare a place in his Father's house for them and that he would come back for them. Second, he promised that he and the Father were one and he was the way to the Father. Third, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come to comfort them, dwell in them and would never leave them. If we know Jesus as our personal savior, those promises are ours as well.

Friday, 4/13, John 15: Jesus said that he is the True Vine and we are the branches. To bear fruit we must be pruned. Pruning is not an easy process but it is necessary. We then must stay connected to the vine by regularly reading and studying his Word so that when we need wisdom His words are in our minds and hearts. Jesus stayed connected to his Father by praying, so too, we must pray about everything.

Saturday, 4/14, John 16: The disciples were filled with grief at the knowledge that Jesus would leave them for a time. To comfort them, Jesus told them more about the coming Holy Spirit. He said that the Spirit would be their Counselor, He would guide them into all truth and He would bring glory to the Father by revealing truth about Jesus.

Pray that you will learn more about Jesus as you read.

Sunday, 4/15, John 17: This whole chapter is an intimate pouring out of Jesus' heart to his Father, so much so that we almost feel as though we are intruding but God wanted us to know what Jesus was praying and what he desired for his followers. He prayed for our protection, for the unity of the body of the church and for our joy! He wanted us to be sanctified – set apart, holy or consecrated. He also wanted us to know that we are loved. We can pour out our hearts to the Lord in this way.

Monday, 4/16, John 18: Jesus, you saved us from your Father's wrath and our due punishment for sin. You did this while exposing our twisted ideas of justice and the failure that comes with our ideas of good and evil. You let us justify the execution of our perfect God in light of our human pride, jealousy and self-justified expediency. You used our faithlessness and your faithfulness to secure our only means of salvation, the cross. Jesus, let the cross always remind us of our sin against you and your forgiveness of it. Amen! [v 18:14]

Tuesday, 4/17, John 19: Jesus, we expected our King on earth to be sitting on a gold throne and commanding mighty armies. But you showed us your authority in a beaten man, wearing a crown of thorns and hung on the throne of a wooden cross. You turned this world upside down and gave us an image we can only begin to understand. Jesus, empty me of all my pride. You humbled yourself to the point of death to expose my sin and offer a means of forgiveness. Help me know you better. [v 19:5]

Wednesday, 4/18, John 20: Jesus, you rose from the dead as you said you would, and you had it recorded in your scripture. You gave us your scripture so that we may believe that You are the Christ, the Son of

God; and that believing we may have life in your name. We thank you for what you have done, and we thank you for giving us the desire and the ability to know who you are through what you have done in the scriptures. [v 20:31]

Thursday, 4/19, John 21: Jesus after all you endured on the cross on account of our sin, you seek our fellowship. Jesus whenever I eat breakfast, remind me of the time you made breakfast on the beach, for the very men who abandoned you, who denied you and who doubted you. Jesus, convict me and help me to practice your forgiveness and hospitality to others as you have so generously done for me. [v 21:12]

Friday, 4/20, John 1: Jesus, you are your Word, the scripture we read and the Holy Spirit that powers us and allows us to reflect your glory. In the darkness, we did not comprehend your light, but you chose us despite our sin and brokenness, to be your light to the World. Jesus we are blessed to live in your light and bring that light to your creation, every day. [v 1:5]

Saturday, 4/21, John 2: Like the first disciples, we don't always understand your word. Help us always to be learning, so when the time comes, like your disciples, we will remember what you say and believe the scripture and the words that you have spoken. [v 2:22]

Sunday, 4/22, John 3: Jesus, like the time Nicodemus first met you, we sometimes wrestle with your truth. Forgive us for so easily straining our ideas against yours. Motivate us to constantly seek knowledge of you, and motivate in us a desire that everything we do is done through you and the knowledge of who you truly are. [v 3:9, 3:21]

Monday, 4/23, John 4: Help us to read your word with fresh eyes, not

assuming we know the stories, and miss what you are trying to tell us. Thank you, Jesus, that you are the Christ and that you have revealed yourself to us and what you want us to know is in your word, help us not take that for granted. In verse 24 you tell us “God is spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.” Thank you for giving us insight into the mysteries of God. In verse 39, it says that “many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony” thank you Lord that you use people to bring others to yourself, help us share our testimonies to reach those around us who don’t know you.

Tuesday, 4/24, John 5: God help me not let excuses keep me from you, but help me recognize my need for repentance. Thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you, Jesus, that you are God and while you were here on earth you showed us how to submit to the will of the Father. Help us live with obedience and submission to the Father’s will like you did. In verse 24 you tell us “whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.” Help us to hear those words and not take them for granted, forgive us when we become complacent in living out your will but still expect the rewards.

Wednesday, 4/25, John 6: Thank you for your word. As I read Chapter 6, help me to take my time. You offer so much insight of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in this chapter, help me not to miss it. Verse 44 says “no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” Thank you for being in complete control, thank you for revealing yourself to me, so that I can believe. Thank you for Simon Peter’s words and example in verse 68 “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Thursday, 4/26, John 7: Thank you for your word, help me to recognize that if something is hard to understand, it's not because you are in error but it's a reminder that I need to ask you for understanding. Forgive me when I question you in a way that accuses you or diminishes your authority.

Friday, 4/27, John 8: In chapter 8 the stories are familiar but are filled with truths that we cannot presume to understand. Thank you, Jesus, that you give an example of times when people are against you, yet you are firm and true and reflect the will of the Father. Help us to be so faithful and to know your word so well that we know how to reveal who you are. Thank you that you boldly say in 8:58 "Truly, Truly I say to you before Abraham was, I am." Thank you that we are part of a church body and that because we read through the Bible together last year, we can understand the significance of you making that statement.

Saturday, 4/28, John 9: You healed a blind man on the Sabbath, and the Pharisees, stubborn to find reasons to reject you, show us how desperate we can be to justify our own will. Help us, Jesus, to not avoid who you are because we're making excuses or holding so tight to who we determine you are, that we miss genuinely knowing you. Thank you that we can see you and that you have given us the ability to understand you. Help us to worship you because of who you are.

Sunday, 4/29, John 10: John 10:4 "When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." Thank you for being our shepherd, that you know my name and because of your word I can know the sound of my Father's voice. You are so gracious Father, forgive me when I neglect your voice. Thank you that you are faithful, for Taft Avenue Community Church, and for fellowship with other believers!