

2026 Monthly Prayer Guide

Growing as Stewards of God's Grace

Prayer is not just something we do but a relationship we have been invited into by our Heavenly Father. It is made possible by Christ's death in our place. David Mathis gives us a beautiful definition of prayer in his book *Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines*. Spend time reading and rejoicing in this definition of prayer below, and pray that God would help you have this view of prayer in the coming year. We have the incredible privilege to come to the Creator and King of the universe with every joy and sorrow. Pray that we would desire to be a people that is growing in humble dependence upon and devotion to Him.

Prayer, for the Christian, is not merely talking to God, but responding to the One who has initiated toward us. He has spoken first. This is not a conversation we start, but a relationship into which we've been drawn. His voice breaks the silence. Then, in prayer, we speak to the God who has spoken. Our asking and pleading, and requesting originate not from our emptiness, but His fullness. Prayer doesn't begin with our needs, but with His bounty. Its origin is first in adoration and only later in asking. Prayer is a reflex to the grace He gives to the sinners He saves. It is soliciting His provision in view of the power He has shown. Prayer is the glad response of the bride, in a joyfully submissive relationship with her Groom, responding to His sacrificial and life-giving initiatives. And so it is stunning grace we find in such a simple statement from the psalmist, which applies to every Christian, "The Lord accepts my prayer (Psalm 6:9)." - page 94

This year, as a church, we will spend time praying together through 1 Peter 4 and over our six pillars. We believe that by focusing on and praying over these different areas, it will grow us in living as wise stewards of God's grace and sharing in Christ's suffering in a way that is glorifying to God. Below is a guide of what will be prayed over each month, as well as some ideas to help direct your prayers each week. We encourage you to commit intentional time each week to pursuing God in these different areas and are excited to see how God will work in our church over the coming year.

January: Suffering for the sake of the Gospel

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of time in the flesh, no longer for human passions but for the will of God.” – 1 Peter 4:1-2

Throughout this month, we will spend time in prayer that God will grow our willingness to live like Christ, no longer living for our own pleasures and desires but according to the will of God for His glory.

Week One:

Pray that God would help you identify areas where you need to be willing to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Pray that God would help you remember the grace that He has shown to you and that this grace would spur you to put sin to death each day.

Week Two:

As you read through 1 Peter 4, it is clear that these commands were not given to individual believers alone, but to the church as a whole. Spend time rejoicing that God has called us to be a part of His body, the church. Be intentional this week with your family and/or small group in identifying ways that you can pray for one another to put sin to death and live for the glory of God.

Week Three:

As a part of the church, we are witnesses of God's work on earth and have the opportunity to point people to His glory and wisdom. This week, spend time praying that as a church we would be willing to suffer for the sake of proclaiming the gospel and God's goodness. Pray that we be a people who run to God, who comforts us in our affliction, and that we would comfort others as they face affliction.

Week Four:

In 1 Peter 1:3-9, we see the foundational hope that we have in Christ for suffering well in this life. Spend time this week rejoicing in this hope and praying that, as you face trials and suffering in this life, you would respond in a way that testifies to God's goodness to the people around you. Pray that we would share in Christ's suffering as a testimony of the grace He has shown us.

February: Pillar - Fervent Prayer

Week One:

Prayer is not just something we do as Christians, but it is a relationship that we have been invited into with our Heavenly Father. Spend time this week reading through Jeremiah 33:3 and Hebrews 4:14-16. Pray that God will help you see areas where you need to grow in your dependence upon and devotion to God in prayer.

Week Two:

Prayer is not only an aspect of our individual relationship with God, but as a part of the body of Christ, it is a way we communally lift one another up before the throne of mercy and grace. This week, spend time praying for your Small Group that they will grow in humble dependence upon God and that you will grow in caring for one another through prayer.

Week Three:

As the church, we are called to be ambassadors or representatives of Christ to the watching world. Pray that we, as we read the word and seek to live it out, would not be conformed to the pattern of this world but would be transformed by the renewal of our mind (Romans 12:1-2). Pray that we would be a bold testimony of the work of Christ in us and that we are growing in holiness each day.

Week Four:

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:1-4

God commands His people not only to pray for themselves and the church, but also for all people. These verses tell us the good fruit that comes from this type of life. Spend time praying for those in positions of authority in your life and in our country this week. Pray that God would bring many to repentance and that God will do a transformative work in the people around you through the gospel.

March: Standing firm when facing persecution

Week One:

When we are saved from our sin and given new life in Christ, we are called to a different life than that of those still living in the flesh. We are told in multiple places throughout the Bible that we will face hatred, rejection, and even persecution for the sake of Christ. Spend time reading and praying through 1 Peter 4:3-6. Pray that when you are rejected or persecuted for standing on Biblical truth, God would help you stand firm.

"For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, and drinking parties and lawless idolatry. With respect to this, they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh, the way people are, they might live in the spirit, the way God does." - 1 Peter 4:3-6

Week Two:

Jesus calls us to die to ourselves and live for the Kingdom of God. Spend time this week praying for your Small Group, that each of you would grow in standing firm in the faith, especially when facing persecution.

Week Three: As Jesus was preparing to head to the cross to rescue and redeem His people, He spent His precious last days warning and exhorting His disciples of the hardships that they would face in this life. In John 15:18-27, Jesus clearly states that his followers will be hated by the world, but that we can take heart because He has overcome the world. Read and pray through this passage. Rejoice that God has lovingly warned us what is to come and is with us as we face persecution for His sake.

Week Four:

When we are persecuted and slandered for our faith in Christ, we have the choice to respond in humility and compassion, to the honor of Christ, or in pride and anger. Spend time this week reading and praying through **1 Peter 3:8-17**. Pray that you would respond with grace and compassion when you are attacked for the sake of the gospel and that you would always be prepared to make a defense for the hope that is within you.

April: Pillar - Bold Preaching

Week One:

God has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him as He is revealed in His Word. Pray that you would be a 'person of the Word' and that your life would increasingly reflect the good fruit of faith and obedience. Ask God for wisdom on knowing the truth and living according to it.

Verses to pray through: 2 Peter 1:3-4; James 1:19-25

Week Two:

This week, we will spend time praying for those God has put in our spheres of influence. Ask that they would know God as their Lord and Savior, and that they would have hearts of repentance. Pray for your Small Group to be bold preachers of the truth. Ask God for many to come to know Jesus through their faithful witness over the course of their lives.

Verses to pray through: Titus 2:11-14

Week Three:

Pray for our church family, especially our pastors, that they would faithfully study and teach the Word. Pray that each of us would overcome the fear of man and that we would speak the truth boldly and compassionately. Pray that our church family would have ears to hear and hearts to obey God's Word.

Verses to pray through: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Week Four:

Pray that God would help us to reach the lost in our community with the truths from His Word. Ask God to give each of us boldness in everyday relationships, that we would speak of Christ and share the hope of eternal life. Pray that blind eyes would be opened, deaf ears unlocked, and hard hearts softened unto faith. Pray both broadly for our community and specifically for people you know.

Verses to pray through: Isaiah 35:5-10; Matthew 13:10-17

May: Living self-controlled and godly lives

Week One:

As Christians, we are called to grow in living self-controlled and godly lives, not being swayed by the ways of the world but being disciplined in all that we do. As we see in 2 Peter 1:3-7, our power for this is not from our own strength but through God's divine power at work in us through His Spirit. Read and pray through the passage below, praying that God would show you areas where you need to grow in living a godly and disciplined life.

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge and knowledge with self-control and self-control with steadfastness and steadfastness with godliness and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love."

Week Two:

Thanks be to God that we are not alone as we seek to grow in living self-controlled and godly lives. Spend time this week praying with and for your Small Group, that you would be intentional with encouraging one another to grow in living self-controlled and godly lives. Share specific areas where you want to grow and plan to check in with one another concerning these areas.

Week Three:

In 1 Peter 4:7, we are told, "The end of all things is at hand: therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." Over and over again in Scripture, it is clear that our testimony as a church is impacted by the way that we live. Pray that our church would be a testimony of the transformative work of Christ in each of our lives and our body as a whole.

Week Four:

As we look back at the passages we focused on this month, we see that living self-controlled and godly lives impacts not only ourselves, but those around us as well. Pray that as we grow in Christlikeness, it would be a testimony to our neighbors and community, and you would boldly share this with others.

June: Pillar - Courageous Evangelism

Week One:

Many of us may be familiar with *Ephesians 6:10-20*, where Paul teaches the importance of putting on the armor of God so that we can stand against the schemes of the evil one. At the end of this passage, we find our pillar verses for Courageous Evangelism. Spend time reading and praying through *Ephesians 6:10-20*. Pray that God would show you areas where you need to grow in putting on the armor of God and for boldness in proclaiming the gospel to everyone around you.

Week Two:

Spend time this week praying with and for your Small Group that you would rejoice in God's provision in giving us armor to stand firm in the truth. Share specific ways you can be praying for one another in putting on the armor of God and boldly proclaiming the gospel each day. This is a time where we can be challenging one another to be fervent in prayer for the lost in our lives and to be boldly seeking opportunities to share the love of Christ with our unsaved family, neighbors, and community whenever we have the opportunity.

Week Three:

As the church, we are called to be an embassy of God's Kingdom here on earth. Ambassadors are known as representatives of their king in a foreign land. Spend time reading and praying through 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Pray that God would help us as a church accurately represent Him in our families and different spheres of influence. Pray that our church would be a bold light of the gospel in Grimes and the greater Des Moines area.

Week Four:

God has given us the incredible privilege of sharing the hope of the gospel with hurting people around us. Pray that as we interact with our families, neighbors, coworkers, and community each day, we would lovingly share the truth of the gospel with everyone we can. Pray that God would grow us in love and boldness as we passionately share how we have been transformed by the grace of God in our lives.

July: Caring for Others

Week One:

God gives us clear examples and instructions in His Word that Christians are to be a people who are dying to themselves and counting others as more significant than themselves. Read and pray through 1 Peter 4:8-11 below. Pray that God would show you areas where you can grow in loving others, both in being hospitable and in serving others.

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God’s varied grace, whoever speaks as one who speaks oracles of God, whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”

Week Two:

During this week, as you pray about how you can grow in caring for others, proactively look for opportunities with your family and/or Small Group on how you can be caring for others. Pray that when God shows you opportunities to serve, you would quickly and joyfully take those opportunities. Check in with at least one other believer about how you can encourage one another in caring for others.

Week Three:

In John 13:34-35, we are told that people will know we are Jesus' disciples because of our love for one another. We will dig into more of what this looks like towards the end of the year as we focus on the pillar of Compelling Community. For now, pray that we as a church would be known for our Christlike love for one another.

Week Four:

As believers, we are bonded by something stronger than any other bond in this world. God is calling people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to be His sons and daughters. Pray that our love for one another would be a clear testimony to Christ’s work within us of the unity and love that exists among His people. Pray that God would be glorified by our love for one another and that people would be attracted to know more about this love that unifies us.

August: Pillar - Passionate Worship

Week One:

We are a people who are always worshipping. We either worship God or ourselves each day. This month, we will spend time praying that our worship is informed and centered on the truths in God's Word about who He is and how worthy He is of all our praise. Pray that as you are in the Word and prayer each day, it will overflow into worship. Pray that God will grow you to worship in both spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Week Two:

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have the privilege of helping one another grow in worshipping God in all that we do. This week, pray that your Small Group will be intentional with encouraging one another to not only worship God on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week in all that we do. Pray that your family would prioritize having meaningful times of worship throughout the week.

Week Three:

When we come together on Sundays, we have the privilege of worshipping with the family of God locally. Pray that we would be a church that is eager to see how God will work in our corporate worship each week. Part of this eagerness stems from coming with hearts that are prepared to worship God, no matter what we are carrying from our week. Pray that when we come on Sundays, our hearts are ready to worship and encourage others with the truth of God.

Week Four:

Everyone was created to worship God with their whole soul, heart, mind, and strength. Pray that we would be bold in our witness to unbelievers in our lives. That we would lay aside our comfort to share the good news of Christ as an act of worship to Him. Pray for others to come to know Jesus as Lord, and to worship Him with their whole lives.

September: Serving One Another

Week One:

God has blessed every Christian with spiritual gifts to serve the church for His glory and the good of others. We can sometimes get so focused on determining the gifts that we have that we lose sight of opportunities to jump into serving and experience God's grace in equipping us for where He has called us to serve. Spend time this week thinking about how you can grow in using the gifts God has blessed you with to serve others.

Week Two:

One of the specific ways we seek to care for and serve one another as a church is in our Small Groups. Spend some time this week as a Small Group rejoicing in the way you have seen God grow one another in caring and serving each other, and pray that God would continue giving you opportunities to love and serve one another.

Week Three:

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."

As believers, we have been freed from bondage to sin and death and given freedom in Christ to set aside our own interests and serve one another in love. As you read and pray through Galatians 5:13-15, pray for God to help you see areas where we can grow as a church in putting off selfishness and serving one another to the glory of God.

Week Four:

We are called not only to serve those who are in the church, but also to serve those in our community who are in need. Pray that God would be growing your heart in generously serving people around you, especially those who are different than you. Pray that we as a church would be caring well for those in our community as we seek to meet both their physical needs and have opportunities to share the gospel with them.

October: Pillar - Purposeful Discipleship

Week One:

The call to discipleship, or to following Jesus, is the call for every believer to lay down their own ambitions and to humbly walk in the way Jesus walked. This is a call to die to ourselves daily and to invite others to come along with us as we follow Jesus each day. This week, spend some time in prayer asking God to help you see areas where you need to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Week Two:

We have seen that throughout God's Word, He shows us that the life of a believer is not meant to be a solo project. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus tells His disciples to follow Him, and He will make them fishers of men. This week, spend time thanking God for your family, Small Group, and other believers who have helped you grow in your faith. Pray that you would be faithful in identifying and coming alongside other believers to help one another mature in the faith.

Week Three:

Our mission as a church is "To glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the Spirit of the Great Commandment." This mission stems from the call given to all believers in **Matthew 28:18-20** and the type of love that we are called to in **Matthew 22:34-40**. Spend time reading and praying through these passages. Pray that our church would be faithful in growing to love God with our entire being, loving our neighbor as ourselves, and that this love would spur us to boldly share the gospel. Pray that we would be helping one another faithfully fulfill this call as a church.

Week Four:

God, in His amazing grace and sovereignty, invites His people to be a part of reaching the nations with the hope of the gospel. We have been placed in this time and place to be a light of the gospel to our broken and hurting world. Pray that we would be bold in living on mission in reaching the greater Des Moines area with the hope of Christ. Spend time praying for believers here and across the world, to firmly stand in the truth and be a people who are faithfully making disciples to the glory of God.

November: Enduring through Trials

Week One:

God gives us many warnings throughout Scripture that this life will be filled with trials and suffering. We are also promised with these warnings that we can “count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” Peter also tells us that trials help us see the genuineness of our faith as it is tested by fire. Spend time reading and praying through **James 1:2-4** and **1 Peter 1:3-9**. Pray that God would help you have this eternal perspective of the good that He is working in the trials and heartache.

Week Two:

Paul reinforces the idea that we can rejoice in our sufferings in many places, including **Romans 5:1-5** and **8:18-25**. Spend time this week praying with your family and/or Small Group. Think about times where God has used trials and suffering to grow you in endurance and trust in Him. Pray that as you face trials over the coming weeks or months, you would each be turning to God for comfort and grace to endure trials for His glory.

Week Three:

In **1 Peter 4:12-19**, we see that another reason that we can rejoice when the fiery trials come is that we are sharing Christ's suffering that He would be glorified. Suffering comes in many forms in this world, but one that we see in this passage is being insulted or persecuted for the sake of Christ. Spend time this week praying that we would be a people who are seeking to do good, who humbly point to God's goodness in the hard and painful things.

Week Four:

As we seek to find joy in our suffering and endure to God's glory, it gives us a unique opportunity to be a witness to those around us. The natural human condition is to avoid suffering at all costs, but we know God works redemptively in our suffering. Pray that you would be a bold witness of God's goodness and mercy to you in seasons of suffering and hardship.

December: Pillar - Compelling Community

Week One:

When we are saved from our sin, we are not only reconciled to God, but we are adopted into His family as beloved sons and daughters. We have the incredible privilege as children of God to come to our loving heavenly Father with all of the burdens on our hearts. Spend time this week reading and praying through Ephesians 1:3-14 and Romans 8:12-17. Praise God that He has adopted you into His family, and pray that you would be living in light of this truth each day.

Week Two:

As a part of God's family, we are blessed to walk alongside and live life with other believers, both locally and across the globe. At Harvest, we deeply believe there is a level of commitment and care that comes with being a part of the family of God. Spend time this week with your family and/or Small Group praising God for the ways you have been blessed by God's family and praying that you would be growing in your love for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Week Three:

In John 13:34-35, Jesus gives His disciples a command that defines the way they interact with one another and the world. We are told that we are to love one another as Jesus has loved us, and by this the world will know we are His disciples. This is a high and holy calling and can only be done through God's work in us. Pray that our church would grow in Christlike love for one another, that we would be a testimony of God's work in us to the people around us.

Week Four:

We are not only called to love those in the church but also everyone around us. As we experience the love of God for us each day as His beloved children, we have the opportunity to invite others to experience the joy and freedom that we have as children of God. Pray that we would be a people who are overflowing with God's love. Pray that we would boldly invite others to come to God in faith and repentance, to know God as their perfect heavenly Father.