

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

A 5-Day Reflection Guide

Joy

Prayer & Prodigal

SERMON SERIES:
PRAYER & PRODIGAL

WEEK & TOPIC:
PRAYER & PRODIGAL

DATES:
October 5–9, 2026

This Week's Big Idea

Prayer isn't a religious exercise or a complicated formula. It is direct living communication between the human soul and God.

The amazing thing is that God opened the channel first. Through Jesus, He made a way for us to communicate with Him—and for us to hear from Him. The question isn't whether God is willing to communicate. The question is whether we are listening.

And sometimes the greatest tragedy isn't that we've walked away from God. It's that we are close to Him, yet still starving because we aren't receiving what He has already provided.

The invitation is simple: return, receive, and cultivate the relationship.

PRAYER & PRODIGAL

Day 1: **THE CHANNEL IS OPEN**



TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:8 (NLT) “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Mark 15:38 (NLT) “And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”

TODAY'S SEED

Think about communication for a moment.

There is a sender. A message. A channel. A receiver. And sometimes...noise.

God didn't wait for humanity to get everything right before He communicated. He communicated first.

Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, God demonstrated His love by sending Christ. And when Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom.

The channel was opened.

What once separated people from the presence of God was no longer standing in the way. Through Jesus, we can communicate with God.

The message is clear: **Christ crucified and risen.**

And when I personally receive what He has done for me, something changes. I'm no longer trying to reach a God who is distant.

God is talking to me—and I can talk to God.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The torn curtain wasn't simply a dramatic moment in the story. It pointed to access. Jesus made it possible for us to come into relationship with God. Prayer isn't about trying to convince God to notice us.

The channel is already open.

DON'T MISS THIS

God opened the channel before you ever thought to call.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Do I really believe God wants communication with me?
2. What does knowing the channel is already open change about how I approach prayer?
3. What have I been trying to carry that I could simply bring to God?
4. Extra! Pray and Speak Psalm 91 over Pastor Brian and Shelly who are in ISRAEL

WATER THE SEED

Today, don't make prayer complicated.
Talk to God. Tell Him what's on your heart. Then spend a few moments simply being quiet.
The channel is open.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You for making a way for me to communicate with You. Help me stop making prayer complicated and simply come to You. I receive what Jesus has done for me. Teach me to talk with You and to listen when You speak.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PROVIDES THE CHANNEL. WE CULTIVATE THE COMMUNICATION.

LOOKING AHEAD
DAY 2: TURN DOWN THE NOISE

Day 2: **TURN DOWN THE NOISE**



TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) “And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

TODAY'S SEED

Have you ever tried to have a conversation while something else was making a tremendous amount of noise?

You can still hear the other person—but not clearly.

Sometimes our relationship with God can feel that way.

Religion can become noise. Rules can become noise. Sin can become noise. Offense can become noise. Unforgiveness can become noise.

None of these things change who God is. But they can affect how we experience the relationship.

God isn't asking us to perform our way into His presence. He asks us to come with faith—to believe that He exists and that He responds to those who sincerely seek Him.

Sometimes the best thing we can do **isn't talk louder.**

It's turn down the noise.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

A relationship requires something from both sides.

God has already communicated His love through Christ. He has opened the channel.

But communication isn't simply about talking. It is also about listening.

When God communicates with me, do I hear?

DON'T MISS THIS

Sometimes the answer isn't a louder prayer. It's less noise.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What creates the most noise between me and God?
2. Is there an offense or unforgiveness I need to surrender?
3. When was the last time I simply sat quietly and listened?

WATER THE SEED

Find 10 quiet minutes today.

Put away your phone.

Turn off the distractions. Don't come with a list.

Just say, "God, I'm here. I'm listening."

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Help me recognize the noise that keeps me from hearing You clearly. Help me surrender sin, offense, unforgiveness, religion, and rules that have become barriers. I want to sincerely seek You. Teach me to listen.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PROVIDES THE CHANNEL. WE CULTIVATE THE COMMUNICATION.

LOOKING AHEAD
DAY 3: PRAYER WORKS

Day 3: PRAYER WORKS



TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) “And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

TODAY'S SEED

Sometimes we wonder whether prayer actually makes a difference. Scripture gives us plenty of examples.

Hannah prayed—and God gave her a son.

Hezekiah prayed—and God gave him fifteen more years.

Christians prayed—and Peter was released from prison.

Jairus prayed—and Jesus raised his daughter from the dead.

Moses asked God to show Himself—and God did.

A thief on a cross prayed—and Jesus promised him eternity.

Different people. Different circumstances. Different prayers.

But there is a common thread:

They communicated with God.

Prayer isn't a magic formula where we tell God exactly what to do. **It is relationship.** It is faith (which begins with HIS WORD by the way). It is bringing ourselves honestly before the One who hears.

When I communicate with God, He hears.

And when He communicates with me, I need to listen.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Hebrews 11:6 connects coming to God with two things: believing that He exists and believing that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.

Prayer begins with faith in who God is.

DON'T MISS THIS

You don't have to wonder whether God hears. Come to Him believing.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What do I need to bring honestly before God today?
2. Do I really believe God hears when I pray?
3. Is there something I've stopped praying about because I stopped expecting God to move?

WATER THE SEED

Make a prayer list today.

Write down one thing you need God to do, one thing you need God to change in you, and one person you are praying for.

Then pray.

Believe. Seek. Listen.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You that I can come to You. Help me believe You hear me. Give me faith to sincerely seek You and patience to listen for Your direction. I trust You with what I cannot control.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PROVIDES THE CHANNEL. WE CULTIVATE THE COMMUNICATION.

LOOKING AHEAD

DAY 4: DON'T WASTE YOUR INHERITANCE

PRAYER & PRODIGAL

Day 4: DON'T WASTE YOUR INHERITANCE



TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:13 (NLT) “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

TODAY'S SEED

The story of the prodigal son is a story about inheritance.

Something had been passed from father to child.

The son wanted.

He wasted.

He lived wild.

He became starving.

He became hungry.

And here's the uncomfortable part:

We can be sitting in church three times a week and still be wanting things God doesn't want for us.

We can be wasting our marriage and relationships.

We can say we're followers of Christ while living wild.

We can look fine on the outside while starving on the inside.

The issue isn't whether God has provided an inheritance.

The issue is whether we are receiving what He has already provided.

Salvation—sozo—speaks of being saved, healing, deliverance, freedom, fullness.

There is more available in Christ than simply surviving.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The prodigal's problem wasn't that his father stopped being a father.

The inheritance was real.

The father's heart was real.

The son had simply moved away from what had been provided.

Sometimes we don't need God to provide something new.

We need to receive what He has already provided.

DON'T MISS THIS

You can be close to the house and still be starving inside.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Where am I experiencing spiritual hunger right now?
2. What am I wanting that God may not want for me?
3. Am I receiving the inheritance I already have in Christ?

WATER THE SEED

Today, instead of asking God for something new, thank Him for something He has already provided.

Thank Him for salvation.

Thank Him for freedom.

Thank Him for His presence.

Thank Him for hope.

Then ask Him to help you receive it.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Forgive me for the times I have looked everywhere except to You to satisfy what is missing inside me. Help me receive the fullness You have already provided through Christ. Fill me with joy, peace, and confident hope through Your Spirit.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PROVIDES THE CHANNEL. WE CULTIVATE THE COMMUNICATION.

LOOKING AHEAD
DAY 5: RETURN & CULTIVATE

Day 5:
RETURN & CULTIVATE



TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:22 (NLT) “Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.”

TODAY'S SEED

The prodigal came home.
And look at what happened.
The father didn't meet him with a lecture about everything he had done wrong.
He covered him.
He restored him.
He welcomed him.
He had a place to return to.
Maybe that's what some of us need today.
Not another formula.
Not another religious rule.
Not a cheat code.

Return.
Receive what God has already provided. Then cultivate the relationship.
Make time.
Make Him a priority.
There is no cheat code for relationship.
Read the Word.
Listen.
Talk to God.
Listen again.
The more we cultivate the relationship, the more we begin to discover what God has placed inside us and where He is leading us.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

God doesn't simply want to get you back.
He wants to move you forward.
His promises include covering, identity, direction, and leadership.
God will cover you.
You will begin to discover your identity in Him.
He will direct and lead you.

DON'T MISS THIS

Return to the Father. Receive what He has provided.
Cultivate the relationship.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What would returning to God look like for me today?
2. What needs to become a priority in my relationship with Him?
3. What is God asking me to cultivate through His Word and through prayer?
4. Where might He be leading me next?

WATER THE SEED

Set aside time with God today. Not because you have to. Not because you are trying to earn something. Because relationship requires time.

Open His Word. Talk to Him. Then be quiet and listen.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

I return to You. Thank You for covering me, restoring me, and giving me an identity in You. Help me make You a priority. Teach me to communicate with You, listen to You, and follow where You lead. I receive what You have already provided, and I trust You with what comes next.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PROVIDES THE CHANNEL. WE CULTIVATE THE COMMUNICATION.

LOOKING AHEAD

In Summary

The channel is open. The noise can be turned down. Prayer works. The inheritance is available. And the Father is still calling us home.

Jeremiah 33:3 says: "Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come."

And **Acts 2:17 reminds us:** "I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

So return. Receive. Cultivate.

Talk to Him. Listen to Him. Trust Him.

And see what happens when you stop starving on the outside of the relationship and begin receiving what God has already provided on the inside.

P.S. – If you're still here..... Get Ready as Our Next Gen Kids Director Lily Piechowski will be ministering Truth this Sunday!