

7-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

SEEKING GOD'S GLORY IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

DAY 1 | GOD'S LOVE AND OUR UNITY

READ Lamentations 3:22-23: *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

God freely and eternally gives of Himself for the wellbeing of others. That is what we mean when we say, "God is loving." But there is an incredible description of God's love that is repeated over and over again throughout Scripture. The Bible describes God's love as steadfast, and we see this in the life of the people of Israel. God by His grace made it possible for them to live in covenant relationship with Him. And even when they rebelled, and often experienced the consequences of that rebellion, God was patient and persistent in His commitment to love them. The same is true of the relationship we now have with God through Jesus. As redeemed sons and daughters of God, He is committed to loving us, even when we don't deserve it.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His steadfast love. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is loving?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine love?
- How do you need to respond to God's love?

PRAY: As those who have received God's steadfast love in Christ, we are commanded to demonstrate that love toward others, especially toward brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray through the following passage and ask God to help you personally, and us corporately, to live out these commands. Think and pray about the specific challenges (in our hearts, our church, our culture) that make it difficult for us to live these out.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:12-13

DAY 2 | GOD'S HOLINESS AND OUR HUMILITY

READ Isaiah 6:1-7: *“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’”*

God’s holiness means that He is infinitely superior to all creation, and there is no sin or impurity in Him. To say God is holy is to say He is perfect in every way. The problem for us is that we are sinners and God cannot tolerate sin. And that is why the gospel is such good news! God has chosen to offer us forgiveness through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And when we turn from our sin and trust in Jesus, we are born again and given the power of the Holy Spirit to live a holy life.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His holiness. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is holy?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine holiness?
- How do you need to respond to God’s holiness?

PRAY: In light of the following passage, ask God to help you personally, and us corporately, to grow in holiness as we humble ourselves before God. Confess any known sin in your thoughts, words, actions, or attitude. Pray for our church to continually reflect the holy character of God.

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:14-16

DAY 3 | GOD'S WISDOM AND OUR DEPENDENCE

READ Romans 11:33: *“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”*

God is wise. This is such good news. He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about ourselves. When we are faced with a variety of options, we are often uncertain about the wisest course of action. Sometimes, we even intentionally rebel against what is wise, foolishly choosing our own way. As followers of Jesus, and as a church family, we desperately need God's wisdom in order to live the way God desires us to live.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His wisdom. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is wise?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine wisdom?
- Where do you need, or how do you need to respond to, God's wisdom?

PRAY: Based on the following passage, ask God to help you personally, and us corporately, to discern and follow His wisdom.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-8

DAY 4 | GOD'S JUSTICE AND OUR INTEGRITY

READ Deuteronomy 32:4: *“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”*

God always does what is right and He himself is the final standard of what is right. This is what qualifies God to be the only perfect Judge. Evil offends and angers God. He sees all wrongdoing and will execute His perfect justice against all wrongdoers. It is humbling to realize how serious this is. God will hold each of us accountable for our sin. By God's grace, we as followers of Jesus have been forgiven for our sins and now, we are called to reflect God's justice by living with honesty, integrity, and justice in all our decisions and relationships.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His justice. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is just?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine justice?
- How do you need to respond to God's justice?

PRAY: In light of the following passage, ask God to help you personally, and us corporately, to act and speak in ways that are godly, honest, and pleasing to Him.

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:33-37

Additional prayer points:

- Pray for our elder affirmation process to be done in a way that is honoring to God and above reproach.
- Pray for God to purify and protect our church family from gossip, deceit, and slander.

DAY 5 | GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND OUR PEACE

READ Daniel 4:34-35: *“At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, ‘What have you done?’”*

God’s sovereignty means that God is always in complete control. No one can rival God’s power, and nothing can ultimately derail God’s plans. When circumstances are confusing or overwhelming to us, we can have peace knowing that God is still in control.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His sovereignty. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is sovereign?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine sovereignty?
- How do you need to respond to God’s sovereignty?

PRAY: In light of the following passage, take time to thank God for His sovereignty over specific situations and ask God to work out His good plans. For example, you could pray “God, thank You that You are sovereignly working in _____ situation.” Or “God, please help me/us to have peace in _____ situation because I know you are at work.”

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Romans 8:28-30

DAY 6 | GOD'S GRACE AND OUR MISSION

READ Luke 15.

God loves to be kind toward us, even when we don't deserve it. This is what we mean when we say, "God is gracious." Our lives are filled with the gifts of God's abundant grace. Oxygen. Food. Beauty. Creativity. Laughter. These are good gifts from a gracious God. And yet, we see His grace in the most profound, awe-inspiring way in the saving work of Jesus. God sent Jesus to "seek and save the lost." He pursued us and now invites us to join Him in pursuing others.

PRAISE: Spend time praising God for His grace. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- Why is it a good thing that God is gracious?
- How does Jesus exemplify divine grace?
- How do you need to respond to God's grace?

PRAY: In light of the following passage, ask God to help you personally, and us corporately, to focus on and bear fruit in Gospel mission—in our personal relationships, in our city, and among the unreached all over the world. Pray for God to use us to draw unbelievers to faith in Christ, even amid the challenges facing our church family right now. Pray that our challenges would not become a distraction or stumbling block to the unbelievers among us.

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' "
Matthew 28:18-20

DAY 7 | GOD'S CHURCH AND OUR ELDERS

READ Ephesians 2:11-22: *“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”*

Church is not a building or an event. The church is the people of God, a supernatural family of brothers and sisters who have been saved by Jesus and sent into the world to represent Him. We are people from all kinds of backgrounds across all kinds of personal and social differences and yet we share the same passion and core proclamation: Jesus is Lord! We are a community that is empowered by the Holy Spirit to show the world how great and glorious our God is. And God designed the church according to His wisdom in such a way that we all get to play a special role. McLean Bible Church was planted in 1961 and, by God's grace, He has continued to build and bless us as a church family.

PRAISE: Spend time thanking God for our church family. You can use these questions to help you reflect and pray.

- How have you experienced God's grace through our church family?
- Who in our church family has God used to care for you and/or help you grow spiritually?

PRAY: Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-7, and Hebrews 13:17. Pray for our current elders (Larry Cooper, Wayne Fujito, Patrick Lee, and David Platt). Ask God to lead you personally, and us corporately, in the process of potentially affirming our [elder nominees](#).