

# JUNE

## Prayer Devotionals

JUNE 4 - JULY 1

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

**Monday, 6/4, Luke 1:** As we begin to read the Gospel of Luke; the author gives us a clear explanation of why it is written. It is presented as an eyewitness account of the thing that happened during Jesus' ministry. It is carefully assembled in an orderly manner in conformance to God's will and plan for us. Pay close attention; it is so we can KNOW the truth of who Jesus is, why he came and how we can have certainty about what we have been taught about God. Pray that you will see who Jesus IS, that the power of the Holy Spirit will give YOU certainty about who HE is.

**Tuesday, 6/5, Luke 2:** We have all experienced the Christmas Story; we have seen simple Charlie Brown like school plays, elaborate live stage shows with all the special lighting and live animals and everything in between. And as I read 2.1 I can't help but hear the voice of Linus. But try hard to read beyond that; this is an amazing story of Jesus' birth, the long awaited messiah come to earth to save us all. Read with wonder and amazement of how gracious and loving God is.

**Wednesday, 6/6, Luke 3:** Luke spells out the historically traceable place and time that John the Baptist did his work. Something that everyone of the time would recognize, like we know who the governor of California is and who the President is at a given time, Luke makes clear that this is not a fable or made up story. He takes away any doubt as to where and when these things occurred. John prepares the way for the Messiah in fulfillment of Isaiah 40. He concludes 3 with a simple description of Jesus baptism, a foreshadow of the cross and divine affirmation of the Father's blessing to begin His ministry.

**Thursday, 6/7, Luke 4:** As Jesus is in the wilderness and tempted by the Word of God, 3 times he rebukes Satan, and Satan was indeed rebuked and he fled. Know that you too can withstand temptation when it comes; use the Word of God and it will flee. But you say, I can't remember... well read, read and read again, then pray that God will bring to mind His word in times of trial or temptation.

**Friday, 6/8, Luke 5:** After preaching and healing many, Jesus calls His first disciples. He calls and they follow; Peter, James and John. As they follow they witness Jesus do many miracles. Miracles that proved who Jesus was and showed the religious leaders of the day as doers of the Word but not believers. He forgave sin, something only God can do, and they were all amazed. Are you amazed, do you believe He came to seek and save the lost? Be amazed!!

**Saturday, 6/9, Luke 6:** The Beatitudes are full of challenges to our comfortable role as nice people, good people, even God loving people. He challenges us at every comfort point. Do you love those who hate you? You don't even talk to your next door neighbor! Can you turn the other cheek when someone offends you, or do you need to strike back? Do you show Grace, Love and Mercy on those close to you, of course you do; but Jesus calls us to a higher standard. One that is counter to all our comfort. As you read today, consider what can you do today to be a little less comfortable and a little more merciful.

**Sunday, 6/10, Luke 7:** Jesus continues to prove his deity by healing the sick and raising the dead. His power is plainly seen in these miracles. Only God can do these things and yet the Pharisees, the people and it seems even John and his disciples seem to doubt. But the words Jesus answers with should ring in their ears as prophecy from Isaiah. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. Are you blessed to read this?

**Monday, 6/11, Luke 8:** Father, when the storms of life surround us we shout to you in prayer, "Master, Master, we are perishing!". We do not have the disciples' advantage of having Jesus in the flesh with us, but we have the Holy Spirit with us to help and guide us every day. Help us to have the faith to trust, obey and rely on Your presence with us every day. Help us to be in constant awe of You and of Your sovereignty over all the troubles and concerns of this world.

**Tuesday, 6/12, Luke 9:** When You send us out into the world for Your sake, Lord, You promise not to send us empty-handed. You give us the clear purpose to spread the gospel of Your kingdom to our neighborhoods and to the world. And You give us the very power and authority of Jesus to accomplish the task. You ask us to trust You to provide and to satisfy our every need (not want) as we work on Your behalf. We also know that following you can be difficult – You ask us to carry our cross. But help us to always remember the reward for our obedience is great, a share in Your glorious kingdom!

**Wednesday, 6/13, Luke 10:** After Jesus sent out the 12 He sent out 72 more disciples, two-by-two, into every town and place where He was about to go. He told them that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. And He directed them to pray earnestly for more laborers to be sent out into His harvest. Help us to willingly say, “Send me Lord; give us the means and the burning desire to live our lives on Your mission to seek and to save the lost.

**Thursday, 6/14, Luke 11:** Father, help us to be mindful of justice and Your love, without hypocrisy, greed or selfishness. We know that true cleanliness comes not from being washed on the outside, but from having a clean heart that seeks after the kind of justice, charity and love that can only be found in You. Help us to be those who hear Your word and keep it, not just talk about it. And help us to share our love and obedience of Your word in humility in a way that gives hope, joy and assurance without heaping on needless burdens and guilt.

**Friday, 6/15, Luke 12:** Why should we fear or worry? We thank You and praise You, Lord, for Your authority and for Your sovereignty over everything. Help us to never forget that nothing remains hidden from You and that no one can harm us when we acknowledge You before men. We want to be lights for You, boldly sharing Your message of salvation to the world without fear of embarrassment or harm at the hands of men because all they can do is kill the body. But we know that You, Lord, are the eternal judge – the only one who can grant

salvation or cast into hell.

**Saturday, 6/16, Luke 13:** Father, give us a deep desire to continue to grow in our personal relationship with You and with Your Son. Keep us from a false sense of assurance - trusting in our church attendance, cursory reading of Your Word and comfortable Christian relationships rather than digging deep into Scripture, seeking constantly to know more of You and Your will through prayer, study and true Christian fellowship centered around your Son. Then, continue to challenge us to act boldly on Your behalf, sharing your gospel with a lost and broken world in dire need of You. May we never hear You say to us, "I know not where you come from, depart from Me".

**Sunday, 6/17, Luke 14:** Lord, Your kingdom will be filled! You will draw all those to Yourself who are pre-destined to be citizens of heaven without any regard to those things that hold so much worldly importance and value – status, wealth, religiosity, pride, strength, etc. Help us to love and to pursue the undesirables – the broken, the poor, the weak, the sinful and the disconnected. Give us hearts that love others as You first loved us, knowing that obedience to your call to reach the world for You will be costly. It will be uncomfortable, inconvenient and sometimes even dangerous, but the final reward will be glorious!

**Monday, 6/18, Luke 15:** The key to this chapter is the first 2 verses and the gracious, loving, over the top forgiving Father. The religious hierarchy is upset because Jesus socializes with sinners, with those who are open in their rebellion against God. Jesus' three parables should move us to be a friend of sinners. Pray that God would give you a heart of love and grace for those who do not know the Savior. Also that they will learn of His grace, as we are gracious to them.

**Tuesday, 6/19, Luke 16:** "You cannot serve God and mammon (money, things, the things money brings us)" Luke 16:13. Pray that God would show you the power of things and the necessity of trusting in Him only. Fasting is an excellent tool in overcoming those good gifts

that God gives which can be easily mistaken for God.

**Wednesday, 6/20, Luke 17:** Pray for a heart of service that does not need to be thanked, coddled, or pampered. Pray for a heart that says, whatever you need, I'm here to serve, Luke 17:7-10. Slaves forgive – that's just what they do. It's expected and really doesn't take great faith – just obedience. That's just what we do. We are commanded to. Pray that you would have a good forgiver and good forgetter. Pray that God would help you understand and know that He has forgiven you far more, a million times more, than you will need to forgive anyone else. This is hard. This is work. This takes prayer. This results in massive joy.

**Thursday, 6/21, Luke 18:** Pray today. Pray in your spare moments. Pray about the same thing. Luke 18:1 – we ought to pray at all times and not lose heart. God is a good Father and we are His chosen sons and daughters. He loves to give to those who ask. Make a list of requests and pray. Pray with friends, pray for others, but whatever you do today – pray.

**Friday, 6/22, Luke 19:** Luke 19:10 – the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost. The same sentiment is in chapter 15 – seek, look, find the lost. Don't be satisfied with a few non-Christian friends. Seek them out where they are to be found. Pray for a heart of seeking. Pray that you will over-look any inconvenience and seek. Pray for passion. Pray that the realities of hell and the glories of Christ will inflame your heart so that you will seek and seek and seek to save the lost.

**Saturday, 6/23, Luke 20:** In the first 8 verses Jesus exposes the inner working of the priests and scribes and elders. They never really took a heartfelt look at Jesus and His message – they were only worried about their position and what others thought of them. Ask God to search your heart and to help you know your motives. Ask God to show Himself to you in the Word: deeply, searchingly, carefully and gloriously.

**Sunday, 6/24, Luke 21:** Jesus is clearly calling us to pray for strength to

endure persecution. And when we ask, He gives. He loves to give grace to endure. We live in a radically strange time for believers. We enjoy freedom, material prosperity, incredible buildings, copies of the Bible, biblical scholarship at every turn, books, music, etc. This is not normal. Normal is open persecution. Therefore, we must pray for strength.

**Monday, 6/25, Luke 22:** This wasn't THE day of preparation but in another sense it was. Judas Iscariot prepared to betray Jesus. Jesus had the Passover meal prepared so that he could eat it with his disciples. Jesus instituted the Communion Meal for the church. Jesus prepared his disciples to be servants. He prepared Simon Peter for testing and the disciples for missions. He prepared himself for his ultimate mission by praying. And so the mission began as he allowed himself to be taken to the High Priest's house.

**Tuesday, 6/26, Luke 23:** Jesus endured mocking, abuse and torture as he went from the High Priest's house to the Council to Pilate. Pilate said, "I find no guilt in this man" and sent him to Herod. Herod sent him back to Pilate. Pilate wanted to release him but gave in to the cries of the crowd and released a criminal instead. He delivered Jesus to be crucified. It was the most horrible day in history as the Son of God was crucified, but it was also the most glorious day in history as the Son of God conquered death and offered redemption to man.

**Wednesday, 6/27, Luke 24:** On the first day of the week the women came to the tomb and found it empty! Jesus revealed himself to two disciples going to Emmaus. He ate with them and taught them that all Scripture spoke of him. The risen Lord Jesus then showed himself to his disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem. He suddenly appeared and ate with them and opened their minds to understand Scripture. There is a pattern established here. When we believers gather together to eat and discuss God's Word, our minds are opened to understand. Pray about joining a Life Group where this happens.

**Thursday, 6/28, Acts 1:** Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for

the promised Holy Spirit and then ascends to heaven. They were told that he would return in the same way. As about 120 disciples waited in the upper room, they prayed together. It was decided to select someone to take the place of Judas Iscariot who had died a gruesome death after he betrayed Jesus. Matthias was chosen to take Judas's place. It is important to pray about small decisions in our lives as well as important decisions.

**Friday, 6/29, Acts 2:** When Pentecost arrived, the disciples were gathered together. Suddenly there was a sound like a mighty rushing wind, tongues as of fire rested on them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit who enabled them to speak in the languages of those who were gathered in Jerusalem. They spoke about the mighty works of God. Peter, in the power of the Holy Spirit, gave a powerful message that convicted those who heard it of sin. Three thousand people heard and responded. They began eating together and listening to God's Word. We need to speak to others about God's mighty works.

**Saturday, 6/30, Acts 3:** Peter and John went to the temple and healed a lame man. People came running to them and Peter preached another sermon. He explained that he and John hadn't healed the man through their own power but that because of Peter and John's faith, God had healed him. Peter explained that Scripture pointed to Jesus and that they had rejected him and killed him. Peter said that God has raised Jesus from the dead and now their response should be to repent and turn to Jesus Christ. We too need to turn from sin and repent.

**Sunday, 7/1, Acts 4:** The authorities were so annoyed that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus being resurrected, that they had them put into custody overnight. The next day the religious leaders asked Peter and John where they got the power to heal the lame man. Peter seized the opportunity to again testify about the saving power of Jesus. They were charged not to speak about Jesus but Peter said, "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Pray that God will give you boldness to tell others about Jesus Christ.