

28 Days of Prayer

Beginning January 29, 2018

Introduction:

Thank you for committing yourself to this period of intentional prayer. This is a season of hard work and sacrifice for our church community, and the staff and Leadership Team are eager to have everyone at Artisan praying with intention and commitment, deepening their relationships with God and each other, and petitioning for God's help.

Starting something new like this can be daunting and potentially even lead to some discouragement. A few suggestions and reminders up front:

- There is no prize for perfection. If you miss a day, or several days, just pick up wherever we are in the schedule. Don't believe the lie we often tell ourselves, that there's no point in going on because we've already messed it up.
- Expect resistance. Whether this is a spiritual attack from the enemy of our souls or just our brains kicking against the idea of new routines, or (as I tend to believe) some combination of both, the way forward is to apply steady, gentle pressure. Aim for one small win, and if you can go on from there, go ahead!
- On a practical level, you are more likely to have success in this endeavor if you set aside a bit of time at the same time each day. This is difficult for many and impossible for some, but most of us will be able to commit to a routine, and it will be a great help to you if you guard that time carefully, whether it's 2 minutes or an hour.

Here's how this will work. We will follow a weekly rhythm for four weeks, each week having different focus verses but following the same pattern of prayer techniques and focal points. There will be a mix of familiar prayer techniques and new things to try. Hopefully, you will find a good balance that helps you progress in prayer.

PRO TIP: Change your phone wallpaper! (Really.) When you notice it's different, pause for prayer. Once you're used to the new one, change it again.

Verses for meditation: Read at the beginning and end of your prayer time each day, following the daily prompts

- Week One (January 29 – February 4): **Ephesians 3:20–21**
- Week Two (February 5 –10): **Colossians 1:15–20**
- Week Three (February 11 –17): **Matthew 6:25–34**
- Week Four (February 18 – 25): **Matthew 16:24–26**

Monday

- Write out the week’s verses by hand on a notecard that you carry with you all week, returning to the verse each time you have a free moment.
 - If you don’t have time to write the whole thing out, just write part of it. Finish it another day.
- Prayer focus: **spiritual health**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries
 - Prayer for those experiencing distance from God
- Artisan foundational value of the day: **AWE**. Read our value statement and reflect on how well you live it out individually, and how we we live it out as a church. *We humbly recognize the sovereign power, reverent mystery, and gracious wonder of God, who is worthy of our worship and full devotion.*

Tuesday

- Speak the focus verses out loud. Repeat as time allows. At a minimum, speak these words at the beginning and end of your prayer time.
 - You might even try singing the words! You can sing on one note, or even make up a simple melody if you’re feeling brave.
- Prayer focus: **transformation**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries

- Prayer for those experiencing distance from God
- Artisan foundational value of the day: **BEAUTY**. Read our value statement and reflect on how well you live it out individually, and how we we live it out as a church. *We are inspired by the breathtaking artistry of our creator and seek to reflect that beauty in all we do as we co-create with him.*

Wednesday

- Spend some time *studying* the focus verses, paying attention to key words and noticing the emotion that they describe or generate in you.
- Prayer focus: **forgiveness**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries
 - Prayer for those experiencing distance from God
- Artisan foundational value of the day: **ROOTS**. Read our value statement and reflect on how well you live it out individually, and how we we live it out as a church. *We are deeply rooted in the historic Christian faith as revealed in scripture and worked out in the life of God's people through the ages.*

Thursday

- Make the focus verses a prayer. Remember that in prayer, we not only speak to God, but we listen for God speaking to us. What do these verses make you want to say to God? What is God saying to you through them?
- Prayer focus: **financial stability/provision**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries
 - Prayer for those experiencing distance from God
- Artisan foundational value of the day: **COMMUNITY**. Read our value statement and reflect on how well you live it out individually, and how we we live it out as a church. *We are a covenantal family of authentic relationships and reconciliation*

in the image of God, who exists in perfect communion as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — yet one God.

Friday

- You've now been using these verses all week long. Take a moment to notice how your understanding of them has changed. Is it deeper? More meaningful? Clearer? *Less* clear? Write down a few key observations.
- Prayer focus: **peace**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries
 - Prayer for those experiencing distance from God
- Artisan foundational value of the day: **JUSTICE**. Read our value statement and reflect on how well you live it out individually, and how we we live it out as a church. *We are captivated by the heart of God for hurting people and a suffering creation, seeking to bring compassion to those needs and a just end to their underlying causes.*

Saturday

- Wild card! Repeat your favorite way of interacting with the week's verses.
- Prayer focus: **joy**. Spend some time praying for this need, using the framework below as a guide.
 - Prayer for self
 - Prayer for close friends and family
 - Prayer for the Artisan community, including partner ministries
 - Prayer for those experiencing distance from God

Sunday

- Join us in worship if you can!
- If you can't be at Artisan, find this week's Lectionary readings. (Google is your friend in this case!) Read through them prayerfully, both addressing God and listening for how God is speaking to you through the scriptures.