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# 30 Days of Prayer




### **It's a sad truth in church life:**

We are often busy doing the Lord's work without stopping to ask for His power.

On our own, all our activities and efforts come to nothing. But a church that works alongside Him, fervently calling on Him in prayer, is a church that changes its community for good. Let's each agree to pray for our church once a day for the next month, and see what God does.

***Use this prayer guide*** so that we're all praying in the same direction.





## Day 1: Pray for Kingdom-mindedness

*But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

--Matthew 6:33

It's important for us to remember that our church doesn't exist for its own sake. It exists to serve the Kingdom of God, which is transforming our world one soul at a time.

Pray that we would be a church that cares more about God being glorified than about us being satisfied. Pray that we would be excited about, and willing to support, God's work in our community, even if it doesn't directly benefit us. Pray that our church would begin to see the world through God's eyes.

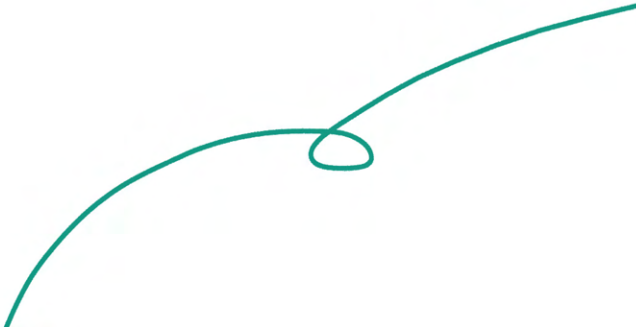
## Day 2: Pray for unity

*Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

--Philippians 2:2

Our unity is so important to Jesus, He prayed for it just hours before He died (John 17:20-23). A divided church drives people away from God, but a church unified around His purposes is unstoppable.

Pray that we would truly love each other, bearing each other's burdens. Pray that we would handle conflicts in a healthy way. Pray that we would be one in spirit and purpose, united in focusing on the things that are most important to God instead of the petty things that tend to divide us.





## Day 3: Pray that we would thirst for more of God

*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

--Psalm 63:1

It's scary how easy it is to be "religious" without ever really connecting with God. But a church that longs for more of Him will be full of joy and infectious to others (John 6:35).

Pray that God would fill us with a thirst to know Him better. Pray that we would be satisfied with nothing less than Him. Pray that members of our church would be diligent to seek Him on their own, and that our worship services and Life Groups would be times of us truly communing with Him. Pray that this would fill us with such joy, others in our community would see and long for what we have found.

## Day 4: Pray for sincere worship

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.*

--John 4:23

God is not primarily concerned about how well we sing or how attractive we look on a Sunday morning. He wants hearts that are totally devoted to Him in worship that is sincere (See Amos 5:21-24).

Pray that we would come into worship each Sunday with hearts that are repentant and ready to obey whatever the Lord says. Pray that we would care less about our own preferences and more about the opportunity to praise Him with our church family. Pray that our worship leaders would effectively lead us into the presence of God.





## Day 5: Pray for financial health and integrity

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

--2 Corinthians 9:11

A church that is financially healthy brings glory to God in the community. God's Word contains numerous commands for us to be generous in supporting His work.

Pray that God would inspire our people to give generously. Pray that our church's leaders would be diligent to handle His money with integrity. Pray that we would budget effectively, so that we could inspire many people to give thanks to God, as the Scripture promises.



## Day 6: Pray for our ministers

*I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.*

--Romans 15:30

Ministers of the Gospel bear a heavy burden. They love their work, but it can also be discouraging. And the Devil would love to bring them down. They need us to lift them up!

Mention the ministers of our church by name in prayer (if you need help, we're listed on the church website. At the bottom of the home page, click "Our Church," then click "Our Staff"). Ask God to encourage them and to remind them of their calling and the privilege they have in serving Him. Pray that they would have wisdom, that they would see the fruits of their labors, and that they would take time to stay close to God as they serve. Pray for specific challenges you know they are facing.



## Day 7: Pray for our ministers' families

*He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)*

--1 Timothy 3:4-5

It's not easy to be a pastor's spouse or child. It can be incredibly lonely, as many church members assume they could never relate to you. It can also be invasive, as other church members pry into your life in a way they wouldn't think of doing with anyone else.

Pray for the children and spouses of our ministers by name. Pray that they would have close friendships both inside and outside the church, and that they would feel a part of this church family. Pray that they would be encouraged to be who God made them to be, instead of feeling pressure to conform to church members' expectations. Most of all, pray that they would know the love of God, and the joy He brings.

## Day 8: Pray for doctrinal soundness

*What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

--2 Timothy 1:13-14

The Gospel is the foundation of our faith, but it has never been popular in this world. Christ and His apostles often warned us that there would be people, both inside and outside the church, who would try to alter, distort, or even erase the truth that has set us free.

Pray that members of our church would be diligent to study God's Word for themselves, so that they would not be drawn away from the truth. Pray for our preachers and teachers, that they would faithfully and effectively teach what the Scriptures say and how God wants to apply the truth to life.



## Day 9: Pray for new leaders

*Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

--Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus trained His disciples to carry on His work after Him. Paul planted new churches, training leaders to oversee them when he left. Ever since then, healthy churches constantly raise up new men and women to take on leadership roles.

Pray for God to call people in our church to take on leadership roles, and that He would bring in new people to our family as well. Pray for specific church members who aren't currently active in ministry, that God would inspire them to do what He has called and gifted them to do.

## Day 10: Pray for effective ministry to children

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

--Matthew 19:14

In God's plan, parents are the primary agents of evangelism and discipleship for their children (Dt 6:7, Eph. 6:4). But we can help them in this important work by providing exciting, biblically-sound ministries to children and parents. Through this ministry, we can shape the future of our community for good.

Pray for our Children's Minister, our Preschool Director, and our Academy Administrator. Pray also for the many men and women who work in our ministry to children. Mention as many by name as you can. Pray that they would be encouraged and empowered in their work. Pray for God to protect every child in our care. Pray that our ministry would produce many disciples for Christ.



## Day 11: Pray for powerful outreach to teenagers

*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come.*

--Ecclesiastes 12:1

The teen years are such a crucial time of life. Kids are making life-shaping decisions while experiencing profound physical, emotional and mental changes, as well as facing intense pressure from all sides. Many will wreck their lives during this time. But they are also more open to hearing about God's love than they will ever be again.

Pray for our Student Minister and all of our youth workers. Pray also for the parents of our teenagers. Pray that they would together raise up young people who follow God's plan for their lives, and that our student ministry would reach dozens of unchurched teenagers for Christ.



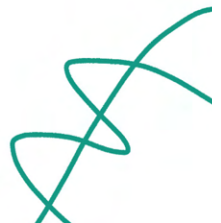
## Day 12: Pray for our families

*But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*

--Joshua 24:15

Before God created either the Church or the State, He made the family. The health of our families is perhaps the single biggest factor that determines the health of our society.

Pray that our church would nurture strong marriages and good parenting. Pray by name for families in our church who are going through difficult times; ask God to strengthen them in their love for each other and their faith in Him.






## Day 13: Pray for our single adults

*To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.*

--1 Corinthians 7:8

*Unfortunately, single adults often feel overlooked by churches. This is ironic, since Jesus and Paul were both single adults, and Paul taught that singleness could be a tremendous gift for a follower of Christ (1 Corinthians 7:1-7).*

*Pray that our church would not overlook single adults, but would value them as God does. Pray that we would be a church that draws many singles to faith in Christ. Pray for specific single adults in our church by name, and that all the singles in our church would find their place of service in the Body of Christ.*




## Day 14: Pray for our senior adults

*Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly, and revere your God. I am the Lord.*

--Leviticus 19:32

In our eager desire to reach new people for Christ, we often risk ignoring the men and women who have been used by God to build our church. Modern advertising may prioritize the young, but older adults bring indispensable gifts and life experience to the church.

Pray for senior adults you know by name. Pray that we would honor the seniors in our congregation. Pray that they would use their gifts and wisdom to work together with all ages in growing our church.





## Day 15: Pray for "the next generation"

*I have become all things to all people, that by all possible means I might save some.*

--1 Corinthians 9:22

Generation Z (those born between the mid-90s and the early 2010s) is the least religious generation in American history. One in three has no religious affiliation. Many more are falling away from organized faith as they hit adulthood. In order to reach them, we cannot simply do what we've always done.

Pray that God would bring about another Great Awakening in our nation's history, and that young people would be reached for Christ. Pray that our church and others would learn to think like missionaries, engaging this generation in a way that resonates with them, so that they would hear the message of the Gospel.





## Day 16: Pray for our deacons

*They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

--1 Timothy 3:10

Deacons strengthen our church with servant-leadership. A church with strong deacons is a healthy church.

Pray that our deacons would continually be renewed in their excitement about their calling. Pray that the deacons and staff would complement each other well. Pray that God would raise up new deacons to join the work.



## Day 17: Pray for our Life Group leaders

→ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

--Hebrews 13:7

The small group ministry is the true pulse of our church. This is where people move beyond being "audience members" into active participation in real Christian community.

Pray for your Life Group leader(s) by name. Pray that our Life Group leaders would be diligent to prepare well each week. Pray that God would anoint their efforts, so that our Life Groups would produce true disciples. Pray that they would not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9), and that our Life Groups would grow numerically as well as spiritually.

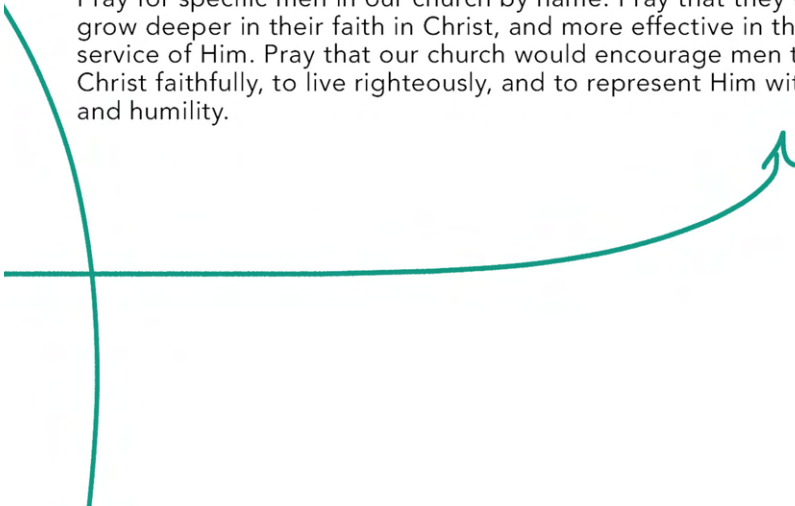
## Day 18: Pray for our men

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

--Joshua 1:9

There is a shortage of courageous men of integrity, humility, and love in the world. The Church should be filling that gap.

Pray for specific men in our church by name. Pray that they would grow deeper in their faith in Christ, and more effective in their service of Him. Pray that our church would encourage men to follow Christ faithfully, to live righteously, and to represent Him with boldness and humility.



## Day 19: Pray for our women




*I have been crucified with Christ, and therefore I no longer live; now Christ lives in me.*

--Galatians 2:20

Jesus' female followers stuck by Him, even when His male disciples fled in fear. A woman (Mary Magdalene) was first to see Him risen from the grave. No one ever liberated women like Jesus does.

Pray for specific women in our church by name. Pray that they would know God's love more profoundly than ever, and serve Him with even greater devotion. Pray that our church would produce women who know God's Word intimately, use their gifts fruitfully, and find their identity, joy, and purpose in Him.

## Day 20: Pray that we would have a passionate love for the lost



*You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

--Matthew 5:14-16

The local church is God's plan A to take the saving message of His Gospel to our community and the world. As far as we know, there is no plan B.

Pray that God would fill us with a soul-deep burden for those who do not know Him. Pray that He would teach us to see our non-Christian neighbors through His eyes. Pray that He would arrange "divine appointments" for us, and give us the wisdom, courage and words to say.



## Day 21: Pray that we would have compassion for the needs in our community

*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

--Matthew 7:12

The Bible contains over 300 verses about God's concern for the poor and disadvantaged. We cannot claim to be His people if we ignore those who are hurting.

Pray that God would teach us to put ourselves in the shoes of the poorest, most marginalized members of our community. Pray that He would show us how to solve problems that face "the least of His children." Name specific problems you know of before God and ask Him to help our church be part of the solution.

## Day 22: Pray for revival in our nation

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

--Psalm 51:10

A revival is what happens when God's people wake up from their spiritual lethargy and start seeking Him wholeheartedly again. Historically, revivals have led to massive changes in this country. It can happen again.

Pray that God would fill American Christians with a powerful sense of repentance for how we have put other things before Him, and have failed to demonstrate the true love of God to our neighbors. Pray that He would wake us up, fill us with His Holy Spirit, and make us effective in representing Him again.





## Day 23: Pray for our nation's leaders

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

--1 Timothy 2:1-2

When Paul wrote those words, he was living under the kingship of Nero; suffice to say, if Christians like Paul had been able to vote on their leaders, they wouldn't have chosen Nero! Yet Paul urged prayer for all of our leaders, not just those whose policies and personal lives we approve of.

Pray for our political leaders. Name them before the Lord: Our president, congressional representatives, state and local leaders. Pray for their physical protection, for them to be endowed by God with special wisdom and courage to make good decisions, and for God to use them to bring about justice, peace and righteousness in our nation and in the world (see also Romans 13:1-7).



## Day 24: Pray for those who oppose us.

*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

--Luke 6:27-28

Yes, Jesus said that. And yes, He meant it. After all, He prayed for the very people who crucified Him. People will hate us for our beliefs; Jesus said they would. The only way we are supposed to defeat them is by loving them until they join God's family...then they won't be our enemies anymore.

Pray for people (specific people and also particular groups) who vocally oppose or mock Christian faith. Pray that God would send Christians full of courage and integrity to dispel their misconceptions about the Gospel. Pray that He would teach us all to see them not as enemies, but as people for whom Christ died.

## Day 25: Pray for other churches in our area

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

--1 Corinthians 1:10

Churches that claim Jesus as Lord—even though we may disagree with them on secondary doctrinal issues—are not our competition. They are fighting the same battle we are, and God is honored when we work together.

Name specific churches in our area before God. Pray that God would bless them with unity, spiritual renewal, and evangelistic effectiveness. Pray that God would revive all the churches of our area, and that we would be united in love for Him.


## Day 26: Pray that God would raise up missionaries

*Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

--1 Chronicles 16:24

Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) is still the official mission statement of His Church. The International Mission Board estimates that there are still 3000 people groups unreached by the Gospel.

Pray that God would raise up men and women, in our church and in all His churches, who will feel compelled to take His Gospel where it has not yet been heard. Pray for specific missionaries you know of by name, that God would encourage them, keep them safe and healthy, and prosper their work.



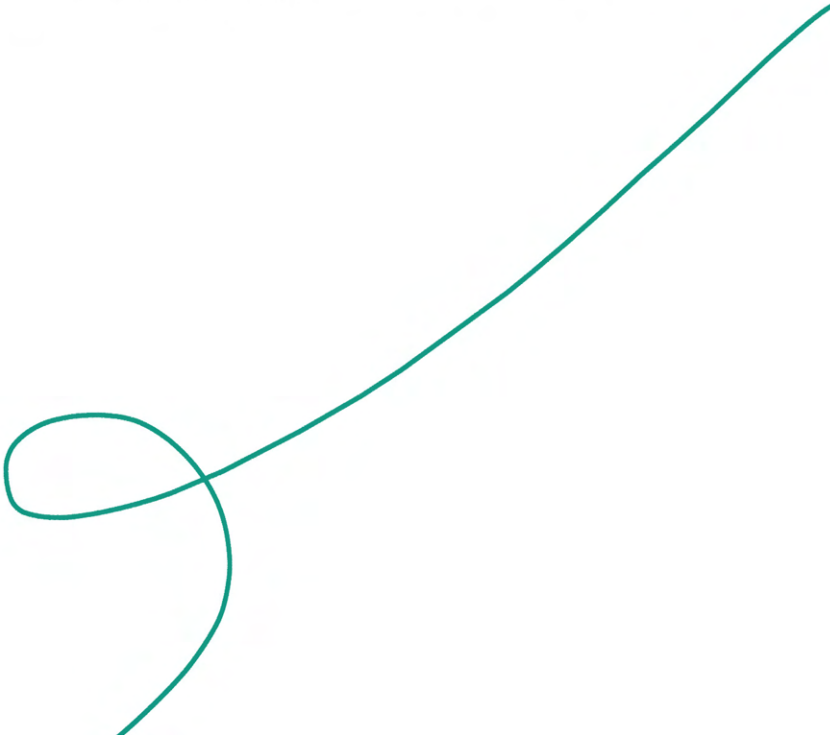
## Day 27: Pray that we would have a spirit of confession and repentance

*"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.*

--Joel 2:12-13

Although God accepts us as we are, He doesn't leave us that way. If we're following Him, we will continually repent of our sins and lack of devotion to Him, and cry out for a newfound commitment to God's purposes and a renewed power to love others in His name.

Pray that God would convict us of the ways in which we have fallen short of His plans. Pray that He would rid of us of any sense of superiority, and replace it with humble gratitude for His grace. Pray that we would develop a culture of humility and transparency, so that no one will ever "pretend" to be better than they are, but instead would be quick to confess to one another our need for change and growth. Pray that we would constantly, fervently ask the Lord to fill us with fresh devotion to Him and His Kingdom.





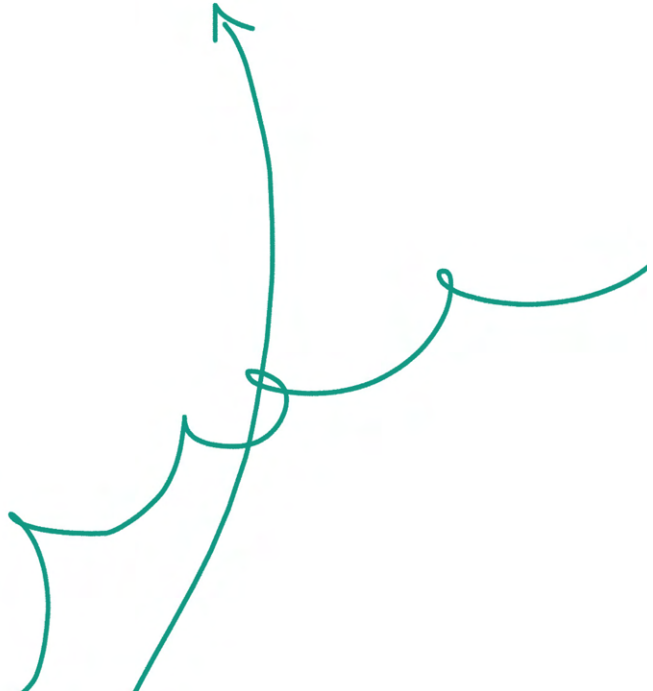
## Day 28: Pray that God's Holy Spirit would be in charge of our church

*And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

--Acts 4:31

It's not my church or yours. It doesn't belong to those who donate the most money, those who hold influential positions, or those with the most seniority. This is Christ's church. He founded it, bought it with His precious blood, and loves it like a bridegroom loves His bride. Let's remember that.

Pray that our church's leaders and members would be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Pray that when He wants us to change, we would not fight Him. Pray that we would not vary from His Word or His plans, even if it's unpopular or inconvenient. Pray that He would be glorified in everything we do, and that people who visit our worship would feel His presence unmistakably.



## Day 29: Pray that we would bring peace to the chaos around us through Transforming Relationships

*'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*  
*The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no other commandment greater than these.

--Mark 12:30-31

This is the vision of our church: That each of us would invest in people among our friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances who need the love of God, and would love them in His name. We believe that the best way for people to meet Jesus today is through long-term relationships with believers like us.

Pray that God would show us the people around us we should be investing in. Pray that we would truly love them like Christ first loved us. Pray that we would see many come to faith through the witness of our people.

## Day 30: Pray that we would humble enough to change

*Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

--Matthew 23:12

Henry Blackaby, in his classic *Experiencing God*, said "You cannot stay where you are and go with God." Let's make sure we aren't so comfortable with where we are as a church that we fail to go where God is leading us!

Pray that our church would be willing to go wherever God leads. Pray that we would be eager to do whatever it takes to bring people to salvation. Pray that we would not love the comfort of "the way we've always done it" more than God's Kingdom or those who are lost. And pray that we would glorify Him above all else.



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**FIRST** Baptist  
Conroe

600 N. Main St. Conroe, TX 77301

936.756.6601 [fbconroe.org](http://fbconroe.org)