

21 days of *prayer*

PRAYER GUIDE

TheBayouChurch.org/21days



getting started

During the next 21 days, we'll join together in a shared prayer experience. Something powerful happens every time we pray. And when we all pray together, the impact of our prayer is multiplied and expanded.

This guide begins on January 8, providing a Scripture verse and a prompt for each day. These are intended to focus your attention on a specific aspect of who God is and how we relate to Him. Our suggestion is to read through the verse two or three times, slowly.

Then, read through the prompt, and engage with it with an open heart, expecting God's Spirit to be present with you, both to listen and to guide.

In addition, the Auditorium will be open for guided prayer Monday-Saturday, starting Thursday, January 8, during the times specified below.

Thursdays: 6:30pm-7:30pm at Pray First

Fridays: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Saturdays: 8:00am-9:00am

Sundays: As a Part of All Services

Mondays: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Tuesdays: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Wednesdays: 12:00pm-1:00pm



21 days of prayer

suggestions to consider

- As much as possible, set aside a specific time and place for this prayer practice each day. That plan will help you maintain consistency throughout the 21 days. If you miss a day, don't feel guilty, simply start again the next day.
- Remove as many distractions as possible, especially your phone. You can silence it, or even better, leave it in the other room. This will allow you to maintain your focus on God and connecting with Him.
- Some people find it helpful to journal or write their prayers. If that's you, great! If not, that's fine, too. The idea is to engage with this practice intentionally in the way that fits who you are—shaping it to your schedule, personality, and preferences will enable you to be more consistent and fully present each day.
- Most importantly, do your best not to rush through it. Slow down. Take some deep breaths. If you're not used to this approach to prayer, it will take some time for you to feel comfortable—maybe even several days. That's why it's called a "practice." The more you engage with it, the easier it will become to clear your mind and focus on God's presence.

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

- MARTIN LUTHER



HUMBLE *me*

WEEK 1

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

— PSALM 8:3-4



WEEK'S VERSE

Thursday, January 8 | Psalm 8:3-4

Join us for Pray First at 6:30pm.

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

Prompt: Recognize that our God is unlike any other king and worthy of all praise. Sit with this, reflect on how He has shown up in your life, and offer intentional praise.

Friday, January 9 | 1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prompt: Pray that the Lord searches your heart for impurities, breaks your heart for what breaks His, and keeps you in a posture of submission to His will.

Saturday, January 10 | Isaiah 57:15

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.”

Prompt: Take some time and ask the Lord for true humility. Ask Him to reveal to you the ways in which you need repentance and do so sincerely.

Sunday, January 11 | Isaiah 42:8

I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols.

Prompt: Pray that the Lord opens your eyes to areas idolatry has taken hold in your life. Ruminant on the idols that you have been prioritizing before the Lord.

Monday, January 12 | Revelation 4:11

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.

Prompt: We were created because the Lord wants us here and takes pleasure in us. Approach this prayer time with gratitude, focusing on the small things we often take for granted, and notice His hand in all of it.

Tuesday, January 13 | Deuteronomy 8:2

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey His commands.

Prompt: Ponder the moments when your character has been tested and how you responded. Pray to the Lord with a posture of thankfulness, recognizing that He loves us enough to continue refining us to be more like Jesus.

Wednesday, January 14 | *Philippians 2:5-11*

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declares that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prompt: Pray that you are constantly reminded of the weight of Jesus' sacrifice. Ask for full understanding that even when you turn your back on Him, you are still worth the cross. Give thanks to the Lord for sending His Son to die in your place.

Thursday, January 15 | *Micah 6:8*

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and this is what the Lord requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Prompt: Pray for a heart that seeks to do what is right, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. Ask Him to guide your actions and attitudes so that your life reflects His character.



FILL *me*

WEEK 2

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

- PSALM 63:1-3

WEEK'S VERSE

week 2

Thursday, January 15 | Psalm 63:1-3

Join us for Pray First at 6:30pm.

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

Prompt: Spend intentional time sitting quietly and focusing on God's presence. Speak words of praise for His power and unfailing love.

Friday, January 16 | Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

Prompt: Ask God to reveal any unhealthy habit, hurt, or thought to surrender. Pray for Him to create a clean heart within you and invite Him to renew your spirit.



Saturday, January 17 | *Romans 15:13*

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prompt: Pray for joy and peace to overflow in your heart. Name one area in your life where you need the Spirit's strength.

Sunday, January 18 | *Matthew 9:13*

Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Prompt: Pray for people in your life who need grace. Consider a tangible way to show kindness to them today.

Monday, January 19 | John 15:4-5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

Prompt: Bring the things in your life you’ve been managing on your own to Jesus. Pray for a heart that stays surrendered and open to His leading.

Tuesday, January 20 | Romans 8:5-6

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

Prompt: Offer your thoughts and desires to God. Pray that He would guide them and align them with His will.

Wednesday, January 21 | Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Prompt: Pray for inner strength through the Spirit. Reflect on God's love, and ask for the ability to share that love with others this week.

Thursday, January 22 | John 7:38-39

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, "Rivers of living water will flow from his heart."

Prompt: Pray that your heart would be filled with the living water of Christ. Ask Him to let His life, love, and Spirit flow through you to refresh and bless those around you.

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." - **ISAIAH 6:8**

USE *me*

WEEK 3





WEEK'S VERSE

Thursday, January 22 | Isaiah 6:8

Join us for Pray First at 6:30pm.

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Prompt: Thank God that He allows you and wants you to be a part of His plan. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any fears holding you back from wholeheartedly asking Him to use you, and surrender them to Him.

Friday, January 23 | Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Prompt: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the areas where your good deeds are shining but may have selfish motives woven in. Pray that God would change your heart so that your only desire is for people to praise your heavenly Father.

Saturday, January 24 | Colossians 3:23-24

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

Prompt: Ask God to reveal to you where you are people pleasing or under performing in any area of your life. Remind yourself that you are working for the Lord, and look for opportunities to serve Christ through your work.

Sunday, January 25 | Psalm 107:2

Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

Prompt: Take a moment to reflect on how the Lord has redeemed you. Pray, thanking Him for His deliverance, and ask for courage to share your story of redemption with others.

Monday, January 26 | 1 Peter 4:10-11

God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen.

Prompt: Ask God to help you understand the gifts He has given you and guide you in using them to glorify Him.

Tuesday, January 27 | John 13:34-35

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

Prompt: Reflect on how much God has loved you despite all the ways you have messed up. Ask Him to give you His strength to love others regardless of how they act, so that people will be drawn to Christ's love through your actions.

Wednesday, January 28 | Acts 20:24

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Prompt: Reflect on how empty life is apart from Christ. Ask God to give you courage and guide you in staying focused on sharing the good news with others.

Thursday, January 29 | Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.”

Prompt: Jesus commands this. Are you obeying? Pray with a thankful heart for your salvation and your place in God’s great commission. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to act, even when fear tries to hold you back.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. - PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

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