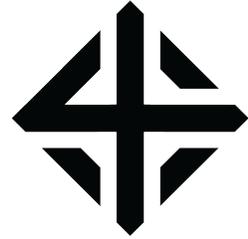


# Week of April 6th

## Psalm 67



THE CHURCH AT  
**4POINTS**

### Prayer Guide

This prayer guide is meant to help you facilitate a guided prayer time based on the discussion of the Word. You can be flexible in how this is used but we do want to pray in response to God's Word and collectively as a church for certain request. Remember, in communal prayer we are not a bunch of individuals having individual conversations with God and only taking turns doing so. We are having a communal conversation with God. Help remind people to "share the time" by being mindful of the length of prayers while also reminding them to pray as many times as they would like.

Facilitate through the following prayer topics:

- Praise God for the blessing both physically and spiritually He has given to us. Use Ephesians 1 as a guide to praise Him for all the ways He has blessed us "in Christ".
- Confess ways you have used the blessings of God for your own purposes and not for God's
- Ask God to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others and His Name may be known
- Pray for anyone in your circle of influence you can "bless" this week
- Ask for God to call out and send more people from our church who will go and be a blessing to the nations without the hope of the gospel

Collective prayer request this week: (this will feature a request for our church, city, or world that our whole church will be praying over. Encourage everyone to write this down somewhere or make a note and continue to pray for it each day)

-Pray that our church would grow in the appreciation of the depth of God's mercy- and that this would crush any lingering feelings of self-righteousness. Pray that we would show mercy to each other- forgiving the small things, the big things, and the things that seem to happen again and again. As a Missional Family, choose one of our mission partners to pray for this week. Pray for God to bless them so they may be blessing to the lost around them.

### Discover

"I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity."

— David Livingstone

What are your first thoughts when you hear that quote? Does this quote remind you of anyone you've known? How would you describe that person?

Today we will look at how our blessings should fuel our involvement in God's mission. For that, we will turn to Psalms.

*READ Psalms 67*

### Discuss

Psalm 67:1-2 is a near word for word repetition of the priestly blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26. *\*Have someone read Numbers 6:24-26.*

*1. What are the key differences between the priestly blessing in Numbers and the first two verses of Psalm 67?*

In Numbers, the Israelites are being prayed over by Aaron. In this psalm, the psalmist is asking God directly for blessing. The other difference is that not only does the Psalmist pray for God's blessing for himself, but also that all the nations would be blessed by seeing God for who He is.

*2. When you read verses 1 and 2, why does the psalmist ask for God's blessing on his own people?*

*3. What specifically does the psalmist request of God on behalf of the nations or "peoples"? \*His ways, His saving power*

In this prayer, we see that God's people view their blessings from God as a means by which the world would see who God is. This was not a new idea created in the psalm, but rather a calling on Israel that is foundational to the biblical story.

*4. Have someone look up Genesis 12:2-3. What does this passage tell us about Israel's role in the world?*

Abraham's people are blessed by God for the purpose of becoming a blessing to the entire world.

*5. Have someone look up Exodus 19:6. How does God describe Israel?*

In this passage, God describes Israel as a kingdom of priests. A priest would have served as an intermediary. That is, they would have served as the "go between" for God and the unbelieving nations of the world. Their role was to bring people to God and to represent God to the world.

*6. Finally, have someone look up and read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How are believers described in the same way that Israel was described? What blessings have we received?*

The same language is now used of Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ that was used of Israel. We are a royal priesthood. Disciple making among unbelieving people groups is not, therefore, simply something we do. It is who we are. It is an identity before it is an activity. Like the Israelites, God has blessed us, spiritually and materially, in order to bless the nations through introducing them to who He is, that they may see and experience His saving power. As the church, we are a blessed priesthood meant to bring people to God through the message of Christ and to be a people who are representing God to the world by the way we live.

*7. This psalm views Israel as a conduit through which God's blessing flows to unbelieving people. In what specific ways has God blessed you, both seen and unseen? How can those blessings be used to bless the unbelieving nations?*

*8. In our flesh, we are prone to fashion idols out of God's good gifts. In what ways can those blessings you just mentioned actually become idols and get in the way of reaching unbelieving people with the gospel?*

*9. As a missional family, how well are we fulfilling our role of bringing people to God? How about in our role of representing God to the world? \*Are we developing relationships with unbelievers, are we sacrificially serving those around us, etc.*

*9. Have you ever genuinely prayed, with open hands, and asked God if you were called to cross cultural missions among a people group with little or no access to the knowledge of God? If so, how do you feel He responded? If not, why do you think you never have? Be specific.*

**Do**

This week, take the time to list as many ways you can think of that God has blessed you, both in seen and unseen ways. With that list in view, begin praying and asking God which of your blessings you have not been using to advance the knowledge of His “saving power” among the nations, and commit to begin better using that blessing. Share with your DNA group or Missional Family what you feel God is calling you to.