God has created us to enjoy communion with Him, and He with us. The story woven throughout the Scriptures is that this communion was frustrated by sin entering the world through Adam and Eve's rebellion and disobedience. We have lived in brokenness, cut off from the One we were created to be close to but God has been in the process of reconciling the world to Himself and making all things new. This has been done through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As we start the month of prayer, allow the overarching story of Scripture to stir up your love for God and lead you into a heart of worship and reflection. Use these short Scripture readings and reflections as a way to direct your focus for prayer each day.

### Feb 3: Trinity

But for us, there is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. 1 Corinthians 8:6 (NLT)

We begin with God. He exists at the beginning and through Him everything else has it's being. It is only as we turn our eyes to Him do we begin to make sense of everything else. God is love (1 Jn. 4:8). He is love because His very nature is relational. The Father and Son and Holy Spirit share this intimate connection of relationship. God is a loving and relational God.

*With this in mind, begin our month of prayer by meditating on the nature of God, asking God to speak to you about His nature and about His love.*

*Take time today to allow God to reveal something about His nature to you that you maybe never stopped to consider before.*

### Feb 4: Creation

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

God has created us in His image. As a relational and loving God He creates us to relate and to love. We may not be the extroverted wear-your-emotions-out-in-the-open kind of person, but that doesn't mean we are not relational beings. We may relate differently but we are all meant to be in relationship. And the primary relationship we are formed for is relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Take time today to cultivate relationship with your Heavenly Father. Talk to Him about what's on your mind. Let Him know how your day is going. He already knows, of course, but He enjoys relationship in similar ways that we enjoy relationship.

*We know that God has opened a way for us and that we don't have to be lost in our sin, but before jumping ahead in the narrative of the Gospel, take time today to understand the weight of sin, especially your sin.*

*If there are unconfessed sins in your life, spend time confessing the sins the Holy Spirit may bring to mind.*

### Feb 5: Isolation

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

The problem with sin is that it separates us from God. He is Holy and righteous and cannot keep communion with people who are now in open rebellion. God instituted an entire Law for the people of Israel as a means to draw close to them and they were not able to keep the requirements of that Law. The prophet Ezekiel calls it a heart problem (Eze. 11:19). This is especially problematic because we cannot love God with our hearts if our hearts are made of stone.

*We know that God has opened a way for us and that we don't have to be lost in our sin, but before jumping ahead in the narrative of the Gospel, take time today to understand the weight of sin, especially your sin.*

*If there are unconfessed sins in your life, spend time confessing the sins the Holy Spirit may bring to mind.*

### Feb 6: Reconciliation

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:21-22 (NIV)
Reconciliation means the restoring of a friendly relationship. We were the enemies of God, cast out of His presence because of sin and cursed with death, but through Jesus’ death we are being reconciled to God. Like a bad relationship in the family that is being miraculously repaired, God has done all the heavy lifting of making things right. He isn’t begrudgingly receiving us back, the doors are flung wide open.

*If you are already living in this reconciled relationship, take some time today to give thanks for all that God has given you in Jesus.

*If you have yet to receive Christ’s forgiveness and reconciliation, today is the day! Tell him you realize your need for His forgiveness and that you receive His love and leadership in your life.

Feb 7: Humility

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Philippians 2:5-8 (MSG)

The mode through which God brings about the open door to relationship with Him is through the selfless humility of Jesus. This isn’t that another lesser created being stepped up to do the job. Jesus, being God, willingly stepped into the role. He became a man, fully, setting aside all the privilege of deity and took our sin and our sentence on Himself. This is the picture of love. This is the picture of humility and vulnerability.

* Spend time today in quiet reflection of the humility of Jesus.

* Ask God to help you have this same attitude of humility.

Feb 8: Salvation

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men… Titus 2:11 (NKJV)

Salvation from sin, reconciliation with God, welcomed home into His family – this is the fruit of Jesus’ life and death. His resurrection is the proof of it. This isn’t about being a good person, this is about trusting in the grace of God and receiving this good and perfect gift. If we are relying on our own goodness, we have no hope, our best efforts are like filthy rags (Isa. 64:6). In this we are all equal. We all must come to God by faith in Jesus, through grace. And grace, by faith that God is who He says He is and Jesus has done what the Scriptures claim He has done, is the basis for real and genuine love. God loved us first.

Feb 9: Anticipation

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. Romans 8:22-23 (NLT)

God has placed eternity in our hearts (Eccl. 3:11). We are longing for something greater. Just as a baby being born is painful, there is a greater joy to follow.

* If you are lacking joy, ask God to restore to you the joy of salvation and the hope of what He is doing.

* Ask God to stir up excitement for what He wants to do in you.

* Ask God to reveal to you the message of His grace. Let your heart be stirred by the overwhelming love of God for you.

* Look for opportunity to share this Good News with someone whom God has brought into your life.

Month of Prayer

be with HIM
be like HIM