

40 Days of Prayer

Growing God's Kingdom

July 21-August 29

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

Daily Prayer Guide

Then Jesus came to them and said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

- Matthew 28:19-20

As a church, we've summed up our purpose in one simple phrase -- "to help people find and follow Jesus." We live this out by embracing Christ's Great Commission to make disciples in Matthew 28. The first step of this begins with prayer.

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Designed to unite us in prayer, this resource will guide us each day with a specific Scripture passage and prayer points. Whether you pray at home, at work, or at church, we will seek God's will for our church together. By the end of this shared experience, we will have accomplished hundreds of hours of collective prayer.

These forty days will renew our vision and passion for God's work in and through us. Let's persevere, trusting that "at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Using this Guide

Each day, read and reflect on the provided Scripture. Consider what it reveals about God's mission for His church as it relates to the weekly theme. If gathered with others, share your insights. Let these reflections and the provided prayer points shape your prayers.

Week 1 | July 21 – July 26: The Mandate for Our Mission

Day 1: July 21

Scripture

Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the One who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. - John 4:35-36

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the many people He has already prepared for salvation.
 - Ask God to make us aware of the people in our lives who are ready to receive Jesus.
 - Ask God for the joy of sowing and reaping a spiritual harvest in various places (including this week's VBX, for both kids and their parents).
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Day 2: July 22

Scripture

"Come, follow Me, and I will send you out to fish for people." - Matthew 4:19

Prayer Points

- Praise Jesus for His gracious, life-changing invitation to follow Him.
- Pray for His help to follow faithfully.
- Ask God to equip and send us to reach others, including those among the unreached language groups

Day 3: July 23

Scripture

"As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." - John 20:21

Prayer Points

- Praise God the Father for sending His Son to bring us salvation.
 - Thank God that our mission is now an extension of Jesus' mission and that we have Christ's example to follow.
 - Pray for God's strength, protection, wisdom, and unity for our Global ministry partners and their families as they serve in hard places.
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Day 4: July 24

Scripture

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28:19-20

Prayer Points

- Thank God for giving us this commission that is backed by all authority in heaven and on earth.
- Ask Him to give us a passion for helping people find and follow Jesus in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and around the world.
- Praise Jesus for His promise to be with us always as we disciple others.

Day 5: July 25

Scripture

I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. - Acts 20:24

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the privilege of sharing the good news of His grace.
 - Ask God to help us live as faithful witnesses to the good news of His saving grace.
 - Pray that God would give us the same determination and perseverance He gave the apostle Paul to finish well.
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Day 6: July 26

Scripture

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9

Prayer Points

- Praise God that He called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light.
- Praise Him for choosing us to be His people, His royal priesthood, His holy nation, His special possession.
- Pray that God would find us faithful to declare His goodness and grace through our words and actions.

Week 2 | July 27 – August 2: The Message of Our Mission

Day 7: July 27

Scripture

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

Prayer Points

- Praise God for His boundless love for us that He so clearly showed by sending His Son Jesus to rescue us.
 - Praise God that this good news is for anyone who puts his/her faith in Jesus.
 - Ask God to help us share this good news freely with our families, neighbors, coworkers, and whoever God brings across our path.
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Day 8: July 28

Scripture

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
- Hebrews 11:6

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the assurance that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
- Ask God to keep us aware of the crucial importance of trusting Him every step of our journey with Him.
- Pray that we would remind one another that it is our trust in God that pleases Him.

Day 9: July 29

Scripture

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the simplicity of the good news of salvation.
 - Praise God for the resurrection of Jesus which anchors our Christian faith.
 - Ask God to give us courage to share this good news with those in our circles who do not yet know Him.
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Day 10: July 30

Scripture

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. - Acts 4:12

Prayer Points

- Praise God for revealing Jesus as the one and only Savior we need.
- Pray that we would always keep Jesus at the center of our message -- as a church and as individuals.
- Pray that we would be bold in introducing people to Jesus.

Day 11: July 31

Scripture

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. - John 1:41-42

Prayer Points

- Praise God that the long-awaited Messiah has come.
 - Praise God that finding Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves.
 - Pray that our joy in finding Jesus will motivate us to bring others to Him as well.
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Day 12: August 1

Scripture

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. - Romans 1:16

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the powerful Gospel that saves.
- Thank God for Paul's example of boldly proclaiming the Gospel.
- Pray that God would give us courage to share the Gospel without fear or shame.

Day 13: August 2

Scripture

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
- 2 Timothy 1:14

Prayer Points

- Praise God for entrusting us with the Gospel.
 - Pray that we would stay true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ -- both personally and collectively.
 - Ask for the Holy Spirit's help in protecting the clarity and integrity of the Gospel we have received.
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Week 3 | August 3 – August 9: The Means of Our Mission

Day 14: August 3

Scripture

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

Prayer Points

- Praise Jesus for inviting us into such a close relationship with Him.
- Praise Him for being the source and guarantee of our ability to grow spiritually and produce fruit.
- Pray that Jesus would teach us to stay connected to Him and live a spiritually fruitful life.

Day 15: August 4

Scripture

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. ... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:4-5, 8

Prayer Points

- Praise God for sending His Spirit, as promised, to enable us to carry out our disciple-making commission.
 - Thank God for this teaching on the importance of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling our commission.
 - Pray for the humility to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we carry out this mission with Him.
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Day 16: August 5

Scripture

The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:47

Prayer Points

- Praise God for pouring out His saving grace on the early church.
- Pray that we would never lose sight of the fact that it is God who saves people, not us.
- Ask God for a sustained outpouring of His saving grace on our church and that many would find new life in Him.

Day 17: August 6

Scripture

[The Early Church prayed] "Lord ... enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly. - Acts 4:29-31

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the example of the early Christians who prayed for power to speak boldly for Christ.
 - Praise God for the way He responded by filling those believers with the Holy Spirit.
 - Ask God to fill us with His Spirit that we, too, might speak the Word of God boldly, whether we serve Him locally or globally.
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Day 18: August 7

Scripture

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. - Acts 13:2-3

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the early church's passion for sending missionaries.
- Praise God for the way He calls specific people to spread the Gospel across the globe.
- Ask God to raise Global ministry partners within our church to take the Gospel to unreached language groups.

Day 19: August 8

Scripture

Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:11-13

Prayer Points

- Praise Jesus for providing leaders with various spiritual gifts to equip the church to thrive.
 - Praise Jesus for His plan to equip the whole church for Christian service.
 - Ask God to help each of us utilize our spiritual gifts for the growth and maturity of our church.
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Day 20: August 9

Scripture

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

- Ephesians 3:20-21

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the amazing things He is able to do in each of us.
- Pray that everything we do as a church would glorify God.
- Pray that our church would continue to glorify God for generations to come.

Week 4 | August 10 – August 16: The Motivation for Our Mission

Day 21: August 10

Scripture

There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. - Luke 15:7

Prayer Points

- Praise God that heaven celebrates whenever someone repents and receives Christ.
 - Ask God to give us the same heavenly joy over the lost who find Jesus.
 - Pray that this joy would motivate us to help people find and follow Jesus.
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Day 22: August 11

Scripture

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel. ... Because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the Gospel without fear.

- Philippians 1:12, 14

Prayer Points

- Praise God for how He used Paul's hardships to advance the Gospel.
- Praise God for how He uses our perseverance stories to encourage one another.
- Ask God to help us share our own stories to motivate others to confidently share the Gospel.

Day 23: August 12

Scripture

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 3:13

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the hope of heaven that Christ has given us.
 - Praise God for giving us a future worth striving for each day.
 - Ask God to give us a vigorous faith like that of the apostle Paul.
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Day 24: August 13

Scripture

[Christ] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. - Colossians 1:28-29

Prayer Points

- Praise God that, like the apostle Paul, we have been called to proclaim the risen Christ.
- Ask God to grow us in the ability to admonish and teach one another with all wisdom, so that we might all reach maturity in Christ.
- Pray that Christ would energize us for this work as He did for the apostle Paul.

Day 25: August 14

Scripture

What is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the assurance of His glorious return someday.
 - Praise God for the present joy of playing a part in helping people find and follow Jesus.
 - Ask God to increase our anticipation and joy by making the Gospel even more fruitful in our church.
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Day 26: August 15

Scripture

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:23-25

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the secure hope we have in our faithful Savior – both for this life and the life to come.
- Ask God to help us hold unswervingly to this hope.
- Ask God to help us encourage one another on toward love and good deeds – being intentional to serve [our local ministry partners](#).

Day 27: August 16

Scripture

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the hope of our heavenly reward.
- Thank God for Paul's inspiring example of a life well-lived.
- Ask God for the tenacity and faithfulness to finish well here on earth.

Week 5 | August 17 – August 23: The Manner of Our Mission

Day 28: August 17

Scripture

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. - Philippians 1:27

Prayer Points

- Praise God for how we have each been transformed by the Gospel.
- Praise God that the Gospel sustains us through good times and bad.
- Ask God to help us live as faithful representatives of the Gospel of Christ.

Day 29: August 18

Scripture

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. - John 13:35

Prayer Points

- Praise Jesus for being the ultimate example of love.
 - Praise Him for increasing our capacity to love each other.
 - Ask Him to help us love one another so well that everyone will recognize us as His disciples.
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Day 30: August 19

Scripture

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well. - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the example of the apostle Paul's tender loving care for the Thessalonians.
- Ask God to give us the depth of love for one another that the apostle Paul had for the Thessalonian believers.
- Pray that God would stir us to love those who do not yet know Jesus with this same kind of love.

Day 31: August 20

Scripture

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

- Matthew 10:16

Prayer Points

- Thank Jesus for entrusting us with the sometimes dangerous work of reaching others with the Gospel.
 - Ask Him to make us culturally savvy and morally blameless as we seek to help others find and follow Jesus -- whether nearby or far away.
 - Pray that the Kingdom of God would continue to grow -- whatever happens to us.
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Day 32: August 21

Scripture

Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. - Ephesians 5:15-16

Prayer Points

- Thank God for this sobering encouragement about how we should live our lives.
- Pray that we would overcome the dangers and distractions of this evil world.
- Ask God to give us the wisdom to make the most of every opportunity to live for Him and point others to Him.

Day 33: August 22

Scripture

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Ephesians 6:10-12

Prayer Points

- Thank God for this insight that our struggle is not against people but against demonic forces.
 - Praise God for providing the spiritual armor we need to prevail against Satan's attacks.
 - Pray that we would utilize the spiritual armor God has given us to stand firm.
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Day 34: August 23

Scripture

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. - 1 Peter 5:8-9

Prayer Points

- Thank God for this warning to beware of the devil's attacks.
- Praise God for His power to stand firm against the devil's schemes.
- Pray for the strength to persevere through trials and sufferings, whether serving here in the United States or across the globe.

Week 6 | August 24 – August 29: The Momentum for Our Mission

Day 35: August 24

Scripture

The Gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world – just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

- Colossians 1:6

Prayer Points

- Praise God that the Gospel is still bearing fruit and growing in our church and all over the world.
 - Praise God for the invincible power of His Word.
 - Pray for boldness for our Global ministry partners in sharing the Gospel. Pray also for our Unreached Language Group team as they identify which language group to invest in for decades to come.
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Day 36: August 25

Scripture

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. - Acts 20:20

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the apostle Paul's example of faithful disciple-making.
- Pray that we would hold nothing back in helping people find and follow Jesus.
- Pray that our disciple-making would be fruitful -- both in large group and small group settings.

Day 37: August 26

Scripture

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:3

Prayer Points

- Praise God for the special peace He has given to His people.
 - Ask God to help us guard the unity we have in the Holy Spirit.
 - Pray that we would quickly resolve conflicts among us and that we would not argue over minor issues.
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Day 38: August 27

Scripture

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
- Ephesians 6:18-20

Prayer Points

- Praise God that He hears and responds to our prayers.
- Ask God to help us grow in the joy and discipline of prayer.
- Pray that our leaders and church family would be courageous ambassadors of the Gospel.

Day 39: August 28

Scripture

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. - Colossians 4:2-4

Prayer Points

- Pray that our church family would be devoted to watchful, thankful prayer.
 - Pray God would open doors for us to share the Gospel -- both locally and globally.
 - Ask God to help us proclaim the Gospel with clarity.
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Day 40: August 29

Scripture

The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. - 2 Timothy 2:2

Prayer Points

- Praise God for His infallible, everlasting Word handed down to us.
- Thank God for this inspiring vision to grow His Kingdom.
- Ask God to bless us with the culture and systems necessary to grow disciples of Jesus for generations to come, including the launch of Disciple-Making groups and their leaders.

