



*21 DAY  
PRAYER  
GUIDE*



**Dear Providence Family,**

We are so glad that you have decided to engage with us in 21 days of focused prayer. This guide is designed to both equip and encourage you to pray. It is designed to equip you by giving you helpful prompts and a specific focus for each day. We hope to encourage you by pointing you to the promises and truths in God's word that invite us to seek him in prayer!

You will notice two sections on each day. The first is "Prepare Your Heart". This section is built to help you slow down and engage with God in a meaningful way before charging into asking for things. This section contains prompts for praise, confession, and thanksgiving. These are key elements to remember as you spend time with the Lord.

The second section is "Prayer Focus". The intent of this section is to help us all pray together as a church family for some of the most important things before us as a church. You will notice that the prayer focus rotates through days of praying for our own hearts, our church and family, our city, our four, and the nations. We want to spend these next 21 days praying with great focus for the things we care about the most!

Thank you for engaging in this prayer initiative! We believe that prayer is one of the most important ways for us to advance God's Kingdom on earth. Let's pray with consistency and faith as we ask God to do more than we could ever think to ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20)!

*Daniel Savage*  
*Pastor of Discipleship*

## DAY 1

### Ephesians 1:15-23 — Personal

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** God holds all knowledge and wisdom! Praise Him for being omniscient!

**Confession:** Consider moments where you have leaned on yourself or others before turning to God for answers. Ask forgiveness for not leaning on His wisdom and guidance.

**Thanksgiving:** Give thanks to God for being willing to generously share His wisdom with you when you ask (James 1:5) and through the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:17).

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Today, let's focus on verses 17 and 18. Throughout Scripture it is acknowledged that life is hard. We see that implied when Jesus looked on the crowds compassionately (Mark 6:34). We see it spoken outright even as early as the fall in Genesis 3 when God tells man and woman that the consequence of sin has brought hard work and pain. Paul prays over the believers in Ephesus that God would give them the Holy Spirit who brings with himself wisdom and knowledge of God. He prays that, not hoping God will send the Spirit of wisdom, but knowing that is what God does for the believer! In verse 18, Paul reminds us that the gift of the Holy Spirit's wisdom is that we "may know what is the hope to which he has called you." What a sweet promise to cling to as we face life with inevitable hard scenarios!

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that you would seek the Holy Spirit's wisdom that is offered and that you would then know the hope that comes alongside it!

#### Example Prayer:

Dear God, you have offered yourself through the interaction of the Holy Spirit and I thank you for that! God help me to seek the wisdom the Spirit offers more intentionally. Forgive me for the moments I have relied on my own strength. Thank you that the hope you offer is attached to my calling as your child and not to my circumstances! Help me to act in Your wisdom and to rest in Your hope! (Pray for any specific scenario where you know you need to think and act with God's wisdom for guidance.)



## DAY 2

### Ephesians 1:15-23 — Family & Church

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** God designed us for community. Praise Him for the community that He has designed for you!

**Confession:** Confess the sin of pride in the moments it led you to be more judging of your community than grateful and loving. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

**Thanksgiving:** Consider some of the specific people in your community of believers that you can rely on and give thanks for their presence or specific ways they have encouraged you in the faith.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 1:15-23. In the preceding verses, Paul says that the people's hearing of the Truth, acceptance of the Gospel, belief, and sealing by the Holy Spirit all add to the praise of God's glory! (Ephesians 1:12-14) A community of believers adds to the praise of God! As Paul continues the letter in verses 15-16, he encourages them by being thankful for them. He is thankful that they are adding to the praise of God! How encouraging to know that before they do anything for God, they are already adding to the praise of Him by accepting salvation, which is also true for us! When we look around at our church, do we look in gratitude at people who are adding to God's praise? Do we see people that are a part of God's plan for His name to be known and look in gratefulness for the diversity that is offering up praise?

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray in thankfulness for your church family and believing community.

#### Example Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you that you designed us for community. Help me to be grateful for the specific community that I am in here at Providence while also being thankful for all believers, because in belief, we are adding to the praise of Your name! Give me the strength to be someone who spurs others toward love and good works (Heb 10:24). Give me eyes to see the specific individuals who need encouragement (Heb 10:25). Help my gratitude to be sincere and lead me to pray for my church family as Paul modeled for us. (Consider praying for any specific people God brings to mind as you think of your church family.)

## NOTES

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## DAY 3

### Ephesians 1:15-23 — Your 4

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Consider the differences in your life before and after knowing the Lord. Praise God for His specific work in your life! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Confession:** Paul uses the phrase “the immeasurable greatness of his power.” (Eph 1:19) Confess the times that you make little or take for granted God’s power.

**Thanksgiving:** Give thanks for your own salvation, and then also give thanks that the Lord wishes for all people to know Him and come to repentance! (2 Peter 3:9)

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 1:15-23. When we have good news, we are excited to tell someone about it. How much more so, when we embrace the hope we know through our salvation and work of the Holy Spirit, should we be excited to share God’s name and goodness?! When we consider the vision to reach our 4, let us use phrases like we see here in Ephesians to spur us to tell others more boldly about God. We see the Spirit give wisdom and knowledge (v. 17), a calling of hope (v 18), riches of inheritance (v. 18), and immeasurable power (v. 19). Let us grow in awareness of these promises both in idea and at work around us, and then let us share them with the people God puts in our path.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for God to reveal people to whom you can share about Him and then for boldness to follow through.

#### Example Prayer:

Dear God, when I see in Scripture all that you have promised to me as a believer, it is more than I can take in! I pray that you would help me to share with others out of that awe! Give me a discerning eye for the people who need to hear about your name and your good news. Help me to be persistent in prayer for them and then boldly obedient to walk in relationship with them, sharing your Truth and your name along the way.





## DAY 4

### Ephesians 1:15-23 — City

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God for revealing Himself to the world through His Word, Holy Spirit, and creation (Romans 1:19-20).

**Confession:** Consider ways in which you underestimate, or fail to trust, God's presence and power at work in your life. Confess your desire to know and rely on Him more fully.

**Thanksgiving:** Consider the hope of the gospel. Thank God for forgiving your sins and giving you a heavenly inheritance. Be grateful that this message of hope was shared with you and is available to all people.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Consider God's willingness to not only reveal Himself to the world but also to save those who trust in Jesus through faith. In these verses, Paul rejoices over the faith of the Ephesian believers while also reminding them that it is God who gives wisdom, provides strength, and offers hope to all people. Consider the people in your life that need to hear this hopeful message. Pray that God will expand your understanding of the grace He has given you through Jesus and ask for opportunities to share this good news with the people in your life. Trust that God is at work in the lives of all people and rest in His sustaining strength.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God will open the eyes, minds, and hearts of the people in Raleigh so that they see the present hope, eternal security, and daily strength offered to them by God through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:18-20).

#### Example Prayer:

Lord, thank you for making yourself known in the world. Help the people of Raleigh understand their need for forgiveness as well as the benefits that come from having a personal relationship with you. Father God, I believe that you give wisdom to those who ask for it. I ask that you help the people in my city to realize that their sin separates them from you but that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to repair that relationship. Thank you for the message of hope—the gospel. Prompt and motivate me to share this glorious good news and the difference you've made in my life with others. Amen.



## DAY 5

### Ephesians 1:15-23 — The Nations

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God for being the One True God who rules with justice and reigns in power over all the earth (Psalm 96:1-6). He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior who alone deserves our worship.

**Confession:** Ask God to open your eyes to the lostness in the world and reveal areas in your heart where you have resisted contributing to the gospel going to all nations. Confess to God your desire to see all people saved.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God that every inch of the globe is under His authority and, therefore, no one is outside the scope of His saving power. Be grateful that the gospel is spreading through various people and platforms across the world today.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Reflect on the fact that God worked through His Son, Jesus, to offer hope to the world. Consider that Jesus lived on the earth as a man, died for sins He did not commit, rose from the dead after three days, and is currently seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. God exalted Jesus as supreme over all heaven and earth, which includes every ruler, authority, power, and dominion (Col. 1:16-17). As the exalted One, Jesus is able to reach and rescue all people. Take time to consider the barriers that keep you from praying, giving, or going to the nations with the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20). Ask God to expand your understanding of His supremacy over the earth, direct you to ways you can contribute to getting the gospel to the nations, and strengthen you for the task ahead.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the nations will come to understand that Jesus is the Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev. 17:14). Plead with God to turn their hearts away from false gods and lead them to call on Jesus by faith in order that they will be saved.

#### Example Prayer:

Father in heaven, You are the One True God. All other gods are worthless in comparison. Help people all around the world to turn from worshiping false gods and turn to worshiping You alone. Thank you that Jesus is supreme over all creation. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior over all. Release the nations from the bondage of idol worship. Reach them with the message of hope that Jesus alone saves. Rescue the lost by the power of Your might. Lord, I trust that You bring people out of darkness and lead them into your glorious light (Col 1:12-14). Help me to be faithful to participate in Your global rescue mission by seeking out opportunities to pray, give, and go to all nations with the gospel. Amen.



## DAY 6

### Colossians 1:9-14 — Personal

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God for the spiritual wisdom and understanding He has given you that led you to faith in Christ and continues to mature you as you walk with Jesus daily (Proverbs 2:6-8).

**Confession:** Confess to God areas in your life where you are trusting in your own strength, wisdom, and understanding. Ask God to help you acknowledge and trust in Him (Prov. 3:5-8).

**Thanksgiving:** Consider the role of the Bible, Holy Spirit, and faith family in your life. Thank God that your salvation and spiritual growth are not solely dependent upon you. Be grateful that God has given you commands, condolences, convictions, and community to help guide you along your faith journey.

**Encouragement to pray:** In this letter, Paul conveys his joy that the Colossian believers are faithfully loving God and one another. Yet he goes on to tell them that he is continuing to pray that they will excel further in their understanding of God's will, obedience to Christ, and service to others. Paul acknowledges that once a person trusts in Jesus by grace through faith, they are saved and sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14). He also proclaims that there is still work to be done in spreading this good news to others (Col. 1:28). Paul encourages these Christians to continually pursue spiritual growth and fruitfulness. Yes, God saves us but He has also prepared good works for us to walk in (Eph. 2:1-10). Consider the various means God has provided for you to be stirred up to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24).

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God will continue to fill you with the knowledge of His will for your life, conform you into the image of Christ, and use your life as a fruitful witness of the difference the gospel makes in a person.

#### Example Prayer:

Mighty God, I believe that all wisdom comes from You. Thank you for giving me access to your Word in my language, sealing me with the promised Holy Spirit, and placing me within the body of Christ—the church. Help me to pursue spiritual growth. Motivate me to love and serve others. Open my mouth so that I speak of You often. Give me a desire to make Jesus the Lord of my life and faithfully obey His commands. Thank you God for loving me first. Help me to be strengthened with Your might so that I will endure well, be patient when necessary, and joyfully proclaim the gospel through my words and deeds. Amen.



## DAY 7

### Colossians 1:9-14 — Family & Church

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God that he is almighty and that he gives us strength for whatever we face each day. (Psalm 18:1-2)

**Confession:** Confess any areas in your life where you've relied on your own strength, and commit to live today in the power God gives us through the Holy Spirit.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God for the ways he has shown himself strong in your life and in the lives of others!

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Colossians 1:9-14. In verse 11, Paul prayed for the believers in Colossae that they would be “strengthened with all power according to his glorious might.” Paul knew firsthand of the incomparable power of God. God, by his power, had raised Jesus from the dead, and God's power stopped Paul in his tracks on the road to Damascus. God transformed Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a Spirit-filled servant of God. Paul prayed for his fellow brothers in Christ to know this same power. We can pray in this same way that God would strengthen our family and our church to love him and walk in his ways.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your family and our church that we would be “strengthened with all power according to his glorious might.” (Col. 1:11a)

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are all powerful. You have the power to change hearts, to heal people who are hurting, and to work in difficult situations. Would you help my family to know your power this week? Please call to their minds the ways you've worked in the past, and please continue to work in their lives to bring them closer to you. Empower my church family to love you more, to encourage each other, and to be a light to those who don't know you yet. Thank you for giving us the strength to face whatever comes today.





## DAY 8

### Colossians 1:9-14 — Your Four

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God today for bringing you into his family - nothing compares to the joy of knowing him! (Ephesians 2:1-9)

**Confession:** Confess times when you've loved the things of this world more than the riches that come from knowing Christ.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God for the incredible blessing of knowing him and being his child.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Colossians 1:9-14. Meditate on what it means that God has “qualified you “to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (verse 12b). Think of things that are part of your inheritance in Christ - eternal life, peace with God, joy, knowledge of the truth, comfort in trials, etc. Ephesians 2:4-5 is a great starting point for praising God for our inheritance: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” Let us eagerly pray for others to be saved and to know this same joy!

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the salvation of your Four.

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me eternal life. Thank you for the amazing blessings that come from being part of your family. I pray that my Four would come to know you. Please open their eyes to the truth. Help me to be willing to extend myself to the point of discomfort to share your love with them. Please give me opportunities to share with them how you've changed my life.



## DAY 9

### Colossians 1:9-14 – City

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God today for making you alive in Christ (Eph. 2:5) and that he has the power to bring souls from death to life.

**Confession:** Ask God to give you a burden for people in Raleigh that don't know him. Confess times you have lacked an urgency to share the gospel with people you come in contact with.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God for the work he is doing and will continue to do in our city.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Colossians 1:9-14. Reflect on how God has “delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.” Paul was burdened for the darkness he saw in his culture, and he longed for people to know Jesus and walk in the light. Just as God brought us out of our sin and into his kingdom, he can do the same for others. Pray that God would burden your heart for people you interact with - whether at work, in the grocery store, at the gym, or at your child's school. Pray that God would give you an urgency to pray for lost people in our city. Remember from Paul's life how God can transform the hearts of people no matter how far they are from him.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the light of Christ would pierce through the darkness here in Raleigh.

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I pray for my city and for the people that live here in Raleigh to come to know you. I know you are able to work in the hearts of people, no matter how far they might be from you. I want all people to come to know you. I pray that you would bring light into the darkest places of our city. Help me to see people as you see them, and give me a sense of urgency to see lost souls brought into your kingdom.



## DAY 10

### Colossians 1:9-14 – The Nations

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Give praise to God for the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13) and that He has made us citizens of that kingdom (Phil. 3:20-21).

**Confession:** Ask God to reveal ways you still walk in the way of darkness (Col. 1:13) and to lead you to walk more and more in the way of His kingdom.

**Thanksgiving:** Consider a few ways that God's kingdom blesses your life, your family, and your community, and meditate on them while giving thanks to God.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Colossians 1:13-14. We were once in darkness, but now God has transferred us into His kingdom of light. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus describes the kingdom as a city on a hill that cannot be hidden (Matt. 5:14). We are, corporately and individually, to let the light of the kingdom shine (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:7-10) that those still in darkness may believe and give glory to God. The nations already belong to Christ (Col. 1:16). Pray that we, as ambassadors of the kingdom (2 Cor. 5:20), can reach them for Him.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God will bring the nations from deep darkness to His light (Isa. 60:3)!

#### Example Prayer:

Father, I thank you that you have rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to your kingdom. I pray for all the nations and peoples who are still bound in the ways of darkness. Please, Lord, bring them to your kingdom by your beloved Son! May we be faithful to lift Him up to the nations and support those who do likewise. Equip your church to be a city on a hill, shining the light of Christ that all may see Him and give you glory. Amen.



## DAY 11

### Philippians 1:3-11 — Personal

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Begin by praising God for making a way to present you blameless before him. (Jude 24)

**Confession:** Next, take a few moments to search your heart for ways that you have not been blameless this week. Agree with God that there have been times when you have fallen short.

**Thanksgiving:** Return thanks to God for providing for your every need, whether physical or spiritual.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Philippians 1:3-11. Focus on verse 6, which says that “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Paul is reminding us that God is a promise-keeper; he is the giver of faith and he will sustain our faith until the end. So, whether you feel strong or weak in faith, you can be sure that God is committed to you and hears your every prayer!

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would sustain your faith and continue the good work that he has already started in you. (Phil. 1:6)

#### Example Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you that you are the author of my faith (Hebrews 12:2). Please help me to remember that when I feel weak or have doubts, You are always upholding me. Thank you that I do not have to do anything to earn your favor. I was full of blame and you made me blameless, through Jesus. Thank you! Help my unbelief and continue the good work you have started in me, for the glory of your name. Amen.





## DAY 12

### Philippians 1:3-11 – Family & Church

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Start this time by praising God for the joy he gives us through community with Christian brothers and sisters. (Psalm 133)

**Confession:** Next, spend some time searching your heart for ways you have been resistant to connect with other believers, due to inconvenience or personal preferences. Ask God to forgive you.

**Thanksgiving:** Then, thank God for the gift of diversity within the family of faith. Thank him for the unique gifts he has given you and for those he's given others.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Philippians 1:3-11, paying close attention to verses 3 to 5. Paul begins the letter to the Philippian church by thanking God for their partnership and friendship. He does so with great joy! Are there brothers and sisters at Providence who, when they cross your mind, you stop and thank God for them? Stop and think of a few people you can thank Him for because of their friendship and partnership in the gospel.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would be quick to remind you of how special the family of faith is at Providence. "I thank my God...because of your partnership in the gospel..." (v. 3, 5)

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you love relationships and community, and that you did not design this life to be lived in isolation. Help me to draw near to You and to the body of believers at Providence. I am so thankful that you have given me a church family. Amen.



## DAY 13

### Philippians 1:3-11 – Your Four

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** God is sovereign and powerful beyond reckoning, and He still affectionately desires to know us and for us to know Him! (Phil. 1:9)

**Confession:** Ask God to reveal ways that your love does not abound (Phil. 1:9), confess these shortcomings to Him, and pray for help in growing your love for God and neighbor.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God for the love of the Son that serves as our example and our sustenance.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Philippians 1:9-11. Think about your four. Pray that they may know God. Consider the Day of Christ, when all will stand before Him, and pray that you can present your four mature in Christ before God (Col. 1:28) on that day. Pray that your love for your four would abound and that God would grant you discernment in how to bless them and proclaim the gospel. Pray for the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11) that you may give of yourself as a servant for the sake of the kingdom, especially when reaching your four could prove uncomfortable.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your four to know Christ, to believe in Him, and to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that only comes through Him.

#### Example Prayer:

Father, thank you for your abounding love for us. May our love abound for you, and for our neighbors, and for our four. Lord, you have placed our four in our lives, in our spheres of influence. May we be good stewards of the relationships you have entrusted to us. Yet in our stewardship, we can only plant and water (1 Cor. 3:6). We rely on you for harvest. Please, Lord, work in the hearts of our four by your Spirit, that they may believe and be saved. As we endeavor to bless them and share the gospel, may we remember to be reliant fully on you. Amen.



## DAY 14

### Philippians 1:3-11 – City

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Begin by praising God that he is love. Praise him that we can love because he first loved us by sending his Son to be our substitute for sin (1 John 4:8-10)

**Confession:** Search your heart to see if there are ways you have not loved God this week, either through your actions, thoughts, or words. Ask Him to forgive you, and know that he is faithful to do so! (1 John 1:9)

**Thanksgiving:** Reflect on specific ways that God has shown his love to you and thank him for those.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Philippians 1:3-11, again. In verse 9, Paul prays that the love of the Philippian believers would “abound more and more.” Abound means to exist in large amounts. This means that if you feel like you do not have a lot of love, take heart! The love in your heart for God and others can grow. God can give you more capacity to love. Let’s pray to that end.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that your love for God and others, specifically unbelievers in Raleigh, would increase. (Philippians 1:9)

#### Example Prayer:

Dear Lord, sometimes I lack love in my heart for You and others. Forgive me. Remind me of the most beautiful Gift you gave the world: Jesus. As the gospel takes root in my heart, give me an abounding love for You and for others in my city who do not know about your great love. Grant me humble boldness to share that love with those around me. Amen.



## DAY 15

### Philippians 1:3-11 – The Nations

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God that the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ is ours by God’s grace, to His praise and glory! (Phil. 1:11)

**Confession:** Consider where your fruitfulness may be lacking, especially around the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and confess to God while asking His Spirit to produce fruit in you.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He has not asked us to produce righteousness of our own, but has graciously given us the righteousness of His Son, and given us His Spirit to produce fruit in us.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Philippians 1:9-11. On the Day of Christ, all will stand before Him. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11). Revelation 7 describes a scene before God’s throne with a multitude of people from every nation crying out in worship that salvation belongs to God and the Lamb. With them we say, “Amen!” Pray to God in anticipation of that Day. Praise God that He is working toward that great Day even now, and pray about how you may participate in bringing the gospel to the nations so they may join the great multitude on that Day.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for efforts at Providence to reach the nations, for the missionaries we support, the mission trips we have planned, and for how you personally can participate in reaching the nations.

#### Example Prayer:

Father, I confess that Jesus is Lord of all. All the nations are His, and you have entrusted us with taking the gospel to the nations to bring them into your kingdom. Lord, I am humbled by the enormity and blessedness of your great commission. I thank you that we are not working in our own power, but that you are working in us, both to will and to work for your good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). I pray that we may shine as lights in the world (Phil. 2:15) as we strive to reach the nations. Bless every prayer, every gift, every mission trip, every missionary, every cup of cold water given in your name (Matt. 10:42). May we reap a plentiful harvest among the nations, to your glory. Amen.





## DAY 16

### Ephesians 3:14-21 – Personal

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God for His love for you that “surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19).

**Confession:** Search your heart and confess any distrust of God’s love for you. Reflect on Romans 5:6-11 and consider the cross and the lengths to which God’s love took him, that he would sacrifice his own Son in order to reconcile us to himself.

**Thanksgiving:** Praise God that his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136).

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. In this prayer, we see Paul praying that the Holy Spirit would give strength to the believers at Ephesus to comprehend the love of Christ so that they may be filled with “the fullness of God.” Without the Holy Spirit’s help, we are incapable of resting in and knowing God’s love. So let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us as we seek to grow in faith and understanding of Christ’s love for us.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you abide in God’s love (John 15:9) and that this would be your deepest source of joy and peace.

#### Example Prayer:

Father, your love for us is deeper, wider, and higher than I could ever comprehend. Help me to believe and delight in this truth. Holy Spirit, strengthen me as I seek to understand more fully the love of Christ. Any love that I have to give to others today is only possible because of the love you have for me (1 John 4:19), so let my abiding in your love bear fruit and bless others.



## DAY 17

### Ephesians 3:14-21 – Family & Church

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God that he has called us his children and made us “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

**Confession:** Confess any areas that may you need to pursue peace with another brother or sister in Christ. Consider that Christ came to be our peace and with that, he broke down the wall of hostility (Ephesians 2:14-16).

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God that he has adopted us as his children, made us family, and that we are co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul prays specifically that the Ephesians would have “strength to comprehend with all the saints” (v. 18) and then goes on to say in verse 21 “to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations.” God has a particular purpose for the church to showcase his glory and his love. In the same way that Paul is praying for his brothers and sisters in Christ to know God’s love and be filled with his fullness, let’s pray to that end as well. Let’s pray that God would use our church family to bring glory to his name.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for Providence, that our understanding of God’s love would deepen and that it would lead us to love each other, bear with one another, and consider each other’s needs above our own.

#### Example Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice that reconciled us to God and to each other. We want to glorify you! Help us to understand how deep your love for us goes and that it would lead us to love each other in sacrificial ways. I ask that others who don’t know you would see the love that we have for each other and know that we are your disciples (John 13:35).



## DAY 18

### Ephesians 3:14-21 – Your Four

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Take a moment to reflect on God’s power and praise him that he is able to do what is impossible for man (Matthew 19:26).

**Confession:** Examine your heart and confess if there are anybody’s lives or circumstances that you’re struggling to believe God can move. Confess that God’s thoughts and ways are higher than our own (Isaiah 55:8-9).

**Thanksgiving:** Thank God that he has made the impossible possible by turning our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh and lifted the veil from our eyes so that we can know him.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Consider the truth that whatever you can dream up to ask of God, he can accomplish! And not even that, but even “more abundantly” than what we can dream of. So when we pray, let’s ask God for the very things that he has placed on our hearts, no matter how impossible it may seem. His answers to our prayers do not reflect his ability, because we know he can do anything! Our prayers can and should include requests that seem impossible to us, but with humility, asking that God would shape our prayers to his will so that we can pray in earnest, “Your kingdom come, your will be done” (Matthew 6:10).

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your 4 that God has placed on your heart, that he would do the impossible in their lives and bring them from death to life! He can do it.

#### Example Prayer:

God, we know that you’re the author of life and salvation. Thank you for answering the prayers of those around me and bringing me to saving faith. Would you be working now in the hearts of my four, softening their hearts to receive the gospel as truth? I ask that one day soon they would repent and believe in you.



## DAY 19

### Ephesians 3:14-21 – City

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Reflect on the might of our God seen through generations (Psalm 78:4).

**Confession:** Be still, submit your heart, and repent of times when your strength and own accomplishments have become an idol.

**Thanksgiving:** Give thanks for the many glorious deeds God has done in your life despite your efforts.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. As we are further grounded in love, our desire becomes God's desire to see the lost come to a saving knowledge of Him (Romans 10:1). Our city needs us, the church, to be a light on a hill (Matthew 5:14). Through the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we can pray for generational change in our city.

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would strengthen us, the church, as we grow in our knowledge of God for the sake of His mission (Ephesians 3:17-19).

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, will you enable us to comprehend the love that you have for us. It's length, width, height, and depth are far too difficult for us to understand in our own power. We need you. Will you help us see you so we can be filled with the fullness of God. Let us be the ones that are a light to our family, our next-door neighbor, our co-worker, our fellow citizens, and everyone else that we encounter. Let it be that tomorrow when we go out, we have eyes to see and our hearts overflow with the very same love that you have extended to us. It is for this reason that we kneel before you, Father (vs 14), strengthen us with your power today. Amen.





## DAY 20

### Ephesians 3:14-21 – The Nations

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Praise God for making a way for freedom from the captivity of sin (Romans 8:12-17).

**Confession:** Reflect and confess any times where you sought to use people for your own gain instead of seeing them as someone God loves.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank the Father for freeing you from captivity and making you an heir in Christ.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. We, the church, have been given a new headship. Instead of being a slave to sin, we are slaves to Christ. What a blessing! We can now build each other up in mutual encouragement and love. This love leads to a heart for those still in captivity (Romans 9:3).

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Take time to ponder on and pray for the people around the world who are currently captives to sin (Ephesians 3:14-17)

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for how you have provided a way for me to have a relationship with you. Please help me fulfill the Great Commission by taking the gospel to the nations (Matt. 28:16-20). So many will live life on this earth without ever hearing about Jesus's accomplished work through His death and resurrection. Give me a heart for those who are living in darkness and are slaves to sin. Do this for your glory so that you would be magnified. Amen.



## DAY 21

### Ephesians 3:14-21

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

**Praise:** Rejoice that we have been given the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

**Confession:** Repent of idols in your heart keeping you from a deeper understanding of God's glory.

**Thanksgiving:** Be thankful that Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice to atone for our sins, that he was raised to the right hand of the Father, and then sent the Holy Spirit to live within us.

**Encouragement to pray:** Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul writes here to encourage and remind the Ephesians of their need and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. The church's mission is to bring God glory by making His name known throughout all the earth. The Holy Spirit makes this possible by giving us the knowledge and understanding to comprehend God's immense love (John 14:26).

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the Holy Spirit would help us see more and more of the goodness of God, and this knowledge would fill us, the church, with God's love for His glory (Ephesians 3:20-21).

#### Example Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I feel inadequate at times to be able to voice my heart. Thank you for graciously giving me the Holy Spirit to intercede when words are hard to come by (Romans 8:26-27). Humble my heart and quiet my soul. Allow me to have a deeper knowledge of your love. Help me, help our church, reflect your love to those in our city and around the world for your namesake. Amen.







