

LORD, I NEED YOU



WEEK
OF PRAYER
2024

Why start the year with a week of prayer?

Our conviction at Stoney Creek is that **prayer must be fundamental to everything we do**. If we aren't praying, we're just spinning our wheels in religious activity. We know that we can do nothing without the power of God working in and through us (John 15:5) and time and time again, we see the early church gathering together to pray (Acts 1:12-14; 23-26; 2:42; 3:1-3; 4:23-31; 6:3-6; 8:14-17; 12:5-17; 13:1-3; 14:23; 16:13-16; 16:25-26; 20:36-38; 21:4-6). So at the beginning of each year, our desire is to devote a full week to *prayer* as a church family: *To seek His will and His blessing over this year to come.*

We hope this **Prayer Guide** will help focus you in your prayers this week. Though this booklet is general in nature, it is designed to assist you as you devote yourself to prayer. We will also be having corporate prayer gatherings at the church (see below) and encourage you to be a part of these as often as you're able. We also want to encourage you to try a few other things this week (see schedule below).

Prayer Week Schedule

- **Monday:** *Church Family Prayer at the church* 7:00pm
- **Tuesday:** *Prayer Meeting (Zoom)* 7:00am
- **Wednesday:** *Prayer Meetings* 1pm (Zoom), 7pm in-person
- **Thursday:** *Have someone over for dinner and pray together.*
- **Friday:** *International Students Potluck at church* 6:00pm
Get to know some international students and pray for them.
- **Saturday:** *Commit to spending one hour in private prayer.*

"If you are not praying, then you are quietly confident that time, money, and talent are all you need in life. You'll always be a little too tired, a little too busy. But, if like Jesus you realize you can't do life on your own, then no matter how busy, no matter how tired you are, you will find the time to pray." - Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*

PRAY FOR A BROKEN & CONTRITE SPIRIT

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” (Psalm 66:18)

- Pray for a lifestyle of **unconditional, absolute surrender** to the Lord.
- Pray that we would be a **humble people before the Lord**, that he would break any pride we have in our lives.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would **reveal sin in our lives** and the lives of those in our church family.
- Pray that we would **seek after holiness** and righteousness.
- Pray for a **renewed passion for the Lord**, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and a desire to grow in Christ.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY & MONDAY

Read **Psalm 139**. *What does it look like to apply this passage to your life?*

“No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life, wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him.”

- D. L. Moody

“He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve.”

- Luke 6:12-13

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Ask the Lord to bring someone to your mind that you can disciple or meet with in a discipleship relationship this year. **Before the week is done, talk to that person about it.**

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:10-13)

- Pray for **gospel growth**: *That passionate disciples would be made this year.*
- Pray for **passionate, Spirit-driven elders and deacons.**
- Pray for **pastors as they proclaim the truth** each week.
- Pray that God will help us **overcome any spiritual obstacles** that stand in the way of reaching people for Christ.
- Pray for those that are **struggling physically, emotionally, and spiritually.**
- Pray for **strong marriages and strong families.**
- Pray for restoration in **strained or broken relationships.**
- Pray that we would be a **caring, hospitable, and welcoming family.**
- Pray for **the ministries of Stoney Creek** – that Christ would be proclaimed above all else in every ministry.
- Pray for our **camps this summer** – Forest Cliff and our own church VBS.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY

Read **Acts 12:1-18**. *What can we learn about the importance and power of prayer?*

“Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account.”

- E.M. Bounds, *The Weapon of Prayer*

MY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

PRAY FOR THE GLADNESS OF THE NATIONS

“Let all the peoples praise You! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!” (Psalm 67)

- Pray that we will **boldly share the Gospel** with our neighbours – pray for your friends and neighbours by name, that **the cross would be unveiled**.
- Pray for **our missionaries** working around the globe: *That they would be encouraged, serve faithfully and that people would trust Christ.*
- Pray for **Gospel-centered churches to be planted** in our city and all around the world.
- Pray for the **unreached people groups**, especially the 1,700(ish) **people groups without translations of the Scriptures** in their language – that God would bless translation efforts.
- Pray to the Lord of the harvest to **send out labourers into His harvest**.
- Pray for even more **missionary zeal** out of our church family.
- Pray for the **International Student Ministry**, for spiritual fruit.
- Pray for **the 2024 short-term teams we’re sending out to Togo and North Africa**.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR WEDNESDAY

Read **Psalm 67**. *Reflect on why God has blessed you the way He has.*

“All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them.”

- Hudson Taylor

MY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Lord, We All Need You

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

PRAY WITH OUR PERSECUTED FAMILY

“There are many parts, but one body... if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.” (1 Cor. 12:20, 26)

- Pray that persecuted believers would **fearlessly tell others about Christ**.
- Pray that persecuted believers would have **access to the Scriptures**.
- Pray for **believers who have been rejected by family & friends** – that God would surround them with a new Christian family for love & support.
- Pray with **persecuted believers that when persecution comes, they will be faithful** even if it costs their lives.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY & FRIDAY

An Egyptian pastor was asked one time by Western Christians how they could pray for their brothers and sisters in Egypt. The pastor responded by saying: **“Please, don’t pray for us. Pray with us.”** They were a little confused and so asked him what he meant. He responded by saying: “If you pray for us, you will pray for the wrong things. You will pray that the church will be safe. You will pray for persecution to cease. We are not praying for these things. We ask God for the salvation of Egypt. We ask that He draw millions of Muslims to Christ. We ask that we will be bold and clear in sharing our faith. And we pray that when the inevitable persecution comes... that we will not run away, but that we will be faithful in that persecution even if it costs us our lives.”

- Source: *Open Doors*

MY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

PRAY FOR STRENGTH & WISDOM TO TRUST THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Prov. 3:5-6)

- Sometimes it's difficult to know what God is doing. In whatever circumstances you're facing, **ask the Lord for a heart that finds rest in Him, knowing He is good and He is Sovereign** (even if we can't see what He's doing).
- Surrender your plans to the Lord**, asking for His will to be done in your life.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

PRAY FOR GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES AND A HEART OF THANKFULNESS IN 2024

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

- Thank the Lord for what He's going to do** in response to the prayers of our church family this week.
- Count your blessings** and write them out one-by-one.
- Ask the Lord to open doors to gospel conversations** with others this year.
- Pray for courage to speak the truth** when God opens those doors.

NEXT STEPS: NOW WHAT?

- Find a group of people you can pray with & continue to pray together regularly
- Commit yourself to praying *persistently* by name for someone who needs the Lord
- Complete the challenge from the beginning of the week
- Consider in 2024 committing to either Tuesday 7am Prayer or one of the Wednesday Prayer Meetings (1pm on Zoom or 7pm in-person at the church)

“The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful and effective.”



JAMES
5:16