

21 Days of
Prayer
SUMMER '23

GRACE CITY

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Inside you will find a daily prayer prompt, some scripture, and written out prayer to get you started in prayer each day. We invite you to incorporate this booklet and/or online document into your regular prayer routine for the next 21 days. If you don't currently have a regular practice of prayer, we hope this can be a helpful resource for you.

We recognize that prayer may be challenging to some, or even feel unnatural at times. And things that don't come easy are often discouraging and not enjoyable. Over the next 3 weeks, we ask that you lean into the discomfort. Press into what God has for you and how He can use prayer to speak into and encourage you.

We are excited and expectant for God to use this time of prayer to unify and strengthen our faith and we hope that you will join us as we pursue His plan and purposes for our lives individually, as well as the direction He has for Grace City Church.

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Day 1

Pray for your heart over the next 21 days

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (THE LORD'S PRAYER)

9"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

God, my Father in heaven, focus my heart to know and follow your will for my life. Help me to dig into how you want to lead me and my church family at Grace City over the next 21 days. May this prayer, the one you gave to your disciples, be a model prayer I regularly come back to for truth, wisdom, and guidance.



Day 2

Pray for the lost (unbelievers) - Discover Life

READ LUKE 15

Your patient, kind, and loving heart for the lost is seen clearly in the parables of Luke 15. Your desire is for the lost to be found. That is the story of the whole Bible, and that is the story of the Gospel of Jesus. I pray now for all who do not know you. Across the globe and across the hall, God there are people in this world who have not yet believed that eternal salvation is available to them through Jesus. Some have heard and chosen not to believe, some have heard and are still lost, and some have never heard. God, whomever I come in contact with, would your spirit empower and embolden me to see and care like Jesus did for the souls of all, and to join in your redeeming work of salvation.

Day 3

Pray for the guilt-ridden - By Grace

ROMANS 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:4-9

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Help me to rest in your Grace today. God, you know all the parts of my story that I struggle to let your forgiveness be the final word. When I am tempted to hold onto guilt, help me to let go and cling to you instead. You are rich in mercy.

For those who are troubled with guilt; those whose past decisions, mistakes, failures linger in their mind, God would you open these hearts to see and dwell in a deeper measure of your grace. Would the saving work of Jesus Christ become real, fresh, and new again to all of us, myself included. May I experience your grace daily and be a ray of light through which lost souls can look to and see the source of hope and partake in the kingdom of your beloved son Jesus.

Guard us from the lie that would tempt us to believe that we are saved by anything other than your grace. Keep us near, keep us holy, O God.

Day 4

Pray for the disconnected - In Community

ACTS 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

It is a gift to have others who have walked alongside me in life. They have guided me, put me back on course, and at times even carried me when I was too weak to walk on my own. Thank you God for the people you have placed in my life that have been and are still now my source of community. I pray now for the disconnected, those who feel like they are walking alone. Should our paths cross, help me to be a friend to those who need one. May the faith community of Grace City Church be one that is welcoming and ready to share and show the love of Jesus. As you have committed to us, let us commit to walk faithfully with one another in our journey of life and faith.



Day 5

Pray for the aimless and wandering - With Purpose

PROVERBS 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Our purpose is to glorify you, God. You've given my life purpose; to bring goodness, grace, truth, love, joy, kindness wherever I go, carrying the name of Jesus. Some days it is not entirely clear how to do this. Some days, fear and indecision win over confidence and clarity. Remind me of your nearness in these times. And for my friends who feel lost in this absence of direction, would you bring light to their path as well. Supply courage to make important decisions in order to move forward. Strengthen the faith of the fearful and remind us of your providence, that we may say "yes" to you once again.

Day 6

Pray for the North Fondren Neighborhood (where GC is located)

MARK 12:30-31

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

God, as I think about your command to love my neighbor, I can't help but think about how this often requires sacrifice. I think about the North Fondren Neighborhood, and pray for your guidance as to how I can love my neighbor here in Jackson, Ms. God I pray that you would show us ways to love this neighborhood, and empower us to carry them out as a church. But even when I don't know what to do, I can still pray.

I pray for each life here, that they would know you.

I pray for protection from any forces (spiritual, domestic, or other) that would seek to harm any individual.

I pray for community and household leaders, those who make decisions that affect the well being of others. Equip these leaders to know and choose good over evil.

I pray I would increase in love toward my neighbor and that your kingdom would grow in the North Fondren Neighborhood and in every place that I occupy.

Day 7

Pray for Leaders

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

1 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

I pray for those in places of authority. In government (local, state, and national), in the community (teachers and administrators), in the workplace (bosses, supervisors, superiors) and spiritual leaders (pastors, elders, and ministry leaders). God I recognize that you are over all, yet you give varying degrees of leadership for us to steward well. I pray for those leaders whose leadership and the decisions they make may drastically affect the course of my life and the lives of those around me. Give them wisdom and grace to lead well. In the places that you've given me authority over many or few, guide me to lead with both humility and confidence, trusting your ultimate authority and purpose. When it becomes difficult to lead, or to follow, help me to keep praying and to keep trusting you.

Day 8

Pray in your Secret Place

MATTHEW 6:6

But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

What is your secret place or private room? Where can you go to be alone with God? This week, commit to praying in that place as often as you can.

Father, your son Jesus often withdrew, away from crowds, away from distraction, to pray. I want to do the same, but more often than not it feels like the world and everything in it are begging for my attention. Bring to mind a place I can go to get away and be with you in prayer on a regular basis. Give strength to retreat with you when it would be easier to follow the current of business. Yet even in this pursuit of solitude, help me to remember that you are with me always. Your presence is my reward.



Day 9

Pray for Chastain Middle School

God, today I lift up Chastain Middle School to you; our neighbors and friends. Would you continue to bless the relationships that have formed through City Groups, Teacher Appreciation events and the presence Grace City has begun to establish at Chastain. May these students know that they are loved by our student leaders, and also by a whole church family. I pray for strength for the teachers and staff at Chastain, that they would press on through the hard days for the good of each student. Show me how I can partner with Grace City to love and support each person at this school so that they may see your perfect love for them and come to know and love you. I praise you for the work you have already begun to accomplish through City Groups and the relationships our GC Student Team and Staff have formed. Bless and further this partnership!



Day 10

Pray for the Student Ministry at GC

PSALM 25:4-5

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

This scripture is my prayer for the students at GC. Teach them your ways and lead them in your truth of salvation. May every student event, car ride, small group discussion, hallway conversation, large group gathering, summer camp trip and any other space occupied by students be filled with your presence God. Be with the parents of students as they navigate the needs of their growing and changing adolescents. Help us to be a church that cares for and loves this age group well. You are working in ways we see and ways we don't see right now. Lead us all in your truth and teach us your ways, O Lord.



Day 11

Pray for the Community Groups at GC

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12, 26

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

In every house, every room, and every space where brothers and sisters gather together to encourage one another, would your presence be evident. Speak to us through one another. Teach us to give and receive love better in community with each other. Let healing happen in these groups. Let grief have space to be felt and experienced. Likewise, create space for hope to flourish. May the action of doing life together be yet another display of your grace and mercy upon us.

Day 12

Pray for a clear mind and heart

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

3 For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments 5 and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Today, pray that God would show you what distractions crowd your thoughts into prayer. What things can you say “No” or “not right now” to in order to say “yes” to God?

God, bring to mind the things that take my focus away from you. Open my eyes to notice when I am distracted and pull me back to you. Give strength and wisdom to know when to turn off or step away from work, email, social media, entertainment, or even people so that I may encounter you. I invite you into my circumstances, my hopes, fears, dreams and my pain.



Day 13

Pray for the new parents and families at GC

PROVERBS 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. If you've been around GC for long enough, you've probably seen lots of babies and new parents/families. Let's pray for those families today!

God would you bless the newly formed families at Grace City! Strengthen these mothers and fathers on the long nights and tired days. Surround these families with other families who commit to help raise and nurture these children. God you know all our days before we are born, and you know every day of each of these new precious lives. Let every cry remind us that you are our eternal heavenly father, the one who hears the cries of his people and is quick to comfort. Help us to be a church that these babies can grow into a knowledge of your love for them and one day soon make the decision to follow you. Keep them healthy and well. Praise God for new life!



Day 14

Pray for the Kids Ministry at GC

MATTHEW 19:14

but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

God, bless each space where kids will come to play, explore, grow, hear and learn what it means to follow Jesus. Equip every volunteer to speak truth, showing each child the care and love of God. May these rooms be filled with conversations that shape and form our kids into who you are calling and creating them to be.

Day 15

Pray that gratitude would replace worry

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

6 Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

When I am prone to worry, turn my heart to you. Through the to-do lists, the chores, and all the things that require my attention, fix my mind to trust that you know all things, you are for me, and even in the places that feel like chaos abounds, you are in control. Thank you for peace, thank you for your presence. Thank you for your son Jesus, through whom I have salvation and a relationship with you God.

Write any worries clouding your mind and talk to God about them.



Day 16

Pray for Boyd Elementary School

God you know and love every child, teacher, faculty and administrator at Boyd. I pray a blessing over Boyd Elementary School. Would this school be the ground upon which each and every child in attendance can take their first steps down the path of education that leads to a flourishing future. Show me how I can partner with Grace City in supporting Boyd Elementary. Equip, fund, train, and support this school through whatever means you see fit that it may be a beacon of hope in our community. Open my eyes to see the need and give courage that I may step in to meet the need.

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Day 17

Pray *with* someone

We challenge you to step outside of your personal prayer routine and to pray with someone today. It can be a friend, family member, coworker, or even a total stranger! The conversation can be as simple as this:

*“My church is doing this 21 days of prayer thing, and one of the daily prompts is to pray with someone. So, would you mind if I prayed with you?
Is there anything specific I can be praying for?
I’ll go first, and if you’re comfortable, you can pray after. If not, that’s ok too!
Let’s pray”*

Day 18

Pray for those that deal with chronic pain and illness

For my brothers and sisters whose physical bodies limit their ability to go about life in ways they once did or always wish they could, God I ask that you draw near to those suffering saints. May your presence bring peace and the brightness of your gaze diminish the darkness of the pain, even if only for a brief moment. God we know you have the power to heal; we see it all throughout the scriptures. And if that is your will, let it be so, that the sick may sing praise of their Healer. Yet we see and know many other stories in which healing on this earth was not a chapter. If suffering is a means of your grace, strengthen us to endure, and hold us when we collapse.

For those who give care and aid to these saints, strengthen them to continue to help bear the burden, easing the discomfort of those who receive their gracious care. God may our suffering be a means through which your grace becomes sweeter. We long with hope for the day when we see you face to face and suffer no longer.



Day 19

Pray for the College Ministry of GC

I remember my early young adult years and my personal formation in them. I now see these students at church, worshiping, serving, and being formed into who they are becoming. Help me to walk alongside these students and the college ministry of GC in prayer, discipleship, and sharing of resources, wisdom, and life experience. I may not have much, but what I do have, help me to be generous with. May these students and trainees at Mississippi College, Belhaven University, Hinds Community College, and Ballet Magnificat find and grow in experiential knowledge and love of Jesus at Grace City Church. May their college years be a gospel-filled spiritual formation that changes their life for their good and your glory.

Day 20

Pray that God will strengthen you to persist in the habit of prayer

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray constantly, 18 give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 12:12

12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.

God, your will for me is to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in everything. Transform my heart to respond to life's circumstances in this way. Expand my heart to be aware of your constant presence, that I may carry on this holy conversation with you for the rest of my life. And if my prayers go unanswered, strengthen my spirit to not lose hope, but to lean on the Rock once again, trusting your purpose, perspective, and your love for me.



Day 21

Pray that Grace City would be united as a true House of Prayer

ACTS 1:14

14 All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

Your heart is pleased to hear the prayers of your children. You often choose to answer our prayers through one another. Give me courage to go first, stepping into vulnerability to ask my church family for prayer. May my brokenness on display be a means of grace through which someone else may have confidence that they too can come to you God. We heal and grow together.

Thank you for your son Jesus, who made a way for your Spirit to live inside me. It is in this Spirit and by his name I come to you in prayer.

Thank you for how you have strengthened me through prayer over these last 21 days. Help me to delight in the discipline of prayer and unify this church family as we continue to walk faithfully in you and pursue Jesus together.

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