

# A Simple Prayer Guide

I am excited about this week...and also a little intimidated.

*“Pray for a week? What does that mean? What does that look like*

Great questions! And we offer no answers other than the following thoughts...

- Enjoy God
- Spend time with God
- Listen to God

## **Here are some suggestions to consider in fulfilling the above:**

1. Use these pages as a devotional guide each day to give you some direction in praying and listening to God
2. Join with others during the week to pray and share what God is saying
3. Spend an extended time alone with God in prayer (away from your usual routine)
4. Journal your thoughts throughout the week
5. Skip a meal for a day...or two or more meals during the week...and use that time to feast in prayer or Bible reading (or choose to replace the time you'd spend on another habit with time in prayer)

Bottom line? Allow God to direct your time today or this week.

Enjoy Him!

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## **Sunday – Thank You, God!**

It's easy to ask for things. In fact, because of the affluence of our culture we effortlessly fall prey to a common disease: demanding and expecting what we want, when we want it.

There is a cure, however. Be thankful! Since God is the giver of all good things, He alone deserves our complete attention and gratitude. And since God lovingly keeps us from attaining certain things, He alone is to be appreciated.

Today, look around at all that God has given you, and be thankful. Thank God for meeting your daily needs and for supplying you with family and friends. And consider all that you have wanted that God has not allowed you to have, and be thankful. Believe it or not – it's for the best!

Mostly...thank God.

## **Prayer starters...**

- Thank God for what He has done in your life, in the lives of those around you, in your family, in your small group, in your church
- Thank God for how He has provided for you: physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually
- Thank God for how He has protected you
- Thank God for how He has comforted you
- Thank God for how He has encouraged you
- Thank God for how He has answered your prayers
- Thank God for who He has brought into your life

*"You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 118:28,29)*

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## Monday – Seeking the lost

Ever been caught off-guard when someone wants to know more about your faith? Maybe it is their willingness to learn about Jesus that surprises you or their interest in what our church is doing in the community. We need hearts that ache for those who don't know Jesus personally. Why? Because people matter to God, and God wants to use us to reach out to those He has placed in our lives.

This week, walk around wide-eyed, looking at people and praying for them with a heart that believes God will reach them, and that He wants to use us in the process!

### Prayer starters...

- Pray for our community, city, nation to be impacted by the gospel
- Your schools in your community
- Your workplace
- Your friends
- Your family members
- Your neighbors
- The Simple Church

*“Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord, and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way.” (1 Peter 3:15, TLB)*

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## Tuesday - Involved with people

Being connected is vitally important to our spiritual health. Without developing intimate relationships with other Christians and serving one another, our connection to Christ and the church is weakened. We need one another.

In fact, one way to connect with others is to practice the “one another’s:”

- Love one another (John 13:34,35; Galatians 5:14)
- Encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Give preference to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be kind to one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Have concern for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Be kind, compassionate, forgiving one other (Ephesians 4:32)
- Carry one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Don’t judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- Don’t slander one another (James 4:11)
- Don’t provoke one another (Galatians 5:26)

Are you connected? Are you helping others connect?

### Prayer starters...

- Pray for an opportunity to practice the “one another’s.”
- Pray for our church to “connect”

*“Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves.”  
(Romans 12:10 NCV)*

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## Wednesday – Growing in my relationship

Are we learning? Are we leading? Are we growing?

I can't be the only one who hungers to grow...only to find myself struggling to follow-through on commitments I wholeheartedly made. Finishing strong is a hurdle we all face. But it's also one we have to clear. Why?

We need to grow. And others need us to grow so that we can train them. Then those who are trained need inspiration to train others...who will only continue the process.

That's called discipleship, and it's revealed in 2 Timothy 2:2.

*You should teach people whom you can trust the things you and many others have heard me say. Then they will be able to teach others. (NCV)*

Keep growing...and praying for the growth of those God entrusts to you.

### Prayer starters...

- What step of faith is God asking you to take?
- What is God teaching you in your times alone with Him?
- What people has God placed on your heart? How can you encourage them to grow?
- What role does God want you to take in discipling others?
- Pray for those who are helping you grow
- What area of your life is God working on right now?
- Pray for our church to "grow"

*Jesus told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this--that I am with you always, even to the end of the world." (Matthew 28:18-20 TLB)*

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## Thursday – To be Used by God

*“Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27 TLB)*

God is at work...all of the time. And it's safe to say that as long as we're breathing, He's not through with us yet. So look around. Open your eyes to the possibilities. What is God's next mission field for you? Will you be ready to respond when God wants to use you to take The Simple Church to the next level?

You? Yes! God has called Justin to lead our church. And He has placed the other ministers in place to lead our church ministries. But God has called all of us to obey Him. That means His plans for our lives may be radically different than any of us originally thought.

### Prayer starters...

- What dreams has God placed on your heart?
- What's one skill you believe God wants you to learn?
- Who is someone who needs to be invited to serve in ministry?
- What people can use your encouragement as they serve the Lord?
- What changes can be made to most effectively impact each of our ministries?
- Who can you encourage in their ministry?
- How's the condition of your heart as you serve?
- Pray for our people to continue to “discover” what the Lord has for them ...

*“Do your work with enthusiasm. Work as if you were serving the Lord, not as if you were serving only men and women.” (Ephesians 6:7 NCV)*

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## Friday – Honoring God

What does it mean to honor God?

**honor** \Hon"or\, n. [Written also [honour](#).] 1. Esteem due or paid to worth; high estimation; respect; consideration; reverence; veneration; manifestation of respect or reverence.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1,2)*

*Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies. (Psalm 60:11,12)*

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. (Psalm 20:7)*

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his Temple; praise him in his mighty heaven.  
Praise him for his strength; praise him for his greatness.  
Praise him with trumpet blasts; praise him with harps and lyres.  
Praise him with tambourines and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes.  
Praise him with loud cymbals; praise him with crashing cymbals.  
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150)*

### Prayer starters...

- Ask God to reveal to you what it means to worship Him throughout the day
- What is God teaching you about worship?
- Ask God to continue to stretch your understanding of worship
- Ask God to take you to a new level of understanding of worship in the months to come
- Be still and know that He is God
- Pray for our church to "honor" God

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## Saturday – Take the next step

*Frozen.*

*Still.*

*Paralyzed.*

*Intimidated.*

*Overwhelmed.*

*Scared.*

The above words are a sad description of many believers who want to move forward with the Lord but are afraid. Afraid to take the next step God is inviting them to take...afraid they'll fail.

Why? Because they do not know our God. Sure, they may claim to believe in Him, to trust Him, to love Him...but those words do not describe a love relationship with a living, loving God.

But these words do:

*Eager.*

*Ready.*

*Excited.*

*Strong.*

*Confident.*

Which set describes you today? Which set would you like to describe your year? Your life?

Ready to take the next step?

### **Prayer starters...**

- God, what is my next step in my relationship with You?
- God, what is my next step in my relationship with others?
- God, what is my next step in my ministry for You?
- Pray for our church to obey as God leads us to take the next step

*“Be strong and courageous.” (Deuteronomy 31:6,7,23; Joshua 1:6,9,18; 10:25; 1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 32:7)*