



Purpose

In the Bible, we see that great opportunities and coming changes are preceded by prayer (1 Kings 8 & Nehemiah 1). Likewise, dangerous times are met with prayer (Daniel 2). Old Testament saints knew that they were totally dependent on God for every aspect of life. In the same manner, we acknowledge that our efforts to advance the gospel at different locations in Louisville are absolutely dependent on God's guidance, provision and purpose. Therefore, we come together as a united local body of believers and pray.

Introduction

During these forty days, we will model our prayers according to the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6. The Lord's Prayer demonstrates adoration, submission to God's purposes, supplication, and repentance. Just as it is helpful to use the Lord's Prayer for individual devotions, we will use it to guide us over the next forty days. We will cycle through the Lord's Prayer six times. For the first five weeks, we will focus on a particular phrase of the prayer each day. The last five days of prayer will, by necessity, compress the Lord's Prayer slightly. Each week will revolve around a different theme. The first week will focus on Commitment of Prayers and Servants. The following weeks will be applied to your neighborhood and areas of influence. In essence, we will pray forward the call to "Be where you are." We will pray for Servants, Leaders, Material needs, Spiritual needs, and God's Glory in our neighborhoods. If you are able to spend extended times in prayer during the forty days, by all means, expand your prayers beyond the daily theme. However, if your time requires short prayers, let us express our unity as a body and dependence on God to focus our prayers each day on a daily theme.

Corporate Fasts

Days 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 39, and 40 will be corporate fast days. During these days, we will express, in a focused way, our hunger for God to move in our city and our dependence on Him to do it. Fasting does not require abstaining from all food and water for the entire day. If you choose to fast, abstain in a way that your conscience and your physical circumstances permit. As an example, you could fast for breakfast and/or lunch. Fasting can also mean abstaining from other things. You can fast from watching TV, using the internet, or engaging in physical fitness. The important thing is to take the time you would have spent doing those things and use it to pray.

Also, you could meet with your friends or Community Group members to pray together when you're fasting. You may want to try prayer walking. Visit a park, a place where businesses are concentrated, or a particular street in your neighborhood and pray while you are walking around. You can take turns praying out loud, while others are observing and praying silently.

Week 1

Prayer for Commitment

This week, we will pray for our personal commitment to the Lord Jesus and for a renewal of our love for Him. We will specifically pray for everyone involved in the transition to St. Matthews, but we will also pray for the commitment of all Sojourners.

Day 1: Our Father in Heaven

Corporate Fast Day

Ephesians 1:3—Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Request—Pray that we will gain a new appreciation that we are God’s children. Pray that we will worship the Father as one who cares for, and pursues the good of, His children.

Day 2: Hallowed be Your name

Exodus 15:11—Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Request—Pray that we will worship God for His holiness. Pray that we will increasingly thank Jesus for being perfectly holy on this earth and for eternity.

Day 3: Your kingdom come

John 10:4—When He has brought out all His own, He goes on ahead of them, and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.

Request—Pray that we will be so close to Jesus, and so familiar with His words as revealed in the Word, that we will always be loyal to Him and dedicated to His kingdom goals for our community.

Day 4: Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Romans 12:2-3—Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is....

Request—Pray that our wills will be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit, so that God will use us to accomplish His will and purpose in our community and city.

Day 5: Give us today our daily bread

Philippians 4:6-7—Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Request—Pray that we will not surrender to fear and anxiety. Pray that we will be committed to trusting God for provision and that we will not rely on our own efforts.

Day 6: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Isaiah 53:6—We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Request—Pray that during this period of prayer we will often meditate on what Jesus accomplished at the cross.

Day 7: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Matthew 24:4-5—Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Request—Pray that we will be committed to learning and following the truth found in the Bible and that we will be increasingly deaf to false teaching.

Week 2

Prayer for Servants

This week, we will pray for all the Sojourners who will be moving to the St. Matthews location as well as those staying in Germantown. Remember to pray that all Sojourners will remain united and connected as we expand in the metro area.

Day 8: Our Father in Heaven

John 4:34—“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”

Request—Pray that doing the will of the Father and obeying His commands would be nourishment to the servants of Sojourn.

Day 9: Hallowed be Your name

Corporate Fast Day

1 Peter 2:9—But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Request—Pray that God will continually mold servants into holy priests who minister to each other and to unbelievers—who proclaim the holiness of the Lord God.

Day 10: Your kingdom come

Matthew 13:33—He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Request—Pray that the kingdom results that come from the gospel efforts of servants will be multiplied by God in unimaginable ways.

Day 11: Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Colossians 1:9— For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Request—Pray that servants will stay close to Jesus and be spiritually discerning by continually studying the Bible and being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Day 12: Give us today our daily bread

Psalms 37:25—I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

Request—Pray that God will provide for all the material needs of servants. Pray that He will provide jobs that enable them to provide for their families.

Day 13: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Colossians 3:13—Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Request—Pray that servants will be quick to forgive one another. Pray that they will show grace to one another. Pray that their love for one another will point unbelievers to Christ.

Day 14: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

1 Peter 5:8-9—Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith,

because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Request—Pray that servants will resist the attacks of the enemy, and pray that resistance and strong faith will encourage others to do the same.

Week 3

Prayer for Leaders

While praying through the Scriptures for the particular days below, also remember to pray that God will grant wisdom to our leaders. Pray especially for protection from Satan; he will not stand by passively while leaders work to expand God's kingdom.

Day 15: Our Father in Heaven

Galatians 4:6—Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

Request—Pray that leaders will often meditate on their relationship with the Father that is made possible by the Son.

Day 16: Hallowed be Your name

John 17:17— “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.”

Request—Pray that leaders will live holy lives informed by the truth found in God's Word.

Day 17: Your kingdom come

Corporate Fast Day

Matthew 6:33— “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Request—Pray that leaders will seek the kingdom of God first and not their own kingdoms. Pray that they will seek God's plans rather than their own.

Day 18: Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Psalms 143:10— Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Request—Pray that the Lord will teach leaders to do His will, and that they will be discerning about the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Day 19: Give us today our daily bread

2 Corinthians 8:7—But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Request—Pray that leaders will be models in the grace of giving. Pray that they will be able to lead in ministry to St. Matthews enabled by the generosity of other believers.

Day 20: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Ephesians 4:32—Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Request—Pray that leaders will be gracious toward each other and that they will be unified in promoting the gospel.

Day 21: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

John 17:15— “My prayer is not that You take them out of the world, but that You protect them from the evil one.”

Request—Pray that, as leaders are a light to their community, the Lord would protect them from the evil one. Pray that they withstand the temptations of greed, power, pride, and immorality by looking to Jesus.

Week 4

Prayer for Material Needs

Gospel ministry and gospel transformation bring change to everything—not just individual hearts. If we only seek to minister “spiritually,” but neglect the material world, we create a false dichotomy. Pray that we will have wisdom as we minister to the material needs of each community.

Day 22: Our Father in Heaven

Psalms 147:13-14—For He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

Request—Pray that God will be generous in meeting the material needs of the community. Pray that He will grant safety and peace.

Day 23: Hallowed be Your name

1 John 2:15-16—Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Request—Pray that idols in the community like false religions, materialism, immorality, etc., will fall to King Jesus and His gospel.

Day 24: Your kingdom come

Romans 14:17—For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Request—Pray that both believers and unbelievers in the community will realize that their need for Jesus is infinitely greater than any material needs they have.

Day 25: Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Corporate Fast Day

Isaiah 58:6-7— “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Request—Pray that outreach to the community will not be merely prayer and fasting, but that it will be an outreach to serve the hungry, give shelter to the wanderer, free the oppressed, and clothe the naked.

Day 26: Give us today our daily bread

Ephesians 6:9—And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.

Request—Pray that businesses in your community will be successful, treat their employees generously and fairly, and contribute to the well being of the community. Pray that employees will work hard, and be able to support their families.

Day 27: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Psalm 34:14—Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Request—Pray that God will use believers to be peacemakers in the community. Pray that God will bring reconciliation between parties in conflict.

Day 28: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Proverbs 2:7-9—He holds victory in store for the upright; He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.

Request—Pray that God will guard and protect the community from the destructive ambitions of Satan. Pray that justice and fairness would prevail instead of crime and wickedness.

Week 5

Prayer for Spiritual Needs

When we expand in the metro area, we want Jesus to expand His kingdom into the hearts of unbelievers. Most of the prayers this week re-state one central idea: unbelievers need Jesus.

Day 29: Our Father in Heaven

John 6:44— “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Request—Pray that unbelievers in the community would be drawn by the Father to the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 30: Hallowed be Your name

Isaiah 6:3—And [the angels] were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Request—Pray that unbelievers in the community would join the angels in worshipping our holy Lord.

Day 31: Your kingdom come

Matthew 3:2—[John the Baptist said] ... “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Request—Pray that God’s kingdom will expand in our community through the repentance of unbelievers.

Day 32: Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Matthew 18:13-14— “And if he finds [the lost sheep], I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”

Request—Pray that the Father will use Sojourners to find Jesus’ lost sheep living in the community.

Day 33: Give us today our daily bread

Corporate Fast Day

Proverbs 22:9—A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Request—Pray that as Sojourners are generous in sharing their material blessings, they will also share the spiritual blessing of the gospel.

Day 34: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Acts 10:43—All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

Request—Pray that unbelievers in the community will receive forgiveness of sins through the name of Jesus.

Day 35: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

2 Corinthians 4:4—The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Request—Pray that the light of the good news of Jesus will open the eyes of unbelievers who are now blinded by Satan.

Week 6

Prayer for God's Glory

We exist to bring God glory. Pray that our efforts throughout the land, the repentance of unbelievers, and the advance of the gospel will bring great glory to Jesus.

Day 36: Our Father in Heaven

Philippians 2:10-11—That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Request—Pray that Jesus and the Father will receive much glory through the bowed knees of those in our community who come to believe in Christ.

Day 37: Hallowed be Your name

Ezekiel 36:23—“I will show the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I show Myself holy through you before their eyes.”

Request—Pray that the Sovereign Lord will show Himself holy to the entire community.

Day 38: Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

John 17:24—“Father, I want those You have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Request—Pray that unbelievers in the community will see the glory of Jesus on this earth, and that they will one day see His glory face to face.

Day 39: Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Corporate Fast Day

Colossians 2:13-15—When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Request—Pray that God will be glorified when many people in our community are made alive in Christ through His triumph on the cross.

Day 40: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Corporate Fast Day

Revelation 17:14— They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.

Request—Pray that Jesus will receive glory when people see Him overcome Satan in their own lives and in the lives of others in the our community.