

PRAYER FIRST | 21 DAYS OF PRAYER



INTRODUCTION

Christians and churches pray in different ways. Many place great emphasis on spontaneous prayers, whether in their personal devotional lives or in the gathering of the church itself. Others prefer to pray the words of Scripture, mainly the Psalms, or through traditional prayer books that have been used by the church historically. Both methods are wonderful expressions of prayer and serve to strengthen the faith of Christians and the church. In addition, both ways can be used together as God's opens a person's heart for His transformative work in them.

As we step into a new year and a new series, we as a church body are setting apart 21 days to pray and seek God, his counsel, his direction, and his purposes for us as individuals and as a church corporately. As we do so, we press into what it means to, (Acts 28:31) "proclaim the kingdom of God." We invite you to join with others in our church to read and pray through specific Psalms while also creating the space for your own personal prayers as well.

The following guided prayers are broken into three groups, one for each of the three weeks of the 21 Days of Prayer. During Week One we will pray for ourselves as individuals, that God's kingdom rule and reign will be further established in our hearts. In Week Two we will pray for our church corporately, that we will both pursue and represent the Kingdom of God with relentless passion and love, united as one. And finally, during Week Three, we will pray for the Kingdom of God to continue breaking out into and throughout the world in which we live, that the kingdom of this world will, (Revelation 11:15) "become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ."

THE METHOD

We encourage you, for the next 21 days to pick a specific time that you will pray each day. You are free to decide how long you want this time to be. However, we believe it is best to choose the same time everyday and set a reminder for yourself. Secondly, we encourage you to ask at least one other person to keep you accountable as you pray.

THE FORMAT

Each day begins with a key Scripture that will be the focus of the day. We encourage you to memorize this verse. Next is an opening prayer designed to be recited out loud. As you speak these words remind yourself that you are in both conversation and communion with God. Slow down as you speak them. Let each word, which has been carefully and prayerfully selected be spoken with deep intentionality. Following this is a hymn that has been sung in the church for decades. Meditate on these words as you read them. Let the words of these ancient songs open your mind to the beauty and majesty of God each day. The next section is praying through a portion of a specific Psalm. The guide will give you the verse and then prompt you to pray. This is where you are free to use the guide and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to lead you in your prayer. Finally, we end each time of prayer by reciting, once again out loud "The Lord's Prayer."