2018 Prayer Guide
January 7-27, 2018

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

This guide walks through The Lord’s Prayer, an every day prayer focus, and a daily prayer focus. Scripture is connected to each of the areas of prayer, which will help you tie your prayer life to God’s word. To make your prayer time even more meaningful, you can write notes and prayer requests and play worship music. The important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer.

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

Creating a lifestyle of prayer

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. —Mark 1:35

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

Have a certain time
Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it’s first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

Have a certain place
Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

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

We recite The Lord's Prayer on Sunday mornings, but there is so much more to this prayer. This prayer isn't simply about what we should pray, as it is how we should pray. Jesus gave us this model to teach us how to pray, so that we will be effective in connecting with God and empowering us to to accomplish great things in prayer through Him. This model takes us through each part of The Lord’s Prayer, showing us how to pray the way Jesus instructed.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. —Luke 11:1

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” —Matthew 6:9-13

1. Connect with God Relationally

“Our Father in Heaven”

God isn’t interested in us practicing religion; instead, He desires a relationship with us. God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Father. Starting our prayer time acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well.

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.” —Romans 8:15

Proclaim your intimate relationship with God, addressing Him lovingly as your Father and thanking Him that you are His child.

PRAYER:
“Father, I come to You in prayer today thankful that I am Your child. I know I am a sinner, but You have forgiven me and adopted me as Your own, and I am so grateful to call you my Father. Thank you for loving me. I love you.”

2. Worship His Name

“Hallowed Be Your Name”

God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His Name. Here is a list of some of His Names to help us worship Him specifically and personally:

God is Righteousness – He makes us clean
God is Sanctifier – He has called us and set us apart
God is Healer – He heals all our diseases
God is Banner of Victory – He defeated our enemies
God is Shepherd – He speaks to us and leads us
God is Peace – He is our peace in every storm
God is Provider – He supplies all of our needs
The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. —Proverbs 18:10

Speak God’s Names out loud. When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is.

PRAYER:
“God, I am in awe of You. Your Name is a strong tower, a place of protection and safety for me. I praise You as my Healer, my Shepherd, and my Banner of Victory. You are my Peace, my Provider, my Righteousness, and my Sanctifier. Your Name is great, and I worship You.”

3. Pray His Agenda First

“Our Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”

Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first.

He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. Luke 12:31 TLB

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

• Saving the lost
• Wisdom and guidance for those in authority – parental, spiritual, governmental, work-related
• Accomplishing His purpose in our lives

PRAYER:
“God, I recognize there is no better plan on earth than Yours, and I pray for Your will to be done in my life (name the areas of your life where you need more of God’s presence today) and in our world. This world is lost and needs You desperately, and I pray for every person to know You as their personal Lord and Savior. I pray for the leaders in my life (pray specifically over parents, spiritual leaders, government leaders, employers, and any other leaders in your life), that you would give them supernatural wisdom and discernment as they lead. Give them a revelation of Your will and Your purpose for them. And I give my life to You again today; have Your way in my life! Anything You want to do in me or through me, I will do. I ask today for wisdom and clarity as you show me my next steps.”

4. Depend on Him for Everything

“Give us this day our daily bread”

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

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! —Psalm 121:1-2 NLT

Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. You can bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. It may help to open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him. Problems can either be ours or God's; they can’t be both.
PRAYER:
“Father, I acknowledge that everything I need today will come from You. You made the heavens and the earth; You are more than capable of handling any situation I’m dealing with, so I give it to You completely (specifically talk to God about what is on your mind and heart right now and give it to Him). I look to you to help me, sustain me, and give me Your peace. Remind me of Your hope and power today. Thank You in advance for taking care of my needs.”

5. Forgive and Be Forgiven

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

God has offered us complete forgiveness, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins and receive His forgiveness, our hearts are more prepared to forgive others as well.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:9

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

PRAYER:
“God, thank You so much for offering me the gift of forgiveness. Show me any areas in my life that I need to bring before You in order to receive forgiveness and healing. I confess that I have been struggling with sin (talk to God about any areas of sin in your life), and I know that You want me to be clean again. Please forgive me for my sin. Thank You for showing me unfailing grace. As You have so freely forgiven me, I also want to freely forgive others. Please help me let go of all of my offenses. I release to You those who have hurt me, and I trust You to handle those situations according to Your perfect will.”

6. Engage in Spiritual Warfare

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us. As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory through Jesus as we’re empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God’s Word, and every lie the enemy has told us can be replaced with God’s truth.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. —Ephesians 6:12

By recognizing that the enemy wants to destroy you, you can shed light on his lies and claim God’s truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you’re believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Ask Him to expose the enemy and to help you understand and receive His truth. Simply speaking the Name of Jesus has great power in the spiritual realm. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Through prayer, we can resist him and walk forward in freedom.

PRAYER:
“God, I recognize that my struggles today aren’t against the people or circumstances around me, but against the enemy. Please help me to see how the enemy is lying to me. Help me to recognize his lies, take them captive, and make all of my thoughts obedient to the truth of Your Word (list out any specific areas God shows
you where you have believed a lie that needs to be replaced with His truth). While the enemy wants to destroy me, I know that You came to give me life to the fullest. I speak the name of Jesus over my life and declare that no weapon formed against me will prosper. I don’t have to fear the enemy because the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.”

7. Express Faith in God’s Ability

“For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

God is more than able to move in every situation, and ending our prayer time claiming His authority and power focuses our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do.

Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You. —Jeremiah 32:17

Remind yourself of God’s limitless power and then return to praising Him and declaring your faith in Him:

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

PRAYER:
“Father God, nothing is too hard for You! Through Your great power, all things are possible. All authority is Yours, all might is Yours, and I know that Your victory will be complete. You are amazing, and I worship You. I praise You for Your power and presence in my life. You are my God, and You are worthy of all praise.”

Notes:
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Every Day Prayer Focus

- Humble ourselves. Asking for forgiveness for our sins and the sins of our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- Seeking God. Declaring our dependence on God in every area of our lives. (1 Chronicles 16:11)
- His Kingdom Come. Praying for the completion of the Great Commission and for revival in our generation. (Matthew 6:10)
- Hear from Heaven. Invite the Presence of God in our church and our lives. Pray for souls to be saved, signs, wonders, miracles, and transformed lives. (Exodus 33:15)
- Believing God for answered prayer to our specific needs – Connection Cards, Pastoral Care Update Cards, and prayer requests. (Philippians 4:6)
- Praying for people to take next steps in their journey of faith to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose, and Make a Difference. (Ephesians 1:17-18)

Daily Prayer Focus

Day 1 – (Church service prayer)
Day 2 – Our Leaders – Nation, State, and City (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
Day 3 – Our Pastors, church staff, life group leaders, dream teamers (1 Thessalonians 5:12)
Day 4 – Our Cities – GB (NE WI), Appleton (Fox Valley), and Stevens Point (Central WI) (Jeremiah 29:7)
Day 7 – Our International Missions – the Gospel in Myanmar, Andaman Islands, India, Water Well Nations, Going Global, unreached people groups, church planting, leadership development (Matthew 24:14)

Day 8 – (Church service prayer)
Day 9 – The Lost – services, family members (Romans 8:15)
Day 10 – Life Groups – leaders, members, real life change (Hebrews 10:24-25)
Day 11 – Growth Track & Dream Team – leadership development, covering over leaders, fresh vision (Phil 1:6)
Day 12 – Children and Youth (Psalm 127:3-5)
Day 13 – Families and marriages (Proverbs 24:3-4)
Day 14 – Transition One (Matthew 9:37-38)

Day 15 – (Church service prayer)
Day 16 – My Church – Vision for 2018, debt reduction, campuses, finances, leaders (Matthew 16:18)
Day 17 – My Vision for 2018 – fresh vision, dreams fulfilled, making a difference (Proverbs 21:30)
Day 18 – My Place of Influence – home, workplace, school (Matthew 5:13-14)
Day 19 – My Freedom – personal freedom, breakthrough in every area (Isaiah 54:17)
Day 20 – My Needs – finances, health, family members to be saved and other personal needs (1 Peter 5:7)
Day 21 – (Closing prayer service)
My Government

President ________________________________________________________________

National Leaders __________________________________________________________

State Leaders ____________________________________________________________

City Leaders _____________________________________________________________

My Family

Spouse ________________________________________________________________

Children ______________________________________________________________

Parents ________________________________________________________________

Siblings ________________________________________________________________

Extended Family ________________________________________________________

My Church

Pastors ________________________________________________________________

Life Group Leader ______________________________________________________

Life Group Members ____________________________________________________

My Life

Employer ______________________________________________________________

Co-Workers ____________________________________________________________

Employees ____________________________________________________________

Teachers/Professors _____________________________________________________

Close Friends __________________________________________________________

Those Who Need God

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