

Weekly Prayer Plan

ASKING GOD TO GUIDE US NOW AND ALWAYS

Like Moses at the burning bush, we are entering into God's presence and that presence is Holy.

Sundays – Our Search:

Today, we pray with a focus on every part of our search process for our next pulpit minister, to include the search, the inquiries, the interviews...that we be led to the man and family God has chosen to come work with us even before he is known to us. We pray for our Elders and their families, for God's wisdom and guidance. Let us pray that our hearts be tuned to God's leading and call; for our effectiveness at ministering in our community; our warmth to our guests (seekers and inquirers after the truth) whom God places in our path and brings into our assemblies; our patience; our faithfulness; our interim ministry partners; our preacher selection committee; our children and their families; our youth and their families; our military members; our college students; our work within the international community; our parents; our grandparents; our singles, and those who are battling illnesses and aging. Our needs are many. God's grace is sufficient for all of them. We pray for our own needs and for Him to unite us with His plan in seeking the servant He has called to walk and help minister among us.

Mondays – Our Missions:

As we pray for our search process, we want to remember our mission – the reasons God has called us to be His church, His holy family: To SEEK Jesus, to FIND Jesus, and to SHARE Jesus. Pray that God causes us to know that we will never change the world by going to church, but by going out to be the church in the midst of the world. We want the Father to open our eyes to His possibilities and purposes for us. We ask God's Holy Spirit to renew our passion for God's work and to remember the mission work we support all over the world; in WEI and WBS; in our local community and even the most vulnerable within that community. We pray that our hearts will be open to those whom God places in our path, brings in our doors and brings into our personal acquaintance so that we can share the grace of God with them. Let us remember to be like Jesus, who sought broken people who loved God, more than religious people who disliked broken people. That was HIS mission. Thus, it is OUR mission if we are to be HIS church. Reading the New Testament reveals an evangelistic fervor, a fervor that carried our Lord's message into a hostile world, and spread far and wide. Inward reflection would reveal that same evangelistic fervor is in dire need of restoration in His church. Pray for that restoration, and to have an individual role in that restoration. The church of the New Testament was a MOVEMENT...it went OUT among people. Today we have become more of a MONUMENT – that is, we expect people to come to us. Pray for change. And then BE THAT CHANGE.

Tuesdays - Trials & Temptations

We begin again by praying for our next pulpit minister. Also, today, we recognize that Satan would like to damage our individual walk with our Lord, our relationships in God's family and bring hurt and division among us. That may even be easier for him in this period of transition. Pray and watch. Don't slumber, as our enemy is cunning. We pray to stop allowing race to enter into the affairs of man. Treat others as we would have them treat us. We pray for strength and holy compassion as we face trials, societal and peer pressures and temptations, while remembering that the One alive in us through the power of the Holy Spirit is GREATER than the power of the evil one. We want to remember our brothers and sisters facing trials of every kind at home and abroad and not only pray for them, but also let them know we are praying for them and what we are praying for them. We commit in prayer to seek, walk with and reclaim those who have become neglectful or have been captured by sin and its addictive power. We confess our own sins and commit to stand with those who face those same, secret struggles. Let us stand by them until they are able to stand by themselves; after all, isn't that what our Lord does with us? And, should we ever get tired of standing, we can kneel.

Wednesdays – Wisdom & Witness:

We pray again today for the wisdom of our elders and our search team, our next pulpit minister, along with the other ministries that are vital to our Lord's work. We pray for Joel & Ann Soumar, for Kevin & Amanda Maiorano, for Gabby & Jonelle Rodriguez and all those who lead our youth. We pray for Edison & Teresa Quevedo and all those in our Hispanic congregation. We raise up to you our Administrative Assistants and others who work tirelessly behind the scenes. May these servants never grow weary in well doing. All are a part of the Body, and each part is important in that Body. We ask God to give us wisdom to be patient when we need to be patient, and the wisdom to be bold and courageous when the time comes to act decisively, based on the leading of God's Holy Spirit and the mission God has for us. We pray that God will use this time to clarify and amplify our mission in our local communities, that those around us will know our passionate love for God and our deep commitment to serve our community in the name of Jesus. We pray for ourselves...personally and intimately...for a renewed passion to be a clear voice of God's grace, of Jesus' love, and of the Spirit's power to our friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. And we pray for wisdom to know when and how best to share Jesus with those we love and within our circle of influence.

Thursdays – Thanksgiving:

Today we ask God for nothing. Today is a day of praise, thanksgiving and joy. Today we celebrate the countless good things our Father has poured into His children's lives. Let us be thankful for answered prayers of the past, a good diagnosis, a safe trip, a good decision, a test passed, a loving spouse and family. For people who have made our walk with Jesus more meaningful, especially the members, the elders, the ministers who have served Mesa in the past. We mention with grateful hearts, the service of Terry & Nancy Singleton, Curtis & Linda Allen and Ken & Jean Fox and many others. With God's help, we commit through prayer to say only things that bless, build up, encourage, comfort, and inspire each person with whom we come in contact today. With God's help, we commit through prayer not to criticize, tear down through sarcasm or snide comments or ridicule anyone, not even in a joke, for if humor comes at another's expense, it is not humor. Others may not know a joke was told about them; yet, our Father knows. To our precious, everlasting, all-powerful and holy God, the great I AM, who is from everlasting to everlasting, we want to offer praise and thanksgiving not only for how he has blessed us financially and physically, but also how He has blessed us spiritually through Christ Jesus, the Messiah, our Lord. We want the reputation of our church to be a people of joyful praise, blessing, grace, and thanksgiving, not just today, but every day.

Fridays - Family & Friends:

Today we want to pray for those closest to us, by birth or by choice. It is said that God chooses our FAMILY, but we chose our FRIENDS! For those among our family and friends who are lost, we pray that they find salvation, and we be used as instruments in that. We pray for those struggling, that God empowers them and blesses them with strength, peace and hope. For those who are sick, that God brings healing and the strength to bear the struggle. For those who are widows or widowers, shut-ins or who are awaiting a medical diagnosis, or who are facing an unknown challenge, we pray that they will seek the comfort that comes from a God who knows their need. We pray for those who are at odds with someone and are facing disharmony, that God brings reconciliation and reunion, and that we be used as instruments in that as well. Blessed are the peacemakers. We pray today for God to open our eyes and soften our hearts that we can be reconciled with those whom we've hurt or wronged, offended or wounded with our words or deeds and we plead for the strength to take the first step to be redemptive in every relationship. Let us remember that our Lord is willing to wipe the tears from our eyes, even after we sent Him to a cross.

Saturdays - Self:

We end this week as we began. We pray for a man, a family whom we don't know yet, but who is known by God. He will be God's choice to serve as our next pulpit minister. Additionally, today we focus our prayers on our own personal needs, shortcomings, and secret sins so that we can each be purified and be holy before the King of Glory, as His precious child and His source of salt and light, in a world of decay and darkness. We confess our sins and ask for strength to leave those sins behind. Let us be mindful of our words, but even more mindful of the thoughts that form those words. Let us be holy and pure in what we say, see or what we agree to on electronics and social media platforms. We pray to reduce the unnecessary time spent with electronics and thus reduce this clutter and noise in our lives and in the silence that results, to hear the voice of our Father. Let us be respectful to those who are governing over us even if we disagree, as there is no authority but that which is given by God. And let us give thanks for our many blessings. Let us be thankful for the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, clothes to wear, access to medical care, a home to live in, a bed to sleep in, a peaceful night's rest, and people who cause us to be more like Christ. We live and move and have our being in Him. We ask for our own healing, forgiveness and grace, knowing that as we have been shown forgiveness and grace, we must show the same to others. Let us remember that when others deserve our love the least, is when they need it the most. We offer ourselves --- heart, soul, mind and strength --- to be living sacrifices. We offer ourselves out of our deep gratitude for God's mercy given us through Jesus, the Christ. We pray to be used as a vessel of honor in the household of God, useful to our Father and a blessing to all who need to know His grace.

And A Christian Prayed

He asked for strength that he might do great things;
But he was given infirmity that he might do important things.
He asked for riches that he might be happy;
But he was given poverty that he might be grateful.
He asked for power that he might have the praise of others;
But he was given weakness that he might feel the need of God.
He asked for all things that he might enjoy life;
But he was given life that he might enjoy all things.
He had received nothing that he wanted,
But all that he needed.

His prayer was answered.

Minister Search Committee