

A Simple Prayer - Prayer of St. Francis

At Crossroads Church, it is our desire that our Community Groups would cultivate and bear the fruit of true "biblical community". Biblical community is a holistic way of living where our people experience a balanced lifestyle of engaging biblical content [Bible engagement], biblical application [accountability/life-change], biblical dependence [prayer], biblical vulnerability [care], and biblical lifestyle [spiritual friendships].

Toward that end, we have provided these prayer outlines to simply help your group pray together. Consider them as a springboard for connecting with God and each other through heartfelt conversation with God. To use them, simply "pray into" each point and, when you have exhausted the topic, move onto the next one.

The below prayer outline is based on a famous prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. As you use this prayer as an outline you will see that the first half are all "cleansing" prayers, asking the Spirit of God to purify our hearts of the self centered focus that often binds us. The second half are prayers asking the Spirit to produce in us the very things that will bring us life and His Kingdom through our lives.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let me sow love.**

Where there is injury, **let me sow pardon.**

Where there is doubt, **let me sow faith.**

Where there is despair, **let me sow hope.**

Where there is sadness, **let me sow joy.**

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much...

Seek To be consoled as **to console,**

To be understood as **to understand,**

To be loved as **to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



A.C.T.S.

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The below prayer outline is a well known model that walks us through the process of **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, and **S**upplication/requests.

Adoration is considering and proclaiming qualities or “attributes” of God. You might consider praying, “God you are...”

Confession is acknowledging things God has revealed are barriers to closeness to Him. You might already know where to begin, or you can start by simply praying, “God reveal to me what attitudes, actions, or motives grieve your heart. I am open and seeking you”.

Once He reveals something, thank Him, then give it to him. *“God I thank you for revealing __ to me. I confess __ to You and repent (turn the opposite direction) from this thing”.*

Thanksgiving is simply acknowledging what we are thankful for. Sadly it is a discipline for many of us to think about the things we are grateful for. Consumer marketing (and our own hearts) cause us to spend much of our energy reaching for that which we don’t have. This discipline calls us to acknowledge what God has already provided, and being thankful and satisfied in Him. Some might call it “counting your blessings”. Do so, but go beyond counting and express gratitude directly to God.

Supplication means requests. At the close of your time with God bring the things that are of care and concern to you. Allow ample time of silence so God can speak to you as well.

Close your time by simply asking God if there is anything He wants to share/reveal to you.



Praying the Name of God

The Alpha & Omega

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."

Revelation 21:6

In Genesis the first words we read are, "In the beginning, God...." And in Revelation the very last words we read are, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all." The Living Word, God, was here from the start and will be with us through to the end. He knew you before you were ever formed, and He desires to have an eternal relationship with you long after your time on Earth is through. Everything flows from God and should give glory to God the makers of heaven and Earth.

Pray for:

- For unity in the body of Christ
- For our loved ones who do not know Christ
- For our families and friends, neighbors or co-workers
- For our church and the leadership
- For Christ's Spirit to be poured out and for our lives to be used for His kingdom
- For our life group and the impact we can have in one another's lives and those we serve

*In peace and expectation we pray to you Lord.
Hear us now, for your mercy is great!*

As you go through this time, do not just simply glance over the passages. Take time to really read through each scripture. You might find it helpful to read each one a few times, pausing each time to ask the Lord to speak to you. After reading, allow time and space to reflect in your heart what it is that you have just read. Allow God's words to become His word to you. Once you have read and reflected on the passage, move into a time of prayer. Speak your heart to Him, being truthful and transparent. Then meditate on the truths that He has revealed through His word. Be intentional about quieting your heart and expecting to hear from Him. God speaks, take time to listen and wait. Rest in His presence and the peace He brings.

Abba

An Aramaic word intimately meaning, Daddy or Father. A term that carries a warm affection, intimacy, and respect for ones Father. To some that might sound like an irreverent way to address God. However, Jesus called God "Our Father," when He was teaching us how we ought to pray.

- Read Mark 14:32-36

What circumstances might you be facing currently, that you could take and lay before your Abba Father? Pray to your daddy and ask Him for strength or courage to face your circumstances. Tell Him your feelings and your struggles. Approach His throne the way one would tenderly approach their daddy.

- Read Romans 8:12-17

As believers, we are called Children of God having been given the Holy Spirit. By faith and baptism and through the power of the Spirit you have a new relationship with God. You are now a part of the family of God. Thank Him for receiving you as a child, a child He loves, blesses, and died to save.

Additional Scripture: Deut. 10:17-18; Psalm 136:3; Psalm 97:12

Yahweh-Shalom

You've most likely heard the blessing "Shalom". It is a term that means peace. Most importantly it means Lord, our peace. When your heart is at peace and content where does that contentment and peace come from? The Grace of God! There is no man more content than the one who is experiencing the amazing grace of God. Where does our Shepherd lead His sheep? "He leads me beside still waters." (Psalm 23:2)

- Read Psalm 4:1-8

The later part of verse 4 tells us to, "ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent." Take time to listen to the Lord. Often times we are rushed in our time with the Father or we take no time at all. Sit silently and ask the Lord to speak to you. Ask the Lord to reveal what keeps peace from you. Ask the Lord to give you peace in your time of silence.

- Read Isaiah 26:2-4

There is a common theme as we read throughout the Bible about peace. The Lord bestows peace on those who whose mind and heart are set on Him. Apart from God, we will never know true peace. We must learn to quiet ourselves and listen. Re-read this verse and meditate on it as you realign your heart and mind on Yehweh-Shalom. Look to Him in this time to give you peace.

Additional Scripture: Psalm 59:16; Prov 16:7; Isaiah 26:12; 2 Thess. 3:16

Psalm 46:10

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The below prayer outline is based on Psalm 46:10. You will recite the verse and pray out from it. Each time you return to the verse, subtract a word from the end. Notice how such a subtle alteration changes its focus significantly.

Be Still And Know That I Am **God...**

Be Still And Know That **I Am...**

Be Still And Know That **I...**

Be Still And Know **That...**

Be Still And **Know...**

Be Still **And...**

Be **Still...**

Be...

Be Still And Know That I Am God.



The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-10

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The below prayer outline is based on Matthew 5:3-10, otherwise known as "The Beatitudes". As you engage this outline, consider praying for the value of each point, and thanking God for the fruit to come as He transforms your lives and heart.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

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The below prayer outline is based on Matthew 6:9-13, otherwise known as "The Lord's Prayer".

Our Father in heaven...

Acknowledge the nature of our God, that He is not just a spiritual deity, but rather intimate and personal, like a perfect, loving "father".

Hallowed [or holy] be your name...

Though God relates to us lovingly as a father, He is still "holy," or other than us. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and perfect in all of His ways. In your own words, what does this mean to you in your own relationship to Him?

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

In our own prayers, it is far too easy to pray "our will," or what we think is best. Consider what you want to bring to God in prayer and bring it seeking His will and purposes, knowing that His ways will ultimately be best.

Give us this day our daily bread...

God longs to cultivate a relationship with us where we see Him as our provider. What "needs or requests" would you like to bring before God?

and forgive us our debts...

We all stumble and sometimes are even willingly disobedient to God. Consider your day, or week. For what do you need to ask God's forgiveness?

as we also have forgiven our debtors...

Our lives are complicated and we are surrounded by people who sometimes do hurtful or stupid things. It's easy for us all to harbor resentment toward people and, in this action, elevate ourselves in our thinking above them. Search your heart and consider who you might be harboring resentment toward.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The world we live in is a hostile place and we, as Christ followers, have a very real enemy who is continually seeking to distract us or get us off course. Pray God's protection and wisdom for the path before you. Pray into specific temptations you know of if you are able.

