

## HOW TO USE THIS DAILY PRAYER GUIDE:

This *Daily Prayer Guide* has been created to help you join in the 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting with guided daily themes and Scriptures to ground and inspire your prayers. This is intended to be a guide not a burden, as soon as you sense the Holy Spirit direct you in additional ways follow the prompting of the Lord in prayer.

## HOW SHOULD I PRAY?

This “season” of prayer and fasting covers 40 days, and it might be helpful to have some structure—like a scaffolding—to hang your prayers on as you go.

We suggest that, each day as you come to prayer, you may want to follow a simple, 4-step process inspired by Jeremiah 6:16a based on the words - *stand, look, ask, and walk*:

*This is what the Lord says: “**Stand** at the crossroads and **look**; **ask** for the ancient paths, **ask** where the good way is, and **walk** in it, and you will find **rest** for your souls”*(Jeremiah 6:16a). Remember as you pray to **stand, look, ask, and walk** – these are our guide words throughout this prayer adventure.

1. **STAND** – Take 30 seconds of silence or worship to become aware of the presence of Jesus.
2. **LOOK** – Pray the prayer, “Come, Holy Spirit” and read the daily Scripture.
3. **ASK** – Pray the Prayer Prompts for each day with confidence.
4. **WALK** – Read the Responding to God section, act as led, and say “Thank You, Holy Spirit” for guiding your time.

## 3 AREAS OF PRAYER

This Guide will lead you through welcoming the Holy Spirit as you partner with God in prayer in 3 areas:

- Your personal life (10 days)
- Your local church and community (10 days)
- Our city, state and country (20 days)

# PRAYER FOR YOUR PERSONAL LIFE

## Day 1 – Identity in Christ–Galatians 4:6-7

### **Galatians 4:6-7 (NLT)**

*And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that God would open your understanding that you are a child of God, and that you are no longer a slave to sin.

### **Responding to God**

Write out 5 ways that knowing you are a child of God changes your relationship with God.

## Day 2 – Personal and Family Needs–Isaiah 44:3

### **Isaiah 44:4 (NLT)**

*For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Review areas where you and/or your family have need for refreshing and provision. Pray for those areas.

### **Responding to God**

Write what provision/blessings you requested from the Lord today.

## Day 3 – Fellowship with the Holy Spirit – 2 Corinthians 13:14

### 2 Corinthians 13:14 (AMP)

*The grace (favor and spiritual blessing) of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the presence and fellowship (the communion and sharing together, and participation) in the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (so be it).*

### Prayer Directive

Pray, “Father would you show me how to experience the communion, the sharing together, and the participation I can have with the Holy Spirit?”

### Responding to God

Using [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) or Bible software, search for “Holy Spirit” and see all the ways that the Spirit is available to help you as a Christian.

## Day 4 – Fruit of the Spirit–Galatians 5:22-23

### Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

### Prayer Directive

Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be present in you and your loved ones today.

### Responding to God

From the reading, list the fruits of the Spirit. Next to each fruit, write your name or the name of a loved one who needs that fruit in their lives today.

## Day 5 – Filled with the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 5:15-20

### **Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)**

*Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that your life would be led and filled by the Spirit rather than filled with the things of this world.

### **Responding to God**

What are some areas that you need to be careful how you live, grow in wisdom, or make the most of opportunities. Talk to God about this and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you.

## Day 6 – An Increase in Love—Romans 5:5

### **Romans 5:5 (NLT)**

*And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that the Holy Spirit fill your heart with love in the areas in which you lack love.

### **Responding to God**

Ask the Lord to bring 3 people to mind you can love more. Ask the Lord how you could specifically respond to them in His love today. Write down what you sense He is saying to you.

## Day 7 – Boldness in Faith—Acts 4:29-30

### **Acts 4:29-30 (NIV)**

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray for God to give you great boldness in sharing your faith, and ask Him to do His miraculous work in and through you.

### **Responding to God**

Write down the names of people who God brings to your mind. Take some time and pray for them. Send them a note, a text, an email, or give them a phone call letting them know you were thinking of them and prayed for them. See how they respond and be open to sharing your faith.

# PRAYER FOR YOUR PERSONAL LIFE

## Day 8 Hope for Now and the Future—Romans 8:23

### Romans 8:23 (NLT)

*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.*

### Prayer Directive

Pray for the Kingdom of God to break in with a gift of hope, for you and your loved ones today.

### Responding to God

What would the Lord invite you to “eagerly hope” for in Him today?

## Day 9 Perseverance through Difficulty— 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

### 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (NLT)

*We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.*

### Prayer Directive

Pray that God would deliver you or someone you know from difficulty, despair, danger, or depression. Ask God to help you or someone you know to stop relying on self and learn to rely only on Him.

### Responding to God

If you prayed for someone else, write them a short note and let them know you prayed for them.

**Day 10**  **Joy in the Holy Spirit—Romans 14:17**

**Romans 14:17 (NLT)**

*For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

**Prayer Directive**

Ask your heavenly Father for the joy of the Holy Spirit to saturate you today.

**Responding to God**

Begin to list the blessings and provisions that God has poured into your life.

**PRAYER FOR RIVERBEND COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Day 11**  **Devoted to Prayer—Colossians 4:2**

**Colossians 4:2 (NIV)**

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

**Prayer Directive**

Pray that our church would be deeply committed to seeking God in prayer.

“Jesus, twice You cleared the Temple in righteous anger, because Your house was to be a house of prayer. Help us not to take that lightly. Lord, direct us to our knees, and seal our commitment and desire to be devoted to communing with You in prayer. Let our church be known as a house of prayer. Keep us awake, alert. Fill our hearts with joy, no matter the circumstances as we come to You as a church body in prayer. Amen.”

**Responding to God**

Ask the Lord how you can encourage another brother or sister in our church to join you in seeking God in prayer. Write down what you sense He brings to your mind.

## Day 12 Cling to our First Love—Revelation 2:4-5

### Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT)

*But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me, and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.*

### Prayer Directive

Pray that we will cling to our first love.

“Jesus, we can only love because You first loved us. You gave Yourself for us. We are Your body. We are nothing without You. Do not allow us as a church to take You or Your message of redemption for granted. Deepen our love. Show us how to love. We proclaim as a church that we love You! You are our God! We want no one but You! Show us where we have failed. Bring us to repentance. Forgive us! You are our first, and only love, dear Jesus.”

### Responding to God

Ask the Lord to reveal to you anything, or anyone, you have put a higher priority on than Him. What is the Lord revealing to you about your priorities?

## Day 13 Discipleship of all Ages—Colossians 1:28-29

### Colossians 1:28-29 (NLT)

*So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.*

### Prayer Directive



Pray for the church's dedication and perseverance to lead believers on to maturity in discipleship, total obedience to Jesus.

### **Responding to God**

Who are you discipling (simply saying, "Come, obey Jesus with me")?

Who is discipling you (they are simply saying, "Come, obey Jesus with me")?

## **Day 14 - The Vulnerable and Marginalized— Matthew 25:37-40**

### **Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV)**

*Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"*

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that God would show you how you can personally engage with the poor and the marginalized in your own city. Ask God to show you how to invite others in our church to join you.

### **Responding to God**

Look for opportunities to volunteer and serve others in need in your city. Write down who you could invite to join with you.

**Day 15 – 2/5 – Individuals and Families in our Church – 2 Thessalonians 2:13**

**2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NLT)**

As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.

**Prayer Directive**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on brothers, sisters, families, and individuals in our church.

**Responding to God**

Write a note to a few people to tell them you prayed for them today.

**Day 16 – 2/6 – Trust in Christ Grows His Church-Matthew 16:18**

**Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

**Prayer Directive**

Pray that the church will trust Jesus to grow the church, in His way and in His power. "Jesus, build us, strengthen us, grow our faith. This is YOUR church. You created us. We are Yours. Use this church as YOU will, not as we will. Do what only You can do. We claim this promise: the forces of Hell will not overcome Your church. We stand in faith, covered in Your armor and armed with Your Word. You are our source of life and strength. We find sure footing, security and victory in the all-powerful, supreme King of Kings and Lord of Lords— Our Savior Jesus Christ! It's in Your almighty name we pray, Amen."

**Responding to God**

Write down 3 areas/ministries of our church that the Lord brings to your mind that you can pray for specifically today.

## Day 17 – – Finances and Provision–2 Corinthians 9:6-8

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (MSG)

*Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.*

### Prayer Directive

Father, as the future of our church's location is uncertain at this time, we ask that You would go before us, prepare the way, unite our hearts, and provide for us a place that can be used by You to gather and grow together in You Jesus, encourage and equip one another, and point our families and community to You for Your glory. I ask Your Spirit to show me how you would want me to help in this process - my gifts, talents, time, and finances are Yours, Lord. Give me a willing and cheerful heart so that I can be generous in giving and supporting my local church.

### Responding to God

Where is the Lord calling you to obedience in giving? Think about how the Lord may be calling you to give over and above your regular giving so that we might be able to reach even more with the love of Jesus.

## Day 18 – – Encouragement of Pastors and Leaders– 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

### 1.Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV)

*Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

### Prayer Directive

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you needs/hopes of pastors, and leaders in our church. Ask the Holy Spirit how you can encourage them in the Lord.

### Responding to God

Which leaders in your church would the Lord invite you to encourage today? Call, text, email, or write a note of encouragement right now.

## Day 19 – – Encountering God in Worship–Psalm 100

### **Psalm 100 (NIV)**

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Take some time to worship God - what are some attributes you are grateful for? Name them out loud. What are some of His good gifts you are grateful for? Offer thanksgiving to your Father.

### **Responding to God**

Put some worship music on and take a few minutes and write a love letter to God. Tell him the things you adore in who He is and what He's done.

## Day 20 – – Asking God What He Wants–Colossians 1:9

### **Colossians 1:9 (NIV)**

*So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Ask the Holy Spirit to give His wisdom and direction to our whole church congregation.

### **Responding to God**

Where do you sense the Lord calling you to stop and seek Him today? Where are you seeking His will specifically today? Take some time today and share that with a friend.

# PRAYER FOR OUR CITY, STATE AND COUNTRY

Day 21 –  – Unity Among All Christians—John 17:20-23

## **John 17:20-23**

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

## **Prayer Directive**

Pray for unity between all Christians. Pray that denominational, theological, and ethnic, economic walls will come down so that we will love each other, pray together, and serve each other

## **Responding to God**

Ask the Lord to bring to your mind or help you meet someone who loves Him and does not go to our church. How could you build unity between the two of you today? How could you live in obedience to Jesus together today?

## Day 22 Spiritual Awakening—Acts 2:37-41

### **Acts 2:37-41 (NIV)**

*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles,*

*“Brothers, what shall we do?”*

*Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

*With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that Jesus will revive the Church and awaken our City to His greatness and supremacy. Pray that God will pour out His Spirit on our City, forgive our sin, and heal our land. Pray that thousands will be convicted by the Holy Spirit, repent of their sins, and turn to God with all their hearts.

### **Responding to God**

Acknowledge before the Lord that an outpouring of repentance and obedience always starts in an individual heart. Ask the Lord to start a revival in your heart today.

## Day 23 Unbelievers to be Saved—2 Peter 3:9

### **2.Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that people’s hearts will be opened to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Savior. Pray that every person will be able to hear the gospel.

### **Responding to God**

Write down the names of three people the Lord brings to your mind, who to the best of your knowledge don’t know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Begin to pray for them daily. If you can’t think of anyone ask the Lord to help you meet people today who don’t know Him yet.

## Day 24 Boldness to Witness—Acts 4:13,19-20

### Acts 4:13,19-20 (NIV)

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus... But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."*

### Prayer Directive

Ask God to give us more boldness to speak up about what we have seen and heard of Jesus. Ask God to help you join with others in our church in courageously sharing your faith in Jesus with others in our city.

### Responding to God

What do people notice or take note about you? Is there anyone in your life who hears you speak about what Jesus is doing in you? What would it look like for all believers in our city to speak more about what Jesus is doing in our lives than we do about our own churches?

## Day 25 Racial Reconciliation—

### Romans 10:12-13; John 7:24; Revelation 7:9

### Romans 10:12-13 (NIV)

*For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

### John 7:24 (NIV)

*Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.*

### Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

*After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

### Prayer Directive

Pray for supernatural humility and reconciliation between people of different ethnic backgrounds, among men, women, and children throughout our city, state, country, world.

### Responding to God

Read through today's scripture again and ask the Spirit to highlight areas of fear, prejudice, or unreconciled attitudes in your own heart. Give those to God as they are revealed to you.

## Day 26 Life to be Valued—Psalm 139:13-16

### **Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)**

*For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made; your works are wonderful, I know that full  
well.*

*My frame was not hidden  
from you when I was made  
in the secret place.*

*When I was woven together in the depths of  
the earth, your eyes saw my unformed  
body.*

*All the days ordained  
for me were written  
in your book before  
one of them came to  
be.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray for life to be valued and protected through all stages of life - from the womb to the tomb. Pray that God would help us to learn how to see the Imago Dei (image of God) in each person we encounter no matter their background, race, sexuality, faith tradition, or whatever else may hinder our view of seeing them as God sees them.

### **Responding to God**

Prayerfully consider if there is someone or a people group you have struggled loving well in the past. Ask God to help you see and love them as He does. Take some time to pray for them, praying blessings over them, and if you feel led, write them a note expressing gratitude for them and what they bring to the world.



## Day 27 Remembering the Poor—Galatians 2:10

### **Galatians 2:10 (NLT)**

*Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that you, our church, and the body of Christ in our city would continue to lead the way by caring for the poor and marginalized through our churches.

### **Responding to God**

How is the Lord inviting you to have “eyes to see” those who are poor around you, and to respond to His invitation for you to care for the “least of these?” Consider serving with Riverbend the next time we serve at Ripple (feeding and serving the homeless community in Allentown).

**Day 28**  **Vibrant Worship in Our City—John 4:23-24**

**John 4:23-24 (NIV)**

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

**Prayer Directive**

Pray and ask God to inhabit the praises of His people in our church and all the churches in the city in a way that honors Him, breaks down dividing walls, and sets people free to know Him and be changed.

**Responding to God**

Take a moment. Invite the Lord to come and show you ways you connect and are changed through worship times. Give thanks.

**Day 29**  **Local, State and National Leaders—  
1 Timothy 2:1-2**

**1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)**

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

**Prayer Directive**

Pray that God will give our local, state and national leaders wisdom to make wise decisions and to govern with integrity, justice, compassion, and mercy.

**Responding to God**

Seek the Lord for a desire to pray for all our leaders even the ones whom you disagree with. What might it look like if the entire body of Christ lifted up each elected leader in prayer? How might God break our hearts and fill us with love and a burden for them?

## Day 30 Spiritual Battle—Ephesians 6:12

### **Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)**

*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.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that God would strengthen you against temptation. Pray that He would teach you to do His will, guiding you. Admit that you cannot do it yourself. Thank God that He can defeat the enemy and bring you victory in HIS NAME.

### **Responding to God**

Write down the struggles you are facing and then pray them back to God. Give them to Him with a heart of worship and thanksgiving—even before you see the victory.

## Day 31 - For Cities to Turn to God—Jonah 3:1-10

### **Jonah 3:1-10 (NIV)**

*Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”*

*Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.*

*When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:*

*By the decree of the king and his nobles:*

*“Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”*

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

**Prayer Directive**

Pray that God would give you the boldness to proclaim His word to those in your sphere of influence. Pray for those in your city who know Jesus to be bold to share the gospel with those around them.

**Responding to God**

Go back to the list of 3 names you wrote down and have been praying for. Ask God for specific ways you can begin sharing the gospel with them. Write down what He tells you. Be prepared to obey.

**Day 32**  **- Against Division—James 3:14-18****James 3:14-18 (NIV)**

*But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

**Prayer Directive**

Ask God to reveal and remove any bitterness, envy, and selfish ambition from your heart. Ask Him to replace those things with wisdom and help you bear the fruit of peace, love, mercy, and righteousness in your church and your city.

**Responding to God**

What are some ways you can promote peace instead of division in your church family? Your workplace? Your city? Think about your conversations that take place with other members of the church family, workplace or city? Do they promote peace? Or do they harbor bitterness, envy or selfish ambition?

## Day 33 - Children in Our City—Luke 18:16

### **Luke 18:16 (NIV)**

*But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray that God would protect the children of our city. Pray over children experiencing trauma from violence in the home or in their neighborhood. Pray over children in foster care, separated from their parents and experiencing loss, grief, and confusion. Pray that each child would know he or she is loved and a unique gift to You.

### **Responding to God**

Find a way to encourage a child in your life through words of encouragement, a small gift (when appropriate) or through a note of encouragement. Make sure to give it when the child's parents are present.

## Day 34 Teens in Our City—Acts 2:17, 1 Timothy 4:12

### **1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)**

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray specifically for the teenagers in our city. Pray that they would come to know the depth of Jesus's love for them. Pray for their friendships. Pray for protection from the temptations of this world that only offer temporary pleasure. Pray that they would experience His new mercies every morning. Pray that they would find their true worth in Christ, and Christ alone.

### **Responding to God**

Write a note of encouragement to our youth pastor or to a teenager in your life. If you do not know a teenager, write a note and give it to our youth pastor to distribute to a teenager as he sees fit.

**Day 35**  **Families in Our City—Psalm 127:1; Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

**Psalm 127:1 (NIV)**

**A song of ascents. Of Solomon.**

*Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*

**Joshua 24:14 (NIV)**

*Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.*

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)**

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

**Prayer Directive**

Thank God for creating and establishing the family. Thank God for creating men and women in His image and the beauty that each bring to this world. May we as the family of God, be a light to this world with the way we love each other and also how we love and care for those in our communities. May we be fathers to the fatherless in the way we provide for the practical needs and support others, offer a mother's heart and tender love and care to all God's children, may those that are single in our midst find belonging, family, support, and care in our presence, and may the children we interact with know they are loved and valued.

**Responding to God**

Ask God to show you someone who could use familial love or support. What are some ways you could live this out? Perhaps invite them over for dinner, or ask if there is a practical need you could help with - babysitting a child, helping fix something around the house, offering a college student a home-cooked meal.

## Day 36 - Elderly in Our City—Job 12:12

### **Job 12:12 (NIV)**

*Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?*

### **Prayer Directive**

Thank God for the elderly in your life, in your church, and in your city. Pray for them as they navigate their current stage in life. Ask God to give grace to those that find it difficult to come to terms with other people caring for them. Pray that God would draw them into a closer relationship with Him, showing them that they have purpose and wisdom to give to younger generations.

### **Responding to God**

Find a way to love and encourage someone who is elderly in your life. Call, write, or spend time with them in a meaningful way.

## Day 37 Neighborhood Impact—Colossians 1:8 (NLT)

### **Colossians 1:8 (NLT)**

*He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray for your neighborhood. Picture each house on your street and pray specifically for each family. If you know them by name, pray for them by name.

### **Responding to God**

Begin praying about what you might be able to do to reach out to a neighbor. Perhaps it is bringing them a gift or inviting them to dinner at your home. How can you reach your neighborhood for Christ by starting with just one family?

## Day 38 Local Schools—Matthew 18:5-9

### Matthew 18:5-9 (NIV)

*And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

### Causing to Stumble

*If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.*

### Prayer Directive

Pray for local schools—specifically for the students, the teachers, the administrators, and the staff who work there. If you live in an area near a school, pray for that school by name. Name any teachers and administrators you know who work in the local schools and pray that they would have an eternal positive impact on their students.

### Responding to God

If you know any teachers or administrators, let them know you've been praying for them. Write a personal note of encouragement, bless them with a gift card, or ask if there are practical ways you could serve the school - volunteering, helping with resources or supplies that are needed, etc.



## Day 39 Global Impact—Matthew 28:19-20

### **Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)**

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Seek God's will for you as you respond to the Great Commission. Pray about those you encounter on a regular basis—how could you share the gospel with them? Pray for missionaries in other countries. Pray that God would give them boldness to share the gospel.

### **Responding to God**

Revisit the list of names you've written down and prayed for over the last 40 days. If you haven't already, make a definitive plan to share the gospel with them.

Reach out to a missionary through e-mail or a letter in order to encourage them as they share the gospel in other countries. If you need contact info to reach out to missionaries Riverbend supports, reach out to one of our church leaders - <http://www.riverbendonline.org/pastors-elders>.

## Day 40 Come Holy Spirit—Acts 4:31

### **Acts 4:31 (NIV)**

*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

### **Prayer Directive**

Pray specifically that you will be changed dramatically by the Holy Spirit. Pray for our church, our city, our nation, and our world. Pray for our gathering together after the 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting, that God would speak to us and we would obey.

### **Responding to God**

How might God be asking you to obey after these 40 Days? What is He specifically calling YOU to do in response to this time of prayer and fasting? Share it with someone you trust who can hold you accountable so you can follow through.