



A WEEK OF
prayer

5 STONES

Increase Prayer



Joy

MON-THUR, MARCH 25-28

7:00-7:30pm AT JOY



Before we start...

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Thank you for joining us during this week of prayer.

We pray for many reasons. We pray for everything from protection to provision, whether it be for our own personal needs or for the needs of others.

We pray because it matters...

The last part of James 5:16 ^(AMP) reads ...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

This booklet has been designed to give you some direction during this week of prayer. We certainly don't have to follow a formula to pray effectively, but our goal this week is prayer that is both concentrated and focused on a specific daily theme in order to make tremendous power available.

Luke 10:2 ^(NKJV) Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Jesus knew the biggest problem wasn't going to be finding people who had problems or needs. Jesus knew the biggest problem would be finding people willing to go into the field and work the harvest, so Jesus said, "Pray!"

Thank you for being willing to answer the call, stand in the gap and pray because, it matters!

**1 Samuel 2:30 says that, "I will honor those who honor me"
Thank you for joining us, as we honor the Lord by giving Him
these four days!**

With Joy,

Pastor Brian Taber



The Format

WELCOME & DIRECTION 7:00pm

- We'll start at 7:00pm with a short encouragement from Pastor Brian giving the direction and theme of the evening.

PRAYER 7:00pm

- People pray differently; some like to walk, others kneel and others like to sit. Please make yourself comfortable to pray however you'd like.
- There will be music playing and it may be too loud for some and not loud enough for others. Music is played to allow private conversations with God.
- When you pray: be bold, pray out loud, dig in, don't be afraid and mean business!

CLOSING 7:25–7:30pm

We will gather together at the front where Pastor Brian will lead a closing prayer, followed by a corporate worship song.

DISMISSAL 7:30pm

We will dismiss promptly at 7:30pm.

Communion

Communion will be available every day, “self-serve” style. You'll find a basket of disposable communion sets on a wooden stool as you walk into the Sanctuary. Take one, find a seat and receive communion at your discretion. Please use the trash receptacle nearby to discard your cup.

Take Note

- Be respectful
- Keep conversations in the lobby area
- Silence phones
- We won't be taking prayer requests during this time of prayer, however, your requests are important, read and prayed over when submitted following our standard Connect Card completion process.

Monday: MARCH 25, 2024

Today we pray because it matters

TO NATIONS AND OUR LEADERS

Big Idea:

All authority comes from God. Be it world, national leaders or those in our homes and communities, God asks us to both submit TO and pray FOR them. No leader has all the answers. That's why our prayer matters. Our prayers can help a leader to be influenced by the Spirit of God and when that happens that leader will lead well. If leaders lead well, those they lead will live in peace and tranquility.

Chronicles 7:14–15 ^(NLT) Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. ¹⁵ My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.

1 Timothy 2:1–4 ^(NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Our Prayer Focus:

WE CAN SHAPE THE DIRECTION AND CHANGE THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD, BY PRAYING FOR OUR LEADERS

- Pray for the nation of Israel
- Pray that governmental leaders would be open to Godly counsel
- Pray for local business leadership, that they would lead by God's example
- Ask God to help you guard your heart and mouth when you're tempted to speak poorly of leaders

Next Steps:

- Dedicate time each day to specifically pray for those who are in some type of authority in your life
- Make a list of leaders in your life and commit to pray for them

Today we pray because it matters

TO THE CHURCH

Big Idea:

Today we pray for the greatest organization on planet earth, The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ! The church is God's plan in reaching our world and is STILL the hope of the world. Jesus said that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church and yet we are also told to pray for the church because every community needs strong, healthy, vibrant churches.

Acts 16:5 ^(NLT) So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.

Matthew 5:14-16 ^(NLT) "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Acts 8:5,8 ^(NKJV) He preached Christ and there was great joy in that city

Our Prayer Focus:

WE ARE GOING TO PRAY FOR THE CAPITAL "C" CHURCH

- From Acts 16 we're going to pray two things
 - For strong healthy churches that are bold in their faith
 - Strong churches will be in a position to better reach their communities
 - For the Church to grow in numbers and influence, wherever they are
- Pray for the many great local churches around central MN
- Pray for Joy Christian Center
 - Those in leadership and those who serve on the various teams.
 - Pray for our Small Group leaders
 - That children and youth are ministered to in a powerful and life changing way
 - That the Holy Spirit would prepare hearts and minds to receive the word of God in all of our services
- Pray for the World-Wide Church
 - The Persecuted church

Remember – we are part of a world-wide organization whose goal is global domination!

Next Steps:

- Take steps to strengthen your faith and grow in your walk with the Lord
- Remember that God has given you a unique gift to shine and light your world around you with
- Wherever you are—actively share your faith with those around you

Today we pray because it matters

TO PEOPLE IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Big Idea:

There is much division and discord in our world and it affects our local communities. Today we pray for the peace, protection, blessing and prosperity of St. Cloud, and the surrounding area. When people who are far from God, come to know God, it has the potential to not only change them, but also, eventually, transform our community as well.

Jeremiah 29:7 ^(NLT) And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

Matthew 22:37-39 ^(NLT) Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.
³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 9:37-38 ^(NLT) Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Our Prayer Focus:

WE ARE PRAYING FOR GOD’S BLESSING AND FAVOR ON CENTRAL MINNESOTA

- Pray for local the local economy; businesses, farmers, laborers and future entrepreneurs
- Pray for safety, peace and protection of our educators and students in our local schools and colleges.
- Pray for all first responders in central Minnesota
- Pray that our Sunday services will be full of the Holy Spirit drawing people to Him
- Pray that every barrier a person who is far from God has, would be broken down

Next Steps:

- Do an intentional prayer “walk” or “drive”
- Pray for your employer and other employees
- Easter is a great time to invite people to church
- Listen for the three “nots” and use them as a way to engage the lost
 - o Not going well
 - o Not prepared for
 - o Not in church
- Prayerfully select 3–4 people you’re specifically going to pray and look for opportunities to share your faith with

TO GOD

Thursday: MARCH 28, 2024

Today we pray because it matters

TO GOD

Big Idea:

United, corporate prayer is one of the most powerful ways to approach God's throne. Often, we read in the New Testament that when the church was facing times of testing and trials they gathered together and lifted their voices to God. Our purpose tonight is to join together and pray through the Lord's prayer.

Acts 4:24 (NKJV) So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

Acts 4:29-31 (NLT) Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Our Prayer Focus:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9 (NKJV) In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.**

- Our first focus is God

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV) **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

- Your Kingdom and will over mine

Matthew 6:11 (NKJV) **Give us this day our daily bread.**

- Bread and provision for today
- You are enough

Matthew 6:12 (NKJV) **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

- I thank you that I'm forgiven, help me to forgive others in the same way
- Examine my heart and my ways

Matthew 6:13 (NKJV) **And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one**

- thank you for spiritual armor that stops the plans of the enemy

Matthew 6:13 (NKJV) **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

- It all belongs you!
- You are worthy!

Run with the
VISION

Increase Prayer



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greatjoy.org