



# **SEEK FIRST**

## **28 DAYS OF PRAYER**

# | SEEK FIRST 28 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

WRITTEN BY STEVE GAMBILL

## **PRAYER INTRO**

Dear Church

Charl and I love your very much and pray for you constantly, but we wanted to do something more for you. So we have created this prayer guide as a gift from our heart to yours, to encourage you to pray and seek God's presence. The simplicity of prayer is one of the most powerful tools to have, which is why Jesus focused His time on teaching people how to pray. He said, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

For a long time in my life, I only prayed when things went wrong. My life was busy, and I thought that I didn't have time to pray. As a result, I sometimes made poor choices and often seemed to be praying for God to help me out of awkward and difficult situations. One day I decided to make prayer the first response, instead of the last resort. The peace that followed that simple decision was immense. Last resort prayers work but the sooner you begin to pray about the challenges, circumstances and pressures of life, the less stress, anxiety and worry you will carry!

What would your life look like if you decide to pray and seek God first before your day begins? What if you seek God first in prayer before you send that text or email? What if you pray before you are in trouble? What if prayer became such a priority that you it is the first thought of your day and last thought before you go to sleep?

Your Heavenly Father loves you, and He loves to hear your voice. He is ready to answer your prayers and to do more than you could ever ask, hope or imagine. We are expectant for what focusing on prayer will do for each of us personally in our relationship with God, for the ones that we love and for the unity this will bring in our community. Can you imagine a church where every believer maximised the power of prayer?

Let's choose to pray and SEEK FIRST God's kingdom in all situations. We feel very privileged to be leading you into another new year together with each of the four campuses of Bradford, Leeds, Belfast and Warsaw, Poland that make Life Church their home.

With much love

Steve & Charlotte Gambill  
Life Church Lead Pastors

# | HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE YOUR NEXT STEPS

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Over the next 28 days we are going to discover so much about prayer together. Each week will have a different emphasis:

<b>Week One</b>	The Lord's Prayer
<b>Week Two</b>	Our Mission (Believe, Belong, Become)
<b>Week Three</b>	Tabernacle Prayer
<b>Week Four</b>	Praying With Power

This guide will take you through each section and you can simply experience different ways to pray in your daily devotional life. Jesus says to "SEEK FIRST, His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well". Matthew 6:33

### **Your Next Steps**

1. Read the 'Introduction to Prayer' before you start your 28 day guide
2. You can also read 'Focus on Prayer' to ready your heart before prayer
3. Start each week by reading the introduction for the week
4. Read each day as outlined
5. Set aside time to pray each day
6. Repeat steps 3 to 5 for the next 4 weeks

It's as simple as that so let's begin 28 days of prayer together!

# | INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

# INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

### PRAYER IS RELATIONAL

You can pray out loud, you can pray secretly in your heart, you can sing, shout, cry, and express all your emotions to God in prayer. He created you and loves to hear from you, as you spend time in conversation with Him. Prayer is relational and there is no exact formula to follow, no length of required time to pray or exact words to say. Prayer is simply talking to God, listening and learning to recognise His voice. It is the key that will transform your personal relationship with God into powerful intimacy.

When I first became a Christian, I heard someone say, "unless you pray the first two hours of every day, you are not a good Christian". As a new believer, I could barely pray two minutes let alone two hours! So, whenever anyone mentioned prayer I would feel guilty. Then I read this Bible verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will in Christ Jesus". Praying frequently and continually throughout the day is a great way to develop your prayer life. Prayer is more like an ongoing conversation of asking, listening and responding to God. Gradually I learned that I could reject the feelings of guilt for not praying two hours at the start of each day and enjoy prayer with relational freedom. The reality is that I rarely start a day with hours of conversation with my wife, although I do talk to her regularly.

I love what Smith Wigglesworth, a local Bradford hero of faith said, "I don't often spend more than half an hour in prayer, but I never go more than half an hour without praying". So prayer can happen in short bursts all day long as you face the practical situations of life or in longer, more focused time.

Creating intentional time with God where you can seek Him to build your relationship away from the distractions and busyness of life is well worth the effort. Prayer is intimate and just like in any relationship, you will naturally want to spend time with the one you love and allow this to strengthen and deepen your relationship together. My prayer is that this devotional will help you to create intentional time with God and to pray continually throughout your day.

## WHO DO WE PRAY TO?

### PRAYER IS TO GOD ALONE

All prayer should be directed to our triune God: to our Father (Ephesians 5:20), through the Son (John 15:16; 16:23), in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26; Jude verse 20). Prayer to one member of the Trinity is prayer to all and all three are equally active participants in prayer. We must also remember that prayer is to God alone. Some religions encourage prayer to a variety of gods, dead relatives, saints, and spirits. But God is clear that we are to pray only to Him (Isaiah 42:8).

## **WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?**

### **PRAYER IS OUR PRIVILEGE**

Prayer is your relational privilege, it is not a chore or task. Think of prayer as 'worry in reverse'. Instead of worrying about your children or your job, or about the future, you can choose to pray. If you can worry, you can pray. And the opposite of worry is joy! That is why prayer is a privilege and a joy to us. Prayer will help you to be less anxious and reduce stress. Prayer will help you find hope even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Praying is "I get to pray" not "I have to pray". If we understand that prayer is personal, powerful and our privilege, we will make prayer our SEEK FIRST response instead of our last resort.

## **IS PRAYER EFFECTIVE?**

### **PRAYER IS POWERFUL**

The Bible teaches that a prayer full life, will be a powerful life. A praying church will be a power house. Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer, a house of prayer for all nations". (Mark 11:17) Prayer is more powerful than you could ever imagine because it connects you to God Almighty, your Heavenly Father. You can pray for yourself in times of sickness and need, you can also pray for others when they are sick, for those you love who don't know Jesus or for increase of opportunity and provision.

Throughout the Bible prayer enabled ordinary people to do extraordinary things. You may feel very ordinary, but prayer is extraordinary. Jeremiah 3:3 contains this incredible promise of God: "'Call to me,' says God, 'and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" That was not just a promise for the prophets and kings of the Bible, it is God's promise for us today.

As you begin your 28 day journey of prayer, remember this promise of God. You can pray for your family, friends, leaders, yourself, your health, your community, the nations and so much more. Putting into action the activity of prayer will help to connect you to your Heavenly Father. He loves you and can't wait to hear from you. So let's get started.

Remember:

- Prayer is relational
- Prayer is to God alone
- Prayer is our privilege
- Prayer is powerful

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**MAKE PRAYER  
YOUR FIRST  
RESPONSE  
INSTEAD  
OF YOUR LAST  
RESORT**

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# I INTRODUCTION FOCUS ON PRAYER

## **FOCUS ON PRAYER**

Jesus said, “Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.” Matthew 6:6 (MSG)

Shifting our focus from the demands and distractions around us to God will be helped by taking the advice of Jesus and putting it into practice in these three ways:

### **First, choose your time to pray.**

You can pray at any time day or night. There is no special time to pray but it does help to be consistent and make prayer a daily habit. Jesus often woke up very early in the morning to pray, but He also prayed in the night. (Mark 1:35 & 14:32)

### **Secondly, choose your place.**

Is there a place in your house that you can concentrate and focus on Jesus without being distracted? Or is there a place that you like to walk outside?

### **Thirdly, choose your way to pray.**

This prayer outline will help you discover different ways to pray. You can vary your prayer to include worship, Bible reading, and reflection. It doesn’t have to be the same every day, but it helps when we have a plan to pray often.

### **Now Pray**

God, thank You that You are with me each and every minute of the day. Thank You that You created me, love me and are listening to everything I say. Help me to discover that prayer works. Help me to understand how to develop a lifestyle of prayer.

# WEEK ONE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Learning how to pray is made simple by the teachings of Jesus. This is one of the most familiar prayer models often referred to as the 'Lord's Prayer'. This week, we will use each part of the 'Lord's Prayer' as a model to pray as Jesus instructed us in Matthew 6:9-13.

| This, then, is how  
you should pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.

The important thing to remember is that Jesus gave us this model of prayer to guide us, He never meant prayer to be recited and repeated in a formal manner (Matthew 6:5). The essence of Jesus' teaching in Matthew is that prayer is all about a relationship with a loving Heavenly Father. It is a conversation with your Father that starts from your heart and finds a language and a style that is uniquely crafted to you, filled with faith that He loves you and will hear your prayers.

# **DAY ONE**

## **DISCOVERING THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD**

**Jesus prayed, "Our Father in Heaven..." Matthew 6:9**

God is our loving Heavenly Father. He created each one of us and loves us completely. The Bible says that, "we are adopted as sons and daughters of God. And by Him we cry Abba, Father". (Romans 8:15) Abba is the intimate Hebrew word for father. It is an affectionate term that literally means Daddy. God is not a stern, harsh father. He is your Dad, full of love, affection and affirmation for you.

In fact, God knows what you need before you even ask it. When my son or daughter comes home from school, I know their mood just by looking at their face. How much more does your Heavenly Father know exactly what you're going through and what you need? We can ask our Father, with full confidence as His children, for anything we need.

The Bible reveals God as a loving Father, yet so often, the relationship that we have had with natural earthly fathers affects our view of God. If your relationship with your earthly father was not a healthy one, then you may transfer these feelings to your Heavenly Father. If that's the case, your emotions might take some working through because the reality is that the Bible reveals God as good and loving. He loves to hear our voice, and to listen to our prayers.

God is our Father in heaven, He has a heavenly perspective on our life that we can trust in. He has the desire and power to help you build a better life, He is for you, with you and loves you completely and only wants good things for you. As you start to pray, begin your prayers with the understanding and knowledge that God is a good Father.

### **Today Pray**

(Today think of the things which are of concern right now and lift them up to your Heavenly Father.) God, as I begin this journey over the next 28 days, help me to discover the joy of a greater relationship with You. Thank You that You are my Abba Father. My Daddy. Thank You that You are pleased with me. Thank You that You sent Jesus to die for my sins, that You have forgiven me and surround me with Your love and favour. Help me understand the depth of Your Father's love for me, and to receive Your total acceptance of me. I lift up all the needs and circumstances in my life to You and place them in Your hands.

# DAY TWO

## IN AWE OF THE NAME OF GOD

### Jesus prayed, "Hallowed be Your Name" Matthew 6:9

Hallowed is a word that is rarely used today. It means to be set apart, in awe of, greatly revered and honoured, to be holy. When Jesus instructed us to 'hallow God's name', it is because God Himself is so great, and His name reflects His greatness. God's name Yahweh literally means 'I AM'. His name was so revered by the ancient Hebrews that they dared not even mention it out loud. So they would refer to God by the qualities of His name. Some of these names are:

- God is Provider (Genesis 22:13-14)
- God is Healer (Exodus 15:26)
- God is my Banner (Exodus 17:8-15)
- God is Peace (Judges 6:24)
- God is my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
- God is my Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)
- God is Almighty (Psalm 91:1)

Spend a few moments reflecting on each of these names of God and then speak God's names out loud. Where do you need God to show Himself as the great I Am in your life today? Do you need healing, financial provision or peace? God is all these things and more! Declare that the great I Am will move in the area of need that you have today.

The Bible teaches that God gave Jesus the name that is above every other name and exalted Him to the highest place (Phil 2:8-11). Understanding the names of God, and learning to pray 'in the name of Jesus', puts His power and authority in action on your behalf. That is why we sometimes finish prayers with saying out loud "in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen".

### Today Pray

Thank You God that Your name is higher than any other name. Thank you God that Your name is higher than sickness and stress. Thank You God that You are my healer, my provider, my protection, and my rock. There is power in Your name, and I worship You as God Almighty. (As you go about your day keep reminding yourself that He is a limitless God and nothing is too much for Him.)

# DAY THREE

## YOUR KINGDOM COME

**Jesus prayed, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Matthew 6:10**

What does Jesus mean by the kingdom? The kingdom He refers to is the reign and rule of God within the hearts of His people. That means His kingdom has entered our lives before we enter heaven. God's will being done means that we learn what's important to God, and make what's important to Him important to us. It means that we care more about His kingdom that has already begun in our hearts, than our own personal kingdoms. The world will become a better place if we pray for God's will to come and be done on earth as it is in heaven. So what's important to God?

- People that are lost finding faith in Jesus and receiving eternal life (John 3:16)
- The lonely to find belonging in a spiritual family (Psalm 64:6)
- Taking advantage of others being replaced with taking care of others (James 1:27)
- Greed being replaced with generosity (Proverbs 11:5)
- Abuse and neglect being exchanged with kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion (Isaiah 61)
- Injustice being replaced with social justice (Amos 5:24)

How do we bring the kingdom? Seeking first is the key: Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of heaven and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well". (Matthew 6:33) In other words, when divine will and human will conflict, we are called to give priority to God's desires. As we seek His desires, He looks after our desires because He is such a good Father. Psalm 37:4 tells us to "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart".

Spend some time praying through each one of the points above. Write out the scriptures and declare them out loud. Pray for the lost, the lonely, the hurting, the neglected, the forgotten. Pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, in every city and region, for social justice and even for environmental issues. Pray for God's will to come and advance throughout the earth.

### Today Pray

Father God thank You that You hear my prayers:

I pray that Your will would be done in my life. I lift up every area of my life (name the areas in your life where you need God's help) and submit them to you. I pray for Your will to be done with all those who do not know Jesus as their personal Saviour amongst my family, friends and colleagues. I also pray for all that hold positions of authority – from my church leaders to those in government - that you would use them to help your kingdom grow on the earth.

# DAY FOUR

## GIVE US THIS DAY

**Jesus prayed, "Give us this day our daily bread" Matthew 6:11**

In Exodus 16:31, God sent bread from heaven that fell like rain on the ground. It came every morning, six days a week. Each person was able to gather up as much as they needed for the day ahead. If however they kept it overnight, thinking that they wouldn't have to gather it in the morning, it would stink and be full of maggots. Except for the Sabbath, which God designated for rest, only on that day would it stay fresh.

Bread represents the living word of God. In the same way that bread nourishes our body, our soul craves spiritual bread. We cannot thrive on old stale manna. Reading, praying and worshipping God each day will keep your soul strong and feed you spiritually so that you can overcome in the many challenges of life. By seeking first we are asking for God's guidance and His blessing on all our circumstances. We are moving forward with Him, putting our trust in Him, knowing He is for us in every way.

In John 6:35, Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life". In Matthew 4:4, He says, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God". So when we pray "give us this day our daily bread," we are asking God to supply the strength and sustenance we need. Meditating on and memorising scripture is a great way to allow God's word to enrich our minds. What do you need from God today? Is it wisdom? Health? Provision? Strength? Think about Jesus being the source of your strength. He is your bread. Are there areas in your life that you are struggling to surrender to Jesus?

Think about this incredible promise that Jesus made, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours". (Mark 11:24) God wants you to ask because He wants you to receive! It might help you to receive faith for the situations that you are currently facing by lifting your hands, with your palms up, as a sign of receiving the help and power of the Holy Spirit. Another way to help you receive is to search the Bible and find a specific scripture that goes along with a particular situation or challenge that you are facing. For example, if you need healing today, Exodus 15:26 declares, "I am the Lord who heals you". If you're facing a financial challenge, a promise like Philippians 4:19, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus".

### Today Pray

Jesus, thank You that You are my source, my strength, my bread, my manna for this day. I give You my problems, my fears, my challenges and my past. Thank You that because of You I have everything I need for this day. Thank You that You are with me. I receive Your help as I lift my hands to You today. I receive Your love, Your peace and Your power.

# DAY FIVE

## FORGIVE AND LIVE

**Jesus prayed, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors".  
Matthew 6:9**

Being forgiven of all of our past sin is an indescribable eternal gift. Psalm 103:12 declares that "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us". Jesus has accomplished forgiveness on your behalf. Forgiveness is not a feeling it is a fact! It may take time for your mind to catch up with what has already happened in your spirit. ..."If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come". (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Having received the incredible free gift of eternal life, Jesus asks us to forgive others just as we have been forgiven. If you have ever been hurt, lied to, taken advantage of, or neglected, it is understandable that there is unforgiveness in your life. As difficult as it is to forgive others, until you learn how to forgive, you will be a prisoner to your past. I have seen the damage that unforgiveness causes firsthand. Where unforgiveness grows, bitterness creeps in and kills life and joy, robbing people from experiencing the goodness of God in their lives.

"See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." (Hebrews 12:15) As soon as you become aware of unforgiveness, forgive. Even when it's tough, forgive. The person you hurt the most through unforgiveness is not the person who hurt you, but yourself. Unforgiveness is one of the greatest hindrances and blockages to having your prayers answered. Stop living in that old prison and give your pain to Jesus. Don't let your past stop you from receiving your future.

Sometimes it is easier to receive forgiveness than it is to find the strength to forgive others. That's where prayer can come in. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. The Holy Spirit is your comforter and counsellor and He will help you pinpoint the people to forgive. God might ask you to forgive someone as you pray or He may ask you to go to someone and speak to them. "If you remember that your brother has something against you, go and be reconciled to them." (Matthew 5:24)

In Matthew 6:14 Jesus said, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their sins your Father will not forgive your sins". Think of it like this, the best revenge is to forgive someone and put them into the hands of God. It's time to forgive and live!

### **Today Pray**

Jesus search my heart, and help me to become aware of any unforgiveness in my life. Help me to find the strength to forgive others. I receive Your help right now. (Say out loud the names of the people that you need to forgive. It may help to write them down first). Jesus, in the same way that I have been forgiven by You, I forgive all the people who have hurt me. Forgive them too, Jesus and help me to be free from any bitterness that has grown in my life. Thank You for setting me free to forgive and live the kind of abundant life You have destined me to live.

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**THERE IS NO  
REVENGE  
SWEETER  
THAN TOTAL  
FORGIVENESS**

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# **| DAY SIX**

## **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

**Jesus prayed, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one". Matthew 6:13**

The Bible teaches that we will all experience times of temptation, which is normal for every human being but it also says God will be faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. And when you are tempted 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Temptation is not sin, but if the temptation, is not dealt with quickly it will grow into sin. Jesus is teaching us to determine not to be led into areas of temptation. Avoiding temptation is a choice. If you want a better life, you can choose to have a better life. Choose not to expose yourself to compromising situations. Choose to not put yourself in harm's way. If you can avoid a situation where you know that you will be tempted, avoid it.

It is not always easy to avoid temptation but it is the best choice, and making good choices will lead you to a better future. If you have fallen into sin, remember, your past choice is not your last choice. Prayer will not change your bad choices but when you repent and start to make better decisions, you will see the results of this in your life. You are one choice away from a better life.

Jesus also says "deliver us from the evil one". Spiritual warfare is real. Ephesians 6:12 tell us, "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". There is evil in the world and the personification of evil is Satan. However, through Jesus we have complete authority. Matthew 28:18 tells us, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus". In James 4:7, we are told to "Submit to God, resist the Devil and he will flee". The enemy has no power over you and prayer is one of your most powerful weapons against any attack or temptation.

### **Today Pray**

Today I choose to avoid temptation, to avoid compromising situations and places. Give me strength God to refuse temptation quickly and completely. I take authority in the name of Jesus over any plan that the enemy is forming against me. Help me to recognise lies of the enemy, and take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ. Devil you have no power or authority over me and fear has no authority or place in my life. Thank You Jesus that You are for me so no one can be against me. (Spend some time in quiet and ask the Holy Spirit if there are any lies you have been believing about yourself. If there are ask the Holy Spirit what is the truth that you should replace that lie with).

# **| DAY SEVEN**

## **HAVE FAITH THAT GOD IS ABLE**

**Jesus prayed, "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever". Matthew 6:13**

Have you ever faced a situation in life that you would consider to be impossible? It may be a health issue, or a financial need, or perhaps someone that you love that does not yet know Jesus. Whatever your need is, know that your God is able.

Think about this verse, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever". (Revelation 11:15) Because of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, He is willing and well able to help you. People who lived throughout the Old Testament could only dream about such a day as we are living in. A day when the promised Messiah has already come, given His life on the cross, risen from the dead, ascended to heaven and is reigning supreme. You can rest assured as you pray, that miracles still happen today. And when they do, these modern day miracles bring glory to God forever.

The implications of the kingdom of this world belonging to Jesus are massive in every area and sphere of life. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. With that in mind, I would like to ask you a question that the Lord once asked Abraham and it is this: "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)

When you have this understanding, your prayers take on a boldness and a ferocious courage, knowing that God has the power to deliver and grant your requests. Even if the situation or circumstance looks impossible to you, it is not to God. Jesus said, "with people it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God". (Mark 10:27) God delights in doing the impossible. It is His forte and pleasure to do so.

Cancers are being healed, financial miracles are happening, people are coming to faith and so much more, for our God is a limitless God! "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)

### **Today Pray**

God thank You that You are willing and able to do immeasurably more than I can ask or imagine. I pray boldly, believing that You will surpass my requests. (Think about what you are facing that is currently impossible and declare) God, I give you my impossibility, and place this situation into your capable and able hands to bring a modern day miracle to pass. I declare that you are all powerful and that this would happen to bring glory to Your name forever, Amen.

# | WEEK TWO

## OUR MISSION

## **OUR MISSION**

| Now that we have prayed for God's kingdom to come, this week we will be praying for the mission of Life Church together.

Throughout the four campuses that are Life Church in Bradford, Leeds, Belfast and Warsaw, we are one church family with one call: 'To help as many people as possible to believe in Jesus, find belonging in God's house, and become all that they can be'.

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**BELIEVE  
BELONG  
BECOME**

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TO HELP AS MANY  
PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE  
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# DAY EIGHT

## HELP ME TO BELIEVE

**"If you can?" Jesus said, "Everything is possible for one who believes."**  
Mark 9:23

One of the most honest, helpful prayers in the whole Bible is found in Mark 9:24, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief". When you face uncertainties and challenges in life, praying with this simplicity and honesty to Jesus will help you so much. In each of our four campuses of Life Church, Bradford, Leeds, Belfast and Warsaw, there have been moments when simply praying and believing have made an extraordinary difference. That is why believing is an essential element, and one of the three core parts of the vision God has given for Life Church.

Jesus is helping each of us to believe that God is with us, for us, in us and working through us. Reflect on this verse, "We know in all things that God works for the good of those who love Him". (Romans 8:28)

In Mark chapter 9, a man asks Jesus if He can help him. When you face a struggle, it is easy to lose perspective on how powerful God is. That is why learning to pray for a 'God-outcome' in the midst of the struggle is vital to every believer. God loves to hear you pray, and He loves to do what some are telling you is impossible. Over the years, we have heard it said that it is impossible to build a vibrant church in the north of England, or in Belfast or Warsaw, but God delights in doing the impossible! God has done tremendous miracles of healing, breakthrough and blessing in each of our locations, and He is ready to do more!

What looks impossible in your life today? What are you believing God for? Changing from unbelief to belief is a transformational process that happens in prayer. The Bible says that faith is built by praying: "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying..." (Jude:20) Remember that God has no limitations. In Jeremiah 32:17 we are reminded that, "nothing is too hard for the Lord".

- Take some time to pray for your family, friends and people you love.
- Take some time to pray for your spiritual family, for your campus and for the entire church.
- List the impossible situations you are facing today and pray about each of them.

### Today Pray

Jesus, if there are any areas of unbelief, help me to believe that You are the God of the impossible. Today I pray that your power would fill my life. I give you the situations that are beyond my control. I declare that nothing is too difficult for you. I pray that every impossible situation facing our church and in the lives of your people would become possible in Jesus name.

# **| DAY NINE**

## **BELIEVE FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAVED**

**"For 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**

This is one of the most well known verses of the Bible. Today we are going to pray through each part of this verse.

"For God so loved" God's love is unconditional. God's love is the deepest possible expression of His character. The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 that God is love. Love is God's motivation to act on your behalf and for anyone who is far from Him. He loves you completely.

"The world" God loves every person, from every background and culture. God has no favourites because all people are His favourites.

"That He gave His one and only Son" Jesus is the only son of God. God gave His best, so that you could experience a relationship with Him.

"That whoever believes in Him shall not perish" Believing is the key to receiving eternal life. Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, then you will be saved.

"But have everlasting life" Jesus has come to give you life and life to the full (John 10:10).

Acts 16:16-31 contains an incredible story of salvation. Paul the apostle and Silas were in prison and they began to pray. Suddenly an earthquake came and opened the prison doors and their chains fell off. The jailer woke up and was ready to kill himself, but Paul shouted to him not to harm himself because no-one had escaped. The jailer was in shock having seen the power of God and such love from Paul. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household."

### **Today Pray**

Jesus thank You that You died for each and every person. Lord I lift up my family and friends and work colleagues and I ask in Jesus name for them to come to know you as Lord and Saviour. Let my household and my extended family be saved!

Lord I pray for each city where a Life Church Campus (Bradford, Leeds, Belfast, Warsaw) is located and I pray for Your salvation power to be poured out amongst all those who don't know Jesus. I ask for opportunities to share my faith in Jesus, and when they come, to be bold and courageous with the gospel.

# DAY TEN

## FAITH FOR HEALING AND FINANCE

**"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for." Hebrews 11:1**

Are there specific areas of your life where you would like your hope to be brought into reality? Jesus introduced faith as an essential element that will help in every area of life. Maybe you are sick and you need a physical healing, or perhaps you are believing for a job or financial breakthrough? In the same way that your faith began by believing, it also grows by continuing to believe. The Bible says that, "anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Prayer is the fuel for your hope that will transform fear into faith. Don't be afraid of your future, drop anchor deep into the goodness of God. When life is hard, remember that God is good. So many people are living in fear of the future. Take a moment to write down any fears that you currently have: perhaps it's a fear of sickness or failure, fear of rejection or lack; whatever it is, you can bring it before your Heavenly Father.

If you need faith for healing, prayerfully read these scriptures and let truth sink in.

- "For I am the Lord who heals you!" Exodus 15:26
- "Surely He (Jesus) took up our pain and carried our sorrows...but He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Jesus talked about money more than any other topic, after the Kingdom of God. In 16 of the 38 parables, Jesus refers to things like taxes, lending, taking care of the poor, generosity and more. If you need faith for finance, prayerfully read these scriptures.

- "When you give... let your giving be in secret. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:3-4
- "Do not worry about your life...consider how the wild flowers grow. If this is how God clothes the grass of the field, how much more will He clothe you. But seek first His kingdom, and all these things will be given to you as well." Luke 12:22-30
- "'Test me in this,' says the Lord, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'" Malachi 3:10

### Today Pray

God, thank You that You are my healer and my provider. Thank You that Jesus not only died for my sins but He died for my physical and mental healing. I declare that "by Your stripes I am healed". Thank You God that You are my provider. As I sow generously, Lord help me reap generously. Open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that I won't be able to contain it!

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**PRAYER IS  
THE FUEL THAT  
TRANSFORMS  
FEARS INTO  
FAITH**

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# DAY ELEVEN

## GENERATIONAL BELONGING

**"One generation commends Your works to another, they tell of Your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4**

Life Church has a great culture of celebrating every age range in life. From the youngest to the oldest, from babies to centenarians, the legacy of faith continues and is passed down from generation to generation.

There was a woman named Gertrude Peacock who lived well past the age of 100 and has now been promoted to heaven. Well into her nineties she would come to Rock Nations, our youth conference, to pray and celebrate the younger generations. Gertrude, together with her girlfriends, would also come to help feed the homeless and those in need through the week. She was a living example of the young and old working together in the local church (Acts 2:17). Gertrude and many saints like her in that great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) are now in heaven cheering on the younger generations. People like Gertrude are an inspiration.

Creating a legacy of believers is what Life Church has done for decades. Whether you have been saved for five minutes or fifty years, there is always someone to encourage and strengthen. The legacy of Life Church is a generational wisdom that is a hallmark of honour. The family of believers is not separated by age but joined together into a rich tapestry of love and experience. It's not about the style of music we listen to, the clothes each generation wears, it's not about any difference at all. It's Jesus that unites us all!

It was always God's plan to pour out His spirit generationally (Acts 2:17-21). That looks like babies inspired by children, children inspired by youth, youth inspired by young adults, young adults by fathers and mothers, middle age inspired by the seniors. Every generation should build each other up.

- Let's be thankful for all the ages that Life Church represents
- Make a decision to honour those older than you
- Make a decision to be the kind of person that people younger than you can look up to

### Today Pray

Jesus, Thank You for the legacy of the generations that makes up Life Church. Lord, we pray for unity in all the different age ranges. We ask for the wisdom of those more experienced and the energy of the young to work together to extend the Kingdom of God.

# DAY TWELVE

## TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

**"God sets the lonely in families." Psalm 68:6**

God has designed the local church to be a spiritual family. One of the three core values of Life Church is belonging, which is expressed in Life Groups. Because God is your Heavenly Father, in Christ you have spiritual brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and even grandparents! With Christ himself at the head, the local church is called to be the greatest family force on the earth.

Life is better shared. The Bible says, "Two are better than one, if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12) Often the responsibilities of life can isolate us from the very people God has sent to help us. It is not always easy making new friends, or taking a next step of faith, but it is well worth the effort of connecting. "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens." (Eph 2:19-22)

At Life Church there are many opportunities for fun and friendship that help build a sense of family. God has designed the local church to be one spiritual body with a specific and special purpose. The Bible says, "Now you are Christ's body and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). There are opportunities for you to discover more about God and your spiritual gifts, opportunities to understand more about the Bible and leadership. In every foyer and coffee shop at the campus you will find teams waiting to help you to take whatever next step you feel God leading you in. There are youth, young adult, senior, kids, business and professional ministries, all waiting for you. There are Life Groups based around interests and hobbies, studying the Bible, prayer and so much more.

- Pray for the strengthening of your existing relationships in your life.  
Pray for your team at school, work and in the church.
- If you are in a Life Group, pray for everyone in that group by name.
- Pray about starting new friendships, whether joining a new team, a Life Group at church or even starting one of your own!

### Today Pray

God, thank You that You have placed me in a spiritual family. Thank You for Life Church. Thank you for the opportunities for fellowship and friendship that are available. Help me to find my place and where I play my part. I pray for every leader of a Life Group and life stage group, that we would become the family that You intend us to be.

# DAY THIRTEEN

## THE POWER OF A GOOD REPORT

**God told Moses, “Make an altar on which to burn incense.” Exodus 30:1**

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” Matthew 18:19

Teamwork begins and ends with the ability for people to live in agreement. The Bible is full of examples of great things that happened when God’s people lived in agreement, and catastrophes when they did not. In the team that you are in, whether it’s at work, church, or school, do not let the power of a bad report influence outcomes. In Numbers 13:32 the bad report of ten spies influenced a nation and meant that an entire generation died in the wilderness, with only Joshua and Caleb living to enter the promised land.

What’s the mood and conversational tone of the team that you are in? Is it positive and encouraging or is it full of grumbling and complaining? Jesus talked much about how to live in agreement, resolve differences and the power of unity. We are called to live lives that honour, love and respect others, especially other believers.

Psalm 133 declares, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ... For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life evermore.” But when disagreement kicks in it can sour the sweetest of relationships. That’s why maturity, wisdom and grace are vital to building healthy teams and relationships.

Are you helping to create a positive and attractive culture in your team? Are you helping to spread a good report instead? Let’s continue to pray for and with our teams and seek to be peacemakers bringing understanding and agreement.

- Take some time to think and pray about how you can spread a good report in the team you’re in.
- Consider how you can encourage and spur your teammates toward love and good deeds.
- Pray for the teams in each campus and full department of Life Church.

### Today Pray

God, I know that You want to bless me, my team, my family and my church. Help me to come into agreement with how You think about me. Help me to agree in prayer with other Christians and not to pass on pain but hope and faith, so that whatever we ask in Your name, it will be done for us.

# DAY FOURTEEN

## PLANS TO PROSPER YOU

**"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**  
**(Jeremiah 29:11)**

The context of Jeremiah 29 is that God's people had been carried into Babylon in captivity. Yet God still had great plans for them. In the same way, God has a plan for you, for your family and for your church. It is beyond anything that we can imagine: His plans are to prosper you; His plans are to give you hope and a future. Your past mistakes, no matter how big, cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:31-39). God is the God of the second, third and as many chances as you need to move forward. He is full of grace and love for you and your family.

God is preparing a future for you for that is based on His ability, not your efforts. That is why you don't need to strive or worry. God makes no small plans, only fresh starts. However, God often starts with a step that looks like a small beginning.

Many people in the Bible had very ordinary or small starts to their stories of greatness:

- David, the small shepherd boy who was last and least of his brothers  
(1 Samuel 16:12)
- Rahab, the brothel owner (Josh 2:3-24)
- Joseph in prison (Gen 37-38)
- Mary, a teenage girl from Nazareth (Luke 1:28-29)

Each of these people did extraordinary things. God is ready to do incredible things in your life, whatever your circumstances. Are there specific areas of personal growth you would like to see over this next year? Are there situations or challenges that you would like to find breakthrough in? Before you do anything else, before you put those plans into place, take a few moments to seek first and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your steps. It might be a spiritual plan to read the Bible, or a physical plan to exercise regularly and eat healthily. It may be a relationship goal to spend more time with a friend or with your marriage partner. Write down what the Holy Spirit reveals to you.

Reflect on this verse, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love Him - these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

### Today Pray

God show me the blueprint You have for my life. Help me to take the next steps and reveal to me the grand design that You have for me. Today is a fresh start. I trust You with my future and I refuse to be in stress or anxiety about it. I know that You will guide me and help me to enjoy the journey along the way.

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**GOD MAKES  
NO SMALL  
PLANS  
ONLY FRESH  
STARTS**

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# WEEK THREE

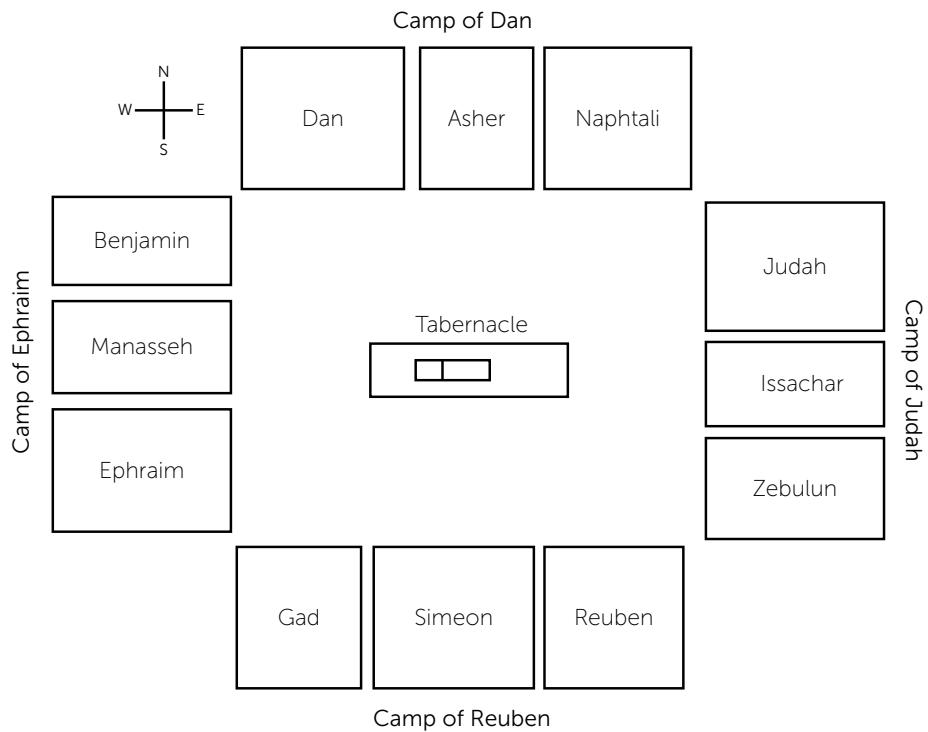
## THE TABERNACLE PRAYER

## TABERNACLE PRAYER

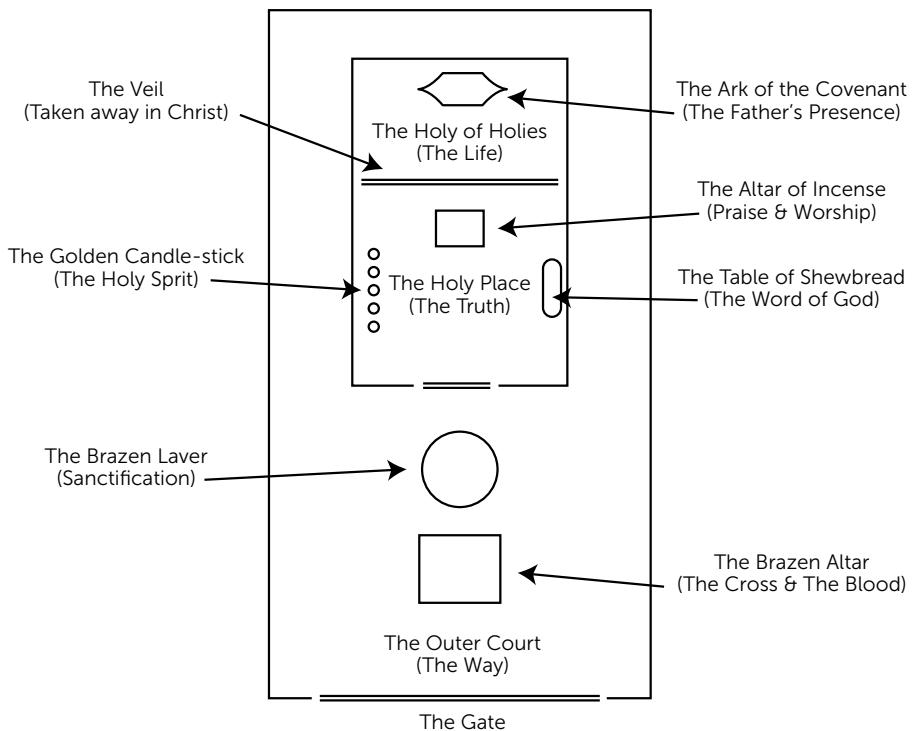
“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” Exodus 25:8-9

The tabernacle or “tent of meeting” was the dwelling place of God where He would meet with His people. It was built to His exact specifications (see Exodus 25 -31). God’s people would pass through each of the seven stations, following His instructions, so that they could experience His presence. Thankfully, because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we no longer need a physical tabernacle, but these same steps will help us approach and connect with God today. This prayer model will introduce us to each station of the tabernacle and provide insight to help our prayer life.

# ARRANGEMENT OF THE CAMP OF ISRAEL



# TABERNACLE LAYOUT



# **| DAY FIFTEEN**

# **| ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING**

**"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with Praise." Psalm 100:4**

The gates that the Bible refers to are the doorway entrance to the outer court. The tabernacle was surrounded by walls of white linen with only one way to enter the outer courts. This gateway was called 'The Entrance Gate' and was made of blue, purple and scarlet curtains. The bright contrast of this gateway with the white linen walls was a spectacular visual reminder that there was only one way to approach God.

As the Jews entered through these gates, they were required to come in an attitude of thanksgiving and thankfulness. This symbolic entrance into the presence of God was a prophetic picture of what Jesus Christ would later accomplish for all of humanity. Jesus said about Himself, "I am the gate, whoever enters through Me will be saved". (John 10:8)

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Let your mind be filled with awe, that because of Jesus you can approach God who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let your mouth be filled with thanksgiving as you approach God in prayer, knowing that you can only enter by receiving Jesus and being thankful for eternal life.

Jesus died in the most excruciating way on the cross, so we could enjoy such privilege. The Jews could never have imagined such freedom. To be able to access God whenever and wherever was beyond their imagination.

We pray in the name of Jesus, because it is through Jesus that God is able to hear our prayers. How much more should we be filled with thanksgiving because of what Jesus has done for us?

## **Today Pray**

Jesus, thank You that You are my gateway into the presence of God. I am so grateful that You died for me. There was no other way for me to enter into the presence of God, except by Your sacrifice. Help me to be thankful and count the blessings in my life. (Spend a moment writing down the things and people that you are thankful for. Then declare them out loud.)

# DAY SIXTEEN

## HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

**"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with Praise." Psalm 100:4**

Praise means to celebrate God for who He is; to give Him honour and adore Him. Praise is about declaring how great God is. "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." (1 Chronicles 16:25) God is most worthy of praise, because of His character. God's character is not just good, He is all good. God is just not powerful, He is all powerful. God is not just loving, He is all loving. Praising God is declaring who He is.

When the Israelites of the Old Testament would enter through the gate to the tent of meeting with thanksgiving, they would then enter a spacious courtyard. In the courtyard they would declare their praises to God. As a result, the courtyard would be full of praise. In that same way, God desires that our lives would continually be filled with praise. Psalm 34:1 tells us, "His Praise will always be on lips". When praise is continually on our lips, we create an atmosphere of possibility everywhere we go, and a powerful joy is released in our lives.

Before the Israelites rushed into the presence of God presenting all of their prayer requests, they focused on praising Him. When you praise Him for who He is, you will raise your expectation of what He can do. The Bible teaches that praise brings the presence of God (Psalm 22:3). Before you rush into your prayer list, remind yourself who He is by declaring that He is the Lord God Almighty.

- You can praise God by declaring out loud who He is (Psalm 104:1)
- You can praise God in song (Psalm 147:1)
- You can praise God with musical instruments (Psalm 150)
- Or you can simply make a joyful noise (Psalm 98)

There will be times when it is easy to praise God and times when it could be more difficult. Hebrews 13:15 encourages us, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise". Even when you don't feel like it, be consistent in your praise to God.

### Today Pray

God I praise you for who you are. You are God eternal, all powerful, all present and all knowing. This day I commit to let the praise of God be continually on my lips. Even when I don't feel like it, I bring you my praise as a sacrifice. (Take a moment to praise God for all of the aspects of His character that come to mind). Praise you God that You are great and most worthy of praise!

# DAY SEVENTEEN

## THE BRONZE ALTAR

**God said to Moses, "Overlay the altar with bronze". Exodus 27:2**

In the Old Testament tabernacle, there was a Bronze Altar that was meticulously designed according to the exact representation God gave to Moses in Exodus 27 for the purpose of animal sacrifice. Moses was commanded to place the altar directly in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting (Exodus 40:6) so that when the people of God entered through the gate, into the outer courts, it would be the first thing they would see.

Each time the Israelites wanted to be in the presence of God, they had to sacrifice an animal. It was impossible to approach God's presence until a sacrifice was made. This process is described in detail in Leviticus 1-7. The altar represents the cross of Christ with Jesus Himself as our sacrificial lamb. When Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) Jesus is our sacrificial lamb and through His own death, we can have access to God! (Hebrews 9:26; Romans 3:25)

Jesus is the lamb without blemish or defect. He exchanged His perfect, sinless life, for our life of sin. When Jesus died on that cross, His blood became the sacrifice so anyone, in any place, at any time could be forgiven of all their sins.

No longer was the dwelling place of God confined to the Tabernacle. God's presence is with you right now as you pray and read these words. Let the reality of the saving grace of Jesus fill your mind and heart. Wherever, whenever you can approach the presence of God because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

### Today Pray

Thank You Jesus that You are the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Thank You that through Your death, You became my lamb and my sacrifice. Thank You that You have taken away all my sins. I pray that I would understand how blessed I am to be able to receive such great love. Help me to have confidence and boldness as I approach You to pray today for my friends, family and co-workers. Thank You that in all situations, You are with me.

# DAY EIGHTEEN

## HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

God said to Moses, "Place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it". Exodus 40:6

Do you know that you are forgiven, loved and cherished by Almighty God? Have you ever struggled to be free from past regrets or know someone who has? Understanding what the water basin represents will help. The water cleansed the dirt, dust and grime from God's people before they entered His presence. It was a looking glass, in which they would look and reflect on their hearts and conscience before going into the Holy Place. The priests washed their hands, feet and face at the Laver, representing cleansing from their sin.

Hebrews 10:22 says, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water". Being forgiven and knowing that you are forgiven are two entirely different things. The Water Basin symbolises the power of the forgiveness of God and the refreshing work of the Holy Spirit cleansing us from sin.

There was a great king in the Old Testament called David. After he sinned, he prayed "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me". (Psalm 51:10) Asking for God's help to have a pure heart, a clean conscience and to find freedom from past mistakes is a great way to pray. Read and meditate on these scriptures, asking the Holy Spirit to highlight any areas that you need His cleansing power:

- "I wash my hands in innocence and go about Your altar Lord." Psalm 26:6
- "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Psalm 51:2
- "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

Another way the Bible uses water as a symbol of purification is through water baptism, as an outward act of what God has already done in your heart.

- "This water symbolises baptism that now saves you also." 1 Peter 3:20
- "What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on His name." Acts 22:16

If you have never been water baptised, why not pray about this today too?

### Today Pray

Lord, thank You that I am forgiven. Create in me a clean heart and help me to be cleansed by Your Holy Spirit of all effects of sin. I pray for all roots of any remaining sin in me to be exposed today, and I thank You that because of the cleansing of the Holy Spirit I am free.

# **| DAY NINETEEN**

## **| THE GOLDEN LAMP & THE TABLE OF BREAD**

God said, " Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before Me at all times". Exodus 25:30

God said, "Make a lampstand out of pure gold; and keep the lamps burning from evening till morning". Exodus 27:20

Finally, we are in the tent of the tabernacle itself! At one end is the Golden Lampstand, the only light in the tent, and at the opposite end is a table overlaid with pure gold with 12 loaves of fresh bread. Interestingly, all the items in the outer court were made of common bronze, but inside the tent all the items are precious gold, which was given to the Israelites by the Egyptians when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:35). When you enter God's presence, the very things that were meant to destroy you can be turned for His glory. Some things only make sense and can only be healed in the presence of the living God.

Both the lampstand and the bread represent Jesus:

The lampstand represents Jesus as the light of the world, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8:12) As you pray and read the word, allow the light of Jesus Christ to illuminate your soul and give you fresh hope. The lampstand is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, the sevenfold Spirit of God: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, holiness.

The Bread represents Jesus as the bread of life. 'Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35) Are you hungry for more of God? Are you hungry for a greater sense of fulfilment? Feed yourself the spiritual word of God and in His presence you will grow spiritually strong. Try reading the Bible and choose a promise of God to meditate on. For example:

- "A sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous." Proverbs 13:22
- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28
- 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." Ephesians 3:20

### **Today Pray**

Thank You Jesus for being my light and my bread. This day give me Your wisdom to help me to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. Be my substance to have strength and stamina to serve You and Your purposes. Thank You that Your light shines even brighter in darkness. (List the areas of your world that you would like to see Jesus light up with hope and love in the weeks and months to come.)

# DAY TWENTY

## ALTAR OF INCENSE

**God said to Moses, "Place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it". Exodus 40:6**

At the entrance of the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled, was a gold altar of incense. Every morning and every night the priest would come and light the incense in the presence of God. As a result, a beautiful fragrance filled the air continually before the Lord. This was as close as the Jewish people could come to the presence of God as they were not allowed to enter the Holy of Holies.

This altar of incense represents our worship to God. In the same way that the fragrance of the incense created a pleasing aroma, so our worship creates an atmosphere that pleases God.

The Bible says that worship opens the doors to all His goodness (Psalm 34:9 The Message Version). Reflect for a moment on that thought, that your personal worship will open doors of goodness. In Acts 16:25 we read the account of Paul & Silas. About midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake that caused the prison doors to fly open and everyone's chains came loose. The worship of Paul & Silas literally opened prison doors.

When we worship God, our loving adoration changes the atmosphere because the air is filled with His presence. Worship is for all ages, at any time and at any place. You can find out more about worship in these scriptures:

- All the families of the nations shall worship before You. (Psalm 22:27)
- Worship the Lord with gladness. (Psalm 100:2)
- Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only. (Luke 4:8)
- We are the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (1 Corinthians 2:15)

Sing and declare a worship song to God. You don't need to be a gifted vocalist for your worship to please Him. He loves the sound of your voice. Jesus told us in Matthew 6:6 to find a quiet secluded place. Make that place your personal worship space. Let your worship arise as a sweet fragrant offering to the Lord.

### Today Pray

worship You with all my heart. I love You, Lord. As I lift my worship to You, I trust that You are going to open doors for me to see and experience Your goodness. I worship You with all my strength and with all my soul.

# DAY TWENTY ONE

## THE ART OF INTERCESSION

God said, "And there I will meet with you". Exodus 25:22

The final place in the tent of the tabernacle is the Holy of Holies. Hebrews 9:3-5 says, "Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place". Only the high priest could enter this place once a year. A beautiful veil separated the holy place from the Most Holy Place.

Inside the Most Holy Place was the Ark, which represented the covenant of God with people. The Ark was built exactly to the pattern that God set in Exodus 25:17-22. The golden Ark had two cherubs at each end that were seated on what God called the atonement cover. There between the two cherubs, above the cover, God would dwell. The glory of the Lord dwelt over the Tabernacle as a cloud by day, and fire by night (Exodus 40:38).

The moment Jesus Christ died on the cross everything changed. The veil of the Most Holy Place was ripped from the top down (Matthew 27:51). God had ripped the veil because the sacrifice of Christ did what no human could ever do. God had come down because Jesus became our eternal sacrifice. Through receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, by grace we can enter into the very presence of God Himself.

Jesus has granted believers unprecedented access to God. "Christ has appeared once for all to do away with the sin by the sacrifice of Himself." (Hebrew 9:26) With Jesus as our High Priest interceding on our behalf, our prayers are heard in the presence of Almighty God. Therefore, we are urged to first of all, make requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving for everyone, "for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Therefore, spend some time praying and interceding for:

- your family
- your community
- your church leaders
- local, regional and national leaders and all those in authority

### Today Pray

Thank You Jesus that You are my High Priest. Because of You, I can have complete and total access to the very presence of God. Jesus You have created a way for me to enter into the presence of God. (Take some time praying for your family, friends, and leaders.) God, I pray that my family, friends, and everyone I know would come to know Jesus as their personal saviour. I pray for other Christians to understand the power of what it means to be able to access Your Most Holy Place because of Jesus.

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**PRAYER IS  
THE ARENA  
WHERE YOUR  
FAITH MEETS  
GOD'S POWER**

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# WEEK FOUR

## PRAYING WITH POWER

## **PRAYING WITH POWER**

**| “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8**

This final week of the prayer devotional we will be following a model introduced in the book of Acts, which helps set the context so that you can understand how vital prayer was to believers and to the early church. The dynamic of prayer functioned powerfully as people prayed personally, corporately and in many places of influence throughout the nation.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as our helper to teach us, in every area of our life. (John 14:26) This final week focuses on what it looks to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray.

# DAY TWENTY TWO

## YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER

**Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...." Acts 1:8**

How does a person increase the power of their prayer life? How do we begin to accomplish what Jesus promised? He told us, "Whoever believes in me, will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father and I will do whatever you ask in My name". (John 14:12) Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after He went to the Father, "Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about." (Acts 1:4)

The disciples chose to join together constantly in prayer along with other believers (Acts 1:14). A few days after Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Holy Spirit was poured out, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:3). This outpouring was the gift that Jesus promised. The Holy Spirit is the empowerment that transforms people and baptises them in power. For example, look at Peter who had recently denied Jesus but then stands up boldly and says, "This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord God will call" (Acts 2:39). Peter had received spiritual power, he had been transformed by the Holy Spirit. What Peter and the disciples prayed for privately became a public victory as about three thousand people were baptised that day because of the empowering gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:10 states "We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" The word 'tongue' literally means language. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a powerful gift of prayer. To be able to pray with this new language will help you even at times when you are unsure what to pray. Romans 8:26 tell us, "In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes". In 1 Corinthians 14:4 -25, Paul says "anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...I would like every single one of you to speak in tongues." The Holy Spirit wishes to baptise every believer so that they would be filled with power: power to pray, power to be a witness, power to be used by God to do the greater things that Jesus promised.

- For further study about the Holy Spirit read Acts 10:44; Acts 19:2; Jude 1:20

### Today Pray

Jesus help me to receive power and to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. I receive you Holy Spirit to help me to even greater things in the life Jesus promised.

# DAY TWENTY THREE

## PRAYING FOR YOUR CHURCH

**Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem..." Acts 1:8**

When the Holy Spirit was poured out in Jerusalem, the first local church was born. These new believers were from every nation under heaven, yet in Christ all became one spiritual family. As the book of Acts unfolds we see the believers everywhere committed to personal and corporate prayer for every aspect of the local church (Acts 2:42; 3:1; 4:24; 10:2). This continues throughout the New Testament:

- in Rome to "be faithful in prayer" (Romans 15:30)
- in Ephesus to "pray on all occasions" (Ephesians 6:18)
- in Thessalonica "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17)
- in Colossae "devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Colossians 4:2)
- in Philippi "but in every situation, by prayer..." (Philippians 4:6)

In Acts 12:5-19, we see an example of the church praying for Peter who was unlawfully arrested and in jail. As the church prayed, God sent an angel to set him free. Peter arrives at the prayer meeting, much to the amazement of Rhoda who answered the door. When the church prays for leaders, God moves powerfully!

Pray as Jesus instructed: "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). Take some time to pray specifically for your: pastors, leaders, youth and children's pastors, music and outreach pastors, small group leaders as well as the campuses of Life Church in Belfast, Bradford, Leeds and Warsaw.

### Today Pray

Lord Jesus, I lift up all of our leaders, our pastors, our teams making a difference, our children, young people and Life Group leaders. Lord, keep all of them in Your will, blessed and healthy including their children as well. Continue to raise up more and more leaders who are skilled and able to shepherd and lead well. Let their leadership be a joy and not a burden.

# **| DAY TWENTY FOUR**

## **PRAYING FOR YOUR REGION**

**Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea...." Acts 1:8**

What does it mean to pray for Judea? In the Bible, Judea was the region in which Jerusalem was situated - it was home for Jesus and His disciples. Today this would be our home nation, the UK or Poland. So let's approach this in two areas: firstly to pray for the wider church; secondly to pray for the nation.

The wider church: Jesus prayed in John 17:9 "I pray for them...for those you have given me, for they are yours...so that they may be one as we are one. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent me, so that they may be brought to complete unity."

There are many different Christian churches that reflect the diversity of humanity. God does not see denominational differences but only one church in Jesus' name. Let's pray for other church leaders and churches. Let's learn from and love one another. Paul the apostle in the book of Ephesians 4:2-6, says "be completely humble and gentle, be patient bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and one Father of all."

The Nation; Secondly, Judea refers to the nation in which you live. The Bible instructs us to pray, "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:2)

The prophet Jeremiah wrote to God's people who had been taken captive and into Babylonian exile and instructed them by saying "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:7)

### **Today Pray**

(Take some time and pray for your local community, city and national leaders by name). Lord thank You for all those that you have established in authority at every level. May you bless them, guide them, help them accomplish Your will and purpose.

# DAY TWENTY FIVE

## PRAYING FOR SAMARIA

**Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria...." Acts 1:8**

What does it mean to pray for Samaria? In the Bible, God's chosen people, the Jews, were often in conflict with the Samaritans, with whom they had religious and cultural differences. Today we can understand this as representing those who are far from God. Perhaps you have a close friend, family member, or work colleague who is far from God. Take a moment to think of them, write down their names and begin to pray for them. Here is a great promise of God for those that you are praying for "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household". Acts 16:31.

However, 'praying for Samaria' represents much more than praying for people you love and are close to you. The Jewish people hated and despised the Samaritans and avoided spending any time with them (Matthew 10:4). So the 'Samaritans' represent those you dislike, distrust or even would think of as enemies. It's one thing to pray for your family and friends but Jesus said, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". (Matthew 5:44) Jesus always modelled this, for example when travelling through Samaria, He had a conversation with a Samaritan woman at the well. This even surprised His disciples but it resulted in her believing in Jesus and bringing other Samaritans to Him (John 4).

Prayerfully read what the Bible commands and think of those that you would find difficult to reach:

- "Remember those in prison." Hebrews 13:3
- "Feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, invite a stranger in, and clothe the naked, visit the sick." Matthew 25:35-40
- "Break the chains of injustice. Get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts." Isaiah 58:6-9 (MSG)
- "Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighbourhood... Touch the untouchables." Matthew 10:6-16 (MSG)

### Today Pray

Lord I lift up all those who don't know You. Jesus, I take authority over the god of this age that blinded the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4), so that they cannot see the light of the gospel. Open their spiritual eyes Lord so that they can see and experience your grace. Lord, thank You that Your love is boundless, that those things that separate people on earth are nothing to You. Help me to be aware of those who need to hear Your good news, those that I could reach with Your love. Lord, equip me to be brave in sharing my faith, even in situations that I find challenging.

# | TWENTY SIX

## | THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

**Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8**

Reaching the ends of the earth is not optional, it is what Jesus commanded believers to do: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:18). Yet, over 2000 years since His birth, there are 3.13 billion people who are unreached with the gospel of Jesus. This is about 40% of the global population. Most of these people live in what sociologists call the 10/40 window, a geographical area located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. This covers about 57 countries in Northern Africa and most of Asia, places with the largest populations, in the deepest poverty, in which many governments are officially or unofficially opposed to Christian work of any kind within their borders (Joshua Project). There are unreached areas in many other places of the earth as well.

We began this prayer week by praying for ourselves, and our own neighbourhoods, yet as we have seen it is essential also to have an "ends of the earth" mindset as we pray. take a few moments to read through these scriptures:

- "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Psalm 24
- "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." Acts 13:47
- "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations...and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

God tells us to ask Him for the nations, "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession" (Psalm 2:8). The word 'ask' literally means to demand. To ask boldly and demand might seem irreverent, until you remember how much God loves the world, "He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

### **Today Pray**

God, I lift up all those around the world who do not know You as Lord and Saviour, especially those who live in the 10/40 window. I pray that You would raise up churches, missionaries and ministries to reach people with the gospel. I pray that You would help me to have an end of the earth worldview. Jesus, make a way for people to hear Your good news of salvation. (Ask the Holy Spirit to put one or two nations in the 10/40 window on your heart continue to pray and learn more about them.)

# DAY TWENTY SEVEN

## TOO BUSY TO PRAY?

**"Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at Me, your High God, above politics, above everything." Psalm 46:10 (MSG)**

Life is busy. It is full of personal responsibilities, work responsibilities, family commitments, and so much more. If I'm honest there are times in my life when I think that I am too busy to pray. However in reality the Bible teaches that we are **too busy NOT to pray**.

Reflect on the various things shouting for your attention. Think about all of your unfinished tasks, phone calls to return, emails and texts to reply to, appointments to be made, events to plan. Now take a deep breathe and exhale. God is sovereign. When we seek first we give all these things over to our Heavenly Father. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and yet He is ready to help you carry your burdens - our God is so good.

Martin Luther said, "More work is done by prayer, than by work itself". The busier we are the more focused our prayer life should be. Think about that, more work is done by prayer than by the work itself. By working at growing your prayer life, you will accomplish greater things with less effort. Prayer is a tool to be used, and a weapon that is powerful and effective.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7  
Jesus was careful to stay prayer full.

The busier life becomes the more essential it is to find moments of stillness and peace where God re-affirms His supreme Lordship of everything. Moments where you find calm in the midst of the circumstantial storms. Let's not get busy FOR God, but learn to work in peace WITH God.

- Spend a few minutes praying for the busiest areas of your life
- Take a few moments to pray for the greatest responsibilities you have
- Pray for the areas or situations that are causing you the most stress or worry
- Cast all these cares, worries and anxieties on God

### Today Pray

Lord, I give You the busiest areas of my life. I give You the things I cannot control. I cast all my anxieties and worries on You, and I know that You are more than able to bring peace and calm in my life. I pray over my work situation, my financial situation, my family and over all the relationships in my life. Would you move powerfully in every area and relationship. Help me to be more aware of the opportunities I have to pray throughout the demands of the day.

# **| DAY TWENTY EIGHT**

# **| A PRAYER FULL LIFE IS A POWER FULL LIFE**

**"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."**

**James 5:16**

Throughout these last 28 days we have looked at how prayer activates and moves God Almighty into action. Your prayers will cause God to intercede on your behalf, for the people and situations you pray about. That is why it is essential to make prayer a lifestyle and a daily habit. The more you pray, the more full of faith you will become and the more God will move. On the other hand, when you pray less, there will also be a lack of power. "Unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain." (Psalm 127:1) When you pray faith filled prayers, salvation, healing, and miracles can follow. Make it a habit to step daily into the power and presence of God through prayer.

Remember that prayers are not answered according to you how feel, but according to God's power and faithfulness. You may not feel powerful, but when you pray have faith that your prayers work. The availability to pray is our part, the answers rest in God's hands. People were never designed to live without God; prayer in His presence is essential. Let prayer be the fuel that ushers you into the presence of God and moves your life forward in faith.

Prayer enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things. "Elijah was a human being even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years." (James 5:17-18) The characters in the Bible weren't perfect, they made mistakes, yet God used them miraculously:

- Moses prayed for God's people and miracles happened (Exodus 32:11-13)
- Joshua prayed for guidance and the sun stood still (Joshua 7:1-26)
- Hannah prayed for a child and became pregnant (Judges 16:28)
- Hezekiah prayed for a longer life and it was granted (2 Kings 20)
- Ezra and Nehemiah prayed for a city to be rebuilt and it was (Nehemiah 1.4)

## **Today Pray**

God thank You for all that You have shown me in these past 28 days. Today I commit to continue in my lifestyle of prayer. I commit to seeing You as the difference-maker, the life-saver, the chain-breaker and game-changer for myself and for many. (Make a list of the people and situations you would like to continue to pray for.) I commit to continue to pray more than just Sunday prayers, but midnight prayers, early morning prayers, and being still in your presence prayers. Thank you that my prayers are working powerfully.

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TO BECOME ALL THAT WE NEED TO BE,

**WE WILL  
NEED TO HAVE  
BOLD PRAYERS  
THAT WE HAVE  
NEVER PRAYED  
BEFORE**

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# NOTES

## SEEK FIRST

My Family

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My Church

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My Life

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My Government

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People who need Jesus

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## NOTES SEEK FIRST

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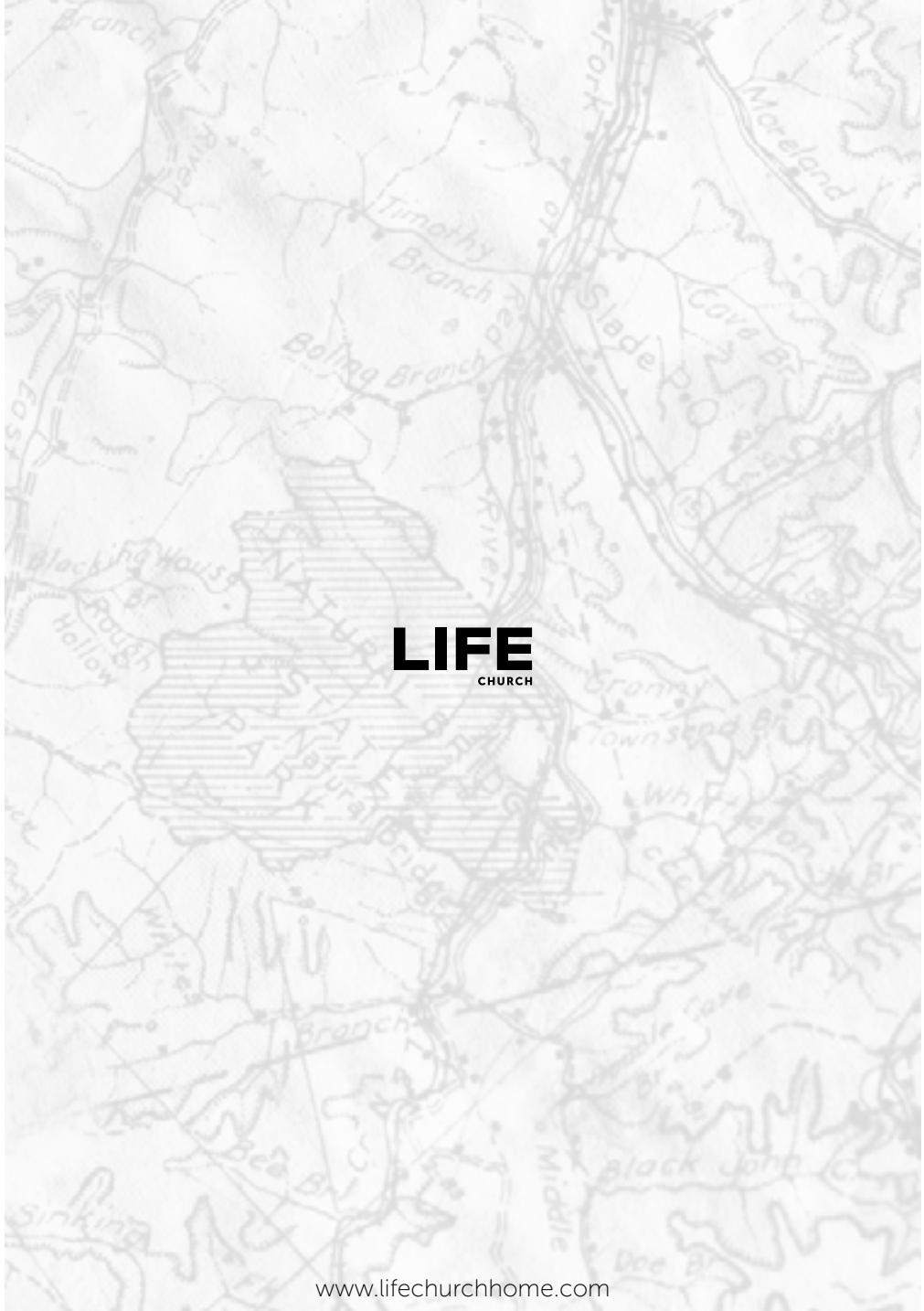
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