

40

**DAYS** of  
**PRAYER &**  
**FASTING**

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**T**oday's average life span is just over 25,000 days. Surely, we can each set aside 40 of those to figure out what God wants for the future of our church – His church! The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant amount of time. When God wants to work in and through someone in a mighty way, there is a substantial season of spiritual preparation:

- 🕊 Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
- 🕊 Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mt Sinai.
- 🕊 The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land.
- 🕊 David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- 🕊 Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
- 🕊 The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
- 🕊 Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
- 🕊 The disciples experienced transformation during the 40 days with Jesus after His resurrection, yet before His ascension.

Thank you for taking the next 40 days to prepare for God to work powerfully in your life and speak directly to your heart as He transforms each of us through this season of prayer and fasting.

Why should fasting be a part of this 40-day spiritual journey? God's choicest provisions come only through prayer AND fasting. What we glean from 2 Chronicles 20:22-30 is that Jehoshaphat, a King of Judah, conquered the Moabites without even raising a sword thanks to the nation praying and fasting. If we want to hear God clearly and experience God's work powerfully, we must remove distractions and focus wholeheartedly on Him.

**I'm thrilled to be on this  
journey with you!**

*Pastor Glynn*

# WEEK ONE: EQUIPPED TO PRAY

## DAY 1

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Colossians 4:2

The Discipline of Prayer

by Pastor Glynn

**J**ob 33:14 states, “for God speaks time and again, but a person may not notice it.” (HCSB) While God uses people, sermons and even signs to communicate with His children, the number one way God speaks is through His Scripture. By starting this 40-day journey today, you are declaring, “God, I want to hear from you more than I hear from anyone else.”

Each day, the Word of God must guide your time alone with Him. There is so much more depth to Scripture than what readily meets the eye the first time you read it. Some truths never seem to sink in unless you take the time to sit and stare at the text. Meditating on Scripture is the art of digging out the most that we can from every word. Try it now with Colossians 4:2: “*Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving.*” (HCSB)

What does this verse say to you about the needs you are facing?

What is it saying to you about your tendency to be distracted?

What is God saying to you about your attitude?

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I realize that I don't have what it takes to be a Christian without Your help. Today, I ask that You remove the hardness of my heart and the walls that I've built that shut You out. Direct me to truth today through Your Word.

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." -Martin Luther*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for Pastor Glynn as he leads us in engaging 10,000 East Texas households in the next three years.

## DAY 2

# PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Luke 11:1-4

The Devotion of Prayer

*by Bo Patterson*

**D**o you pray? Not over your food or when you speed through a yellow light. Do you pray daily, often and "in all things"? Most people don't pray because they don't actually believe anything will change. These people see the world as set in motion and give up before they start. Often, what we need the most is a desire to pray, and then prayer takes off.

A desire to pray is what Jesus' disciples had as told by Luke. They saw Jesus committed to listening and talking with His Father and they wanted it for themselves. He taught them how to pray by acknowledging God for who He is, asking His kingdom come soon, asking for basic needs, as well as forgiveness for sins and for protection against evil. More importantly, He taught them that prayer matters and is important. Is it important to you? Would you say you desire prayer? If not, ask God to instill a desire in you to hear and obey His commands, ask and receive His favor, and support and expand His kingdom.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, prick my heart that I will come daily to the Throne of Grace. Let me put away all of my excuses, turn off my alarm and meet with You. Open my ears to hear from You.

*“We ought to see the face of God every morning before we see the face of man.” -Dwight L. Moody*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for Greg Martin and Jan LaJoie as they work to handle the details of the Engage10K Campaign.

## DAY 3

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Dialogue of Prayer

*by Paul Coleman*

**W**hen do those who live in your house with you observe your love for and dependence on your Father, the Creator of the universe? They see it in many ways, but none more clearly than when you pray. Prayer demonstrates our dependence in a very tangible way. Not only do our kids and spouses get to hear our heart as we pray, they also get to see our trust lived out. Sure, we could show them anxiety, anger or frustration when one of the troubles of life shows up, or we could practice Paul’s instructions here to do three simple things:

**Rejoice Always** – because I have unfettered access to the Throne of Grace.

**Pray Constantly** – because there is always something I can’t control that God can.

## EQUIPPED TO PRAY

**Give Thanks in Everything** – because there is always an undeserved blessing in my life.

Paul then brings motivation to these instructions when he says, “*For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18b, HCSB). How many times have you wanted to know God’s will? Knowing what God wants brings clarity to everything because His will must be my first concern. As parents, practicing these three simple instructions will make a lasting impact on your kids’ lives.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, teach me how to pray for my family, my church and my workplace. Teach me to listen for Your voice throughout my day so that I am prompted to pray for those around me.

*“True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.” -Charles Spurgeon*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the entire Engage10K leadership team.

### MERGE MOMENT: THANKSGIVING JAR

An aspect of prayer that is often overlooked is being thankful.

Set aside a time this week to begin this project as a family. Get a large jar and some slips of paper. Give each member of the family a slip and have each person record something they are thankful for—a brief “thank you note” to Jesus. Place the slip in the jar. Decide on a time you can meet together to add

more slips to the jar. Maybe you can do this after breakfast on Saturday or on Tuesday nights – whatever works with your schedule. If things happen during the week, encourage your child or student to record their “thank you” and add it to the jar. As we progress through this 40 days of prayer and fasting, continue to record what you are thankful for. Keep the jar and share your “thank you notes” as you gather at your Thanksgiving table in November.

DAY 4

## GENERATIONAL CONNECTION

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

The Deliverance of Prayer

*by Charles Barham*

**P** rayer is a very personal communication between the individual and God. Much of our public prayer is for the ears of people rather than God. We want to remind people of things we feel they need to remember or to do. While public prayer does have importance, we are instructed to enter our closet to pray. The emphasis is on you and God alone.

When we pray, we should remember who God is. He is not a kindly grandfather that gives us all the ice cream we want. He is the God of creation who is awesome and holy. We should approach Him with awe and reverence. He is also the living God who places His arms around us in love and compassion. God always want us to approach Him with faith. Faith is what makes the relationship possible. Without faith we cannot please Him. We must be willing for God to stretch our faith. God wants us to approach Him with silence. Prayer is not a monologue, but a dialogue. We listen to God as well as speak to Him. We should not insult God by just telling Him what we want, then run off before He has the opportunity to respond. The strongest legacy we can leave for future generations is helping them to understand these truths.



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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray Psalm 63:1. I recognize that You alone are my God. I want to earnestly seek You today because my soul is thirsty. I long for You and need Your loving touch on my life. Bring me out of this desert of inner emptiness and fill me with Your Spirit.

*“The most monumental leap we take toward freedom is the leap to our knees in surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ.” -Beth Moore*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for Jimmy and Terri Skeen as they lead the Engage10K Campaign.

DAY 5

**GOSPEL URGENCY**

Romans 10:9-10  
The Direction of Prayer  
*by Jay Shepherd*

**Y**ou have an urgent message! When we get the notice that there is something urgent we must hear, sometimes our stomachs tighten up, we break out in a cold sweat and worry about what kind of news we are about to face. But, as it happens so much of the time, we hear the message, and our worries are unfounded.

Think about the Scripture for today. As Romans 10:9-10 reminds you of your responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus, the same results of an urgent message may come over you. There’s no need though. In Romans 12:12, God says to bring all things to Him in prayer. Why does He say that? Because as you pray, God infuses you with His power and strength to do as He asks. He’s not asking

you to do anything without His power and direction.

Today, ask God to end your anxiety about sharing the Good News with others. Ask Him to give you the heart of one who loves Him so much that you are compelled to respond by letting others know what Jesus has done for you.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I need Your help. You alone know the direction for my life. Give me a heart that is ready to hear what You need me to do. Give me feet that are willing to go where You need me to go. Give me hands that are willing to serve others.

*“The one who obeys God’s instruction for today will develop a keen awareness of His direction for tomorrow.” -Lysa TerKeurst*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Thank God for Jimmy Willett and Larry Wilson who directed the Lead Gifts Team.

DAY 6

**SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT**

Philippians 3:7-8  
The Delight of Prayer  
*by Greg Martin*

**G**eorge Mueller, a British evangelist during the 1800s, is one of the most amazing examples of sacrificial commitment in history. Mueller had a heart for orphaned children. Through faith and prayer, he provided a home and an education for over 10,000 orphans. When each child became old enough to live on his own, Mueller

would pray with them and put a Bible in their right hand and a coin in their left. He explained to the young person that if they held onto what was in their right hand, God would always make sure there was something in their left hand as well.

Through prayer, Mueller continually sought God’s will for his life and the use of his resources. He said, *“The Christian should never worry about tomorrow or give sparingly because of a possible future need. Only the present moment is ours to serve the Lord, tomorrow may never come... Life is worth as much as it is spent for the Lord’s service.”* Mueller found his greatest joy in seeing God answer His prayers in ways that only God could. As we seek our Father’s heart for our lives and resources, we will find joy in obedient and sacrificial commitment for the sake of our Savior and His love for people.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, thank You for the blessing of answered prayer. Let me testify to others that You have met my needs with exceeding abundance. May others know that I have joy in the answer to this prayer because of my boldness to share with them.

*“The joy which answers to prayer give, cannot be described; and the impetus which they afford to the spiritual life is exceedingly great.” - George Mueller*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the people of Mobberly to find joy, peace and freedom in expressing sacrificial commitment.

DAY 7

ENGAGING LIVES

Exodus 9:16

Engaging with God's Purposes

*by Mickey Seward*

**G**rowing up, I didn't know or care anything about God. But when I was in college, I prayed and asked for His forgiveness. Still, I continued following my own path. I had my own dreams and nothing was going to deter me from becoming who I decided I should be. When tragedy struck a few years later, all my hopes and plans were dashed. Life swirled around me. I had no control. For several months, I didn't care if I was alive or dead.

During the worst moment of my life, it hit me: life can't be just something to "get through," and it isn't some kind of problem to solve on my own. Depending on myself can only take me so far. God is in control; not me or anyone else. Here's what I realized: life isn't about my plans. Life is about a God that loves us so much He allowed His own Son to die so we could be together with Him forever.

It's becoming clear to me that God's plans are bigger than my dreams. He has a purpose for me and for you. God let me live so I can tell my story and make His name known.

Are you telling your story?

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**PRAYER:** Lord, remind me today that my purpose is not making money or solving problems. My purpose is to make You recognizable in a world that has no idea who You are. Mold me so that You are able to reveal Yourself to the world through me.

*“Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude—an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God.” -A.W. Pink*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the people of Mobberly to be open to the leadership of God through the sermon today.

## WEEK TWO: EMPOWERED TO PRAY

### DAY 8

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Isaiah 41:10

The Power of Prayer

*by Gregg Zackary*

**A**t a recent staff meeting in Marshall, our worship leader, Laney Wooten, shared how she was making a call regarding some work to be done at her house. When looking up the phone number, she felt impressed to call another business that was advertising the same service. Although this went against what she had planned, Laney obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit and made the call. When she introduced herself, the lady who answered asked, *“Oh, are you the lady who sings at the Feminar events?”* Laney confirmed that she was and realized this was why she felt impressed to call.

After struggling with her own awkwardness, Laney obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit again and asked if she could pray for the woman, who immediately agreed and then told of the struggle her husband was having with a skin disease that caused him terrible pain. Two weeks later, a couple introduced themselves to Laney after the morning service in Marshall. It was the very woman and her husband Laney had prayed for over the phone. As you seek God in prayer, expect Him to give you divine appointments to connect with people and households in need.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, there is such power in prayer. May my mission today be to seek you in Spirit-empowered prayer so that Your will can be done in my life. Give me a divine appointment today with someone who needs to know You.

*“Simply defined, prayer is earthly permission for heavenly interference.” - Tony Evans*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the Engage10K Administrative Team led by Joni Bailey.

DAY 9

**PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION**

Matthew 6:33

The Priority of Prayer

*by Larry Wilson*

**W**hat we worry about varies based on our circumstances and life experiences. You may worry about a godly teacher for your child or paying the bills. On the other hand, tragedy may have caused you to worry you will have the strength to go on another day. You might be worried that God does not see or truly understand your plight, or else He would surely intervene and make things right for you.

Henry Blackaby teaches us not to base our understanding of God’s love on our circumstances. Focus on the Cross. The God who is willing to sacrifice His Son is the same God who holds your cares, needs and circumstances in His hands. Trust Him enough to

draw near to Him. A.W. Tozer writes that if we experience troubles, including great pain and suffering, it means we are being called by God to be “unusual Christians.” You may find it somehow comforting that there is a great purpose in our troubles. They draw us into a closer relationship with God and give us the opportunity and courage to be unusual for Jesus.

Consider this day a new mindset of turning your worry into spiritually healthy “concern.” What’s the difference? In “David Jeremiah’s Study Bible”, concern is described as a *“legitimate emotion, helping God’s people focus on real problems and providing enough spiritual energy to respond with godly solutions.”* Bring all your troubles, the big and the small, to God. Seek the Kingdom Creator first and watch Him work on your behalf.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, as I begin my day today, I want You to be my focus. I want to shift my focus from my needs, my hurts and my wants to You. I know that if I will actively do this, I will become more like You, the object of my focus.

*“We sometimes fear to bring our troubles to God, because they must seem small to Him who sitteth on the circle of the earth. But if they are large enough to vex and endanger our welfare, they are large enough to touch His heart of love.” -R.A. Torrey*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the Age-Group Team led by Bo Patterson as its members seek ways to teach and encourage all of us in this Engage10K effort.

DAY 10

**FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

Matthew 7:7-8

The Practice of Prayer

by Analisa Hood

**M**ost of us desire our children to have a growing, vibrant relationship with God. Like all thriving relationships, our children need to know our relationship with God requires good and constant communication. Prayer is an ongoing conversation that helps us deepen our friendship with God.

No one feels like they have time to add another task to an already full schedule. However, we all want resources that enable us to boldly face daily challenges and situations. Parents can lead children to discover that prayer is a tool and not a task.

Through prayer, we have a way to express our thoughts and emotions. The God of all creation cares about everything that touches our lives. He is a loving, compassionate listener. Prayer allows us to develop a special connection to God. Prayer gives us access to God’s direction for us and His strength to stand against evil. When we link to God through prayer, we bring God’s presence and His power into every situation.

In asking, we receive God’s wisdom; in seeking, we find God’s faithfulness; in, knocking we discover God’s goodness for us. Together, parents and children can see how prayer fuels a growing relationship with God.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, Your thoughts are always toward me even when my thoughts are not toward You. Remind me daily that there is none that compares to You and there never will be. Give me an opportunity to share this with another person who needs Your touch today.

*“Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.” -Hudson Taylor*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the Prayer Team led by Lesa Schwartz and Karen Bozeman.

### MERGE MOMENT: THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER GUIDE

Helping students and children learn to pray is important to a family’s spiritual growth. One way to help everyone in your family – regardless of their age – remember how to pray is to follow the “five finger prayer.” The thumb represents “Lord, I love you.” The pointer is “Lord, I thank you.” The middle finger should stand for “Lord, I’m sorry.” The ring finger is “Someone needs Your help, Lord.” Finally, the pinkie means, “Help me, Lord.” As a final part of praying, the palm symbolizes, “I’m listening, Lord.” These are sentence beginnings that should be completed by the one praying. For example, you might pray, “Lord, I love You because You sent Jesus to die for me.” If you have young children, you might even draw around their hands on a sheet of paper and help them fill in the words so they can remember what to pray. Practice this together until it becomes part of your prayer routine.

## DAY 11

## GENERATIONAL CONNECTION

John 14:13

The Purpose of Prayer

*by Dick Lindsey*

I had not seen Jimmy Draper for years, but on graduation day at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he surprised me, calling me by my boyhood name, Dickey. It's special when someone remembers your first name. Dr. Draper has that ability to remember names. You may not have the gift of remembering, but you do have the privilege of dropping the name of Jesus every time you pray.

Why do we pray in Jesus' name? Well, the Lord tells us to in John 14:13. That's true, but is it some kind of tradition or a magical phrase that guarantees an answer to your prayers? Why did the Lord Jesus make an emphasis of praying in His name? It means praying according to the will and purpose of our Lord and Savior. Remember as you pray that praying in Christ's name involves requests and concerns presented to the Father according to His will (1 John 5:12).

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**PRAYER:** Lord, teach me to enjoy Your presence today. Remind me daily of Your every-abiding presence in my life. Strengthen my faith and teach me to enjoy You to the fullest.

*"The purpose of prayer is not for the disciple to give information to God. The purpose of prayer is intimacy with God." -David Platt*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the Testimony Team led by Paul Coleman and Scott Schulik.

**GOSPEL URGENCY**

Romans 10:13

The Provision of Prayer

*by Harold Johnson*

**S**everal years ago my wife, Sherrie, and I had what I now refer to as a “divine appointment.” Perhaps you may know how little snippets of time that happen over a life can have a significant impact or even change a direction or thinking.

Our work colleague and church friend, Kirby Bozeman, shared with us the missionary work of Ross and Sherry Collier and others in Malawi, Africa, and suggested that we should engage. Sherrie prayed and felt God’s call. I was reluctant, believing that we should support missions financially, but questioning why I would go there with no training. It would be better to support those that were called – at least that was my weak excuse. Nevertheless, I agreed to meet with Ross while he was stateside. He told me that investing in the trip and going to Africa personally would be transforming – not for those whom I engaged, but for me.

Indeed he was correct. It was truly amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work in many thousands of beautiful souls coming to Christ in one of the more remote regions in the world.

That first trip, and several thereafter, changed my thinking and my heart for obedience to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. My fervent prayer is that you, too, will submit to “engaging lives” for Him. It will transform you!

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for our brothers and sisters in Malawi. Continue to strengthen their knowledge of You through the study of Your Word. Guide them to those who need Your healing touch today. Break down the walls of superstition and unbelief among their people.

*"It's not how can I share my faith; it's how can I not share my faith." Mark Cahill*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the Communications Team led by Mickey Seward, Collins Pace and Will Bishop.

DAY 13

**SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT**

James 5:16

The Persistence of Prayer

*by Jimmy Skeen*

One of my favorite stories is found in 2 Kings 6:1-7. The sons of the prophets, or preacher boys, were in somewhat the same situation we are in today; they were out of room. They asked Elisha if they could go to the Jordan and cut down trees to build a place for themselves. They also asked that he come with them and he agreed. While one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water. He cried out, *"Oh, my master, it was borrowed!"* This man found himself in financial difficulty.

He had three choices. First, he could quit. His axe was gone so there is nothing left to do. Second, he could continue going through the motion of cutting down the tree, only making noise by striking the tree with an axe handle. Or, third, he could call on the one who could help, his master.

What do we do when we find ourselves in a situation that seems hopeless and insurmountable? Do we quit? Do we continue to go through the motions, making noise but gaining no results? Or do we call on the One who can make the difference, our Master?

Just as Elisha threw the stick into the water at the place where

the axe head fell, causing it to float to the surface, we must follow the command “pick it up!” As the Lord leads us, we must be obedient and reach out and pick up what He provides.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I thank You that You have given me perseverance under trial. I thank You for the promised reward of James 1:12, that You bless people who patiently endure testing. Help me to continue to stay faithful under the pressures of life.

*“We have to pray with our eyes on God,  
not on the difficulties.” - Oswald Chambers*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for our Connect Group teachers as they plan for the next lesson in the Engage10K curriculum. Ask God to give them insight and discernment as they prepare to teach their members tomorrow.

DAY 14

**ENGAGING LIVES**

John 15:12-15  
Engaging With Friends  
*by Bo Patterson*

In our modern culture, the word “love” is linked with hopeless romantics, people who hug too much and a word you throw out at the end of a conversation with family. Love in the Bible, however, is a deep, powerful and forgiving relationship between God and His children, and His children and others. It includes elements of truth, confrontation and engagement.

**EMPOWERED TO PRAY**

Jesus loved His disciples. It wasn't a "love you bro" kind of love, but an "I would die for you" kind of love. His love wasn't only displayed on the Cross, but in His daily walk. He engaged people every day with compassion and shared who He was in powerful ways. He did this as an example to us so we will engage others with the love we receive from Him. Do you love others so much that you want them to have a relationship with Jesus? How can your testimony of Jesus loving you, despite your flaws show love to someone else? How can you help younger generations move from a "warm and fuzzy" love to an "I would die for you" love?

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for the youth of Mobberly. Give them boldness to live for You in their homes and in their schools. Keep them from the temptations that could entangle them. Give them courage to be radical in a world that holds different values.

*"The amount of time we spend with Jesus, meditating on His Word and His majesty, seeking His face, establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom." - Charles Stanley*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the people of Mobberly to be open to the leadership of God through the sermon today.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
**ENGAGE10K PRAYER WALK**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
**5 - 7 P.M. • THE WORSHIP CENTER**  
Join us as we pray together for Engage 10K.  
Childcare provided for newborns through children three years old.

# WEEK THREE: EXPECTING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

## DAY 15

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Colossians 1:9-12

Praying Offensively

*by Calixto Arce*

In Colossians 1:9-12, Paul is taking the offensive approach to prayer as he pleads to God on behalf of the Christians there. They are doing well in their faith and he thanks God for that. But Paul does not stop there. He goes on the offensive to ask for more while things are going well for them. It's as if Paul says, "Thank you, Father, that they are doing well, but would you help them by doing this in them also so Your kingdom can grow through them?"

We can learn from Paul's approach. Instead of just waiting to react to a crisis in our lives to pray, we should pray more offensively. This means that we pray constantly for God to help us keep a good testimony. This means we ask God to help us do things that please Him. This also means we ask God to help us bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and ask God to help us grow.

Let's remember what Jesus said in Luke 12:32, "...it is the Father's good pleasure to give [us] the kingdom." (KJV) So let's do this! And let's watch Him advance His kingdom in and through us.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, as I look at my life, what could greatly advance Your Kingdom in my situation? Lord, please do more than I could ask or imagine. Let me bear fruit in every good work and increase in my knowledge of You.

*“God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil.” -E. M. Bounds*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the leadership team and the increasing details they must handle.

## DAY 16

# PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Nehemiah 1:4-7  
Praying Extraordinarily  
by Lesa Schwartz

**G**od calls us to pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17). His desire is a continual conversation with us, bringing everything to Him knowing He is just as powerful over all our circumstances as He is over all our sin. At times, we get distracted by all that is going on in our lives personally and we can't see the bigger picture of what God is up to. We are so focused on our part, we aren't looking at God, His promises and His provision. Mark Batterson in his book "IF: Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities" says it this way: *"Doubt is putting your circumstances between you and God. Faith is putting God's promises between you and your circumstances."*

God not only calls us to pray constantly, He calls us to pray extraordinarily in extraordinary circumstances. There are times when only prayer and fasting can bring us to a laser-like focus of dependence on Him for what only He can bring about. Esther fasted and prayed for the safety of the Jews (Esther 4:15-17). Jesus fasted and prayed while being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4). Nehemiah fasted and prayed for his people and for mercy in the sight of the king. We are fasting and praying for God to show us our part and His



provision through us – the Mobberly family – to engage 10,000 East Texas households with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to demonstrate our faith through boldly giving to the Engage10K campaign.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I want to pray like Nehemiah. I want to offer my prayers to You with fervency and persistence. I offer my personal repentance for allowing things to take Your place in my heart. With humility and brokenness, I come to You, asking that You fill me with faith and expectation.

*“God’s power in your life is determined by whether you pray in just special times or all the time. Prayerlessness limits God.” -Rick Warren*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray that God will impress the hearts of our people to give boldly to the Engage10K campaign.

## DAY 17

### **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

3 John 4

Praying for Family

*by Scott Schulik*

**A**s parents, we have been entrusted with the privilege of molding and shaping our children’s lives. At times, being a parent will feel completely overwhelming and often we wonder, “Are our kids getting it?” David calls out to the Lord, “*Show me your ways, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth*” (Psalm 25:4-5, NIV). If our children are to walk in truth, as parents we need to be firmly grounded in the truth

## EXPECTING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

of God's Word. If we desire that our children grow in godly character, we need to consistently model godly character. If our children are to grow in generosity, we must demonstrate generous living with our time, talents and treasures.

When we seek to do this in our own strength and limited resources, we will certainly fall short of the real potential of parental influence. Before us stand the limitless resources of God. Shaping our families begins with a deep and abiding personal dependence on the Lord – looking to Him, leaning upon Him, listening to Him, and learning from Him. Heavenly Father, show me, teach me, and guide me that my life may serve as a beacon of light to those that will follow in my footsteps.

### NOTES:

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I place my family in Your loving hands today. I ask that You protect them by the power of Your name (John 17:12). I ask that You plant a hedge of protection around each of them.

*"The prayers we weave into the matching of socks, the stirring of oatmeal, the reading of stories, they survive fire." -Ann Voskamp*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for families to make time to pray together regarding their stewardship commitment to the Engage10K Campaign.

## MERGE MOMENT: LIVES OF MISSIONARIES

Many of us are unaware of the stories of well-known missionaries. This week, locate a condensed biography of the life of one of the men or women who are considered the “founders” of a Christian mission work. Consider Lottie Moon, William Carey, Adoniram Judson or Hudson Taylor. There are others who have had an impact on missions that you know and could study also. You can find brief biographies on several missionaries at:

[www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries](http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries)  
[www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org) • [www.baptistheritage.org/StoriesforKids](http://www.baptistheritage.org/StoriesforKids)

A quick internet search will help you locate other stories of missionaries as well. You might also find a book suitable for young children at one of the local Christian bookstores. Read one of these stories with your family and discuss what you learned about the life of the individual and how they served Christ. Discuss how you can be a missionary in East Texas as well as the importance of giving to the Engage 10K campaign to reach others for Jesus.

## DAY 18

### GENERATIONAL CONNECTION

Mark 3:25

Praying Preemptively

*by Scott Schulik*

**S**even years ago, Cris approached me about my son, Josh, helping with some yard work and projects around his home. Recently, as Josh and I talked about this experience, he said, “You go expecting to do some yard work and earn a few bucks, but experience a reward far richer than you could ever imagine.” Cris always made sure there was a cold Dr Pepper in the fridge and took

**EXPECTING GOD  
THROUGH PRAYER**

time to talk about the Texas Rangers. Over the years, Cris poured into Josh’s life words of wisdom, faith and encouragement, helping Josh grow in Christlike character and confidence.

Although 70 years separated the two, a lasting friendship that bridged the generations was forged. If only every young person could have such a mentor. If every dad could be so blessed to have someone take such an interest in his son! As we pray for our children, let us ask God to bring mentors and encouragers into their lives. As a church, let us pray that God will lead us to reach beyond generational and cultural differences. Cris went to be with the Lord in May of this year, but his acts of kindness, generosity, prayerful support and love left a lasting legacy.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, let me not be changed by the culture, but to be Your agent of change. Let me refuse to be tolerant of lies and false teaching. Bring to light anything I have accepted that I need removed from my life.

*“What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.” -John Wesley*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for our senior adults at Mobberly who are examples to all of us of lives lived for Christ with tenacity and endurance. Pray for those we engage with weekly at local retirement centers, care facilities and through Meals on Wheels.

## GOSPEL URGENCY

Ephesians 6:10-11

Praying Defensively

by Johnny Norwood

**H**ow can I fight against something invisible? Satan and his spiritual forces of wickedness would be much easier to resist if we could see them. But Paul reminds us that our battle is a spiritual one, not a physical one.

Thus, we need to acquaint ourselves with the spiritual armor and tactics which God supplies.

In the life and ministry of Jesus, we constantly see Him standing up against the attacks of Satan. As we abide in Him, and He in us, we have His power to do spiritual warfare. Learn to put on the armor of God, so that you can resist and stand firm.

Also, we have the authority of Jesus to aggressively attack Satan's strongholds – in our lives and in the lives of others. The evil one and his minions tremble when assailed by a kneeling Christian.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I resist Satan in Your name. Let me not put up with his taunts and accusations in my life. Free me from falling victim to his schemes over and over again. Renew a right spirit within my heart and mind.

*“Those who say in simple surrender ‘Yes, Lord,’ emerge from the experience spiritually rich, and become a source*

*of grace and encouragement to others who are hurting.”  
–Nancy DeMoss Wolgamuth*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray that we will not worry about obediently doing and giving what God asks of us, for where God guides He will always provide.

**DAY 20**

**SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT**

Romans 1:9-10  
Praying for Believers  
*by Jimmy Willett*

**W**hen I had a big task at hand, my grandmother would tell me, “Put your whole heart into it!” It was a reminder I was to give my full attention to the matter. This is a lesson that has served me well all my years. In this passage of Scripture, we see Paul has put his “whole heart” into preaching the Gospel. This mindset gave him the desire to pray for his fellow believers. We, too, must wholeheartedly pray for one another. Through our prayers, God will guide our steps, not to reach the next 10,000, but just the next one. Those “ones” will eventually add up to that 10,000 number. How blessed we will be when we realize we only need to share our faith with the person God has placed right in front of us each day. How many can we share our faith with over the next three years? The potential is unbelievable. We just need to live life with one word in mind...NEXT!

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I lift up my brothers and sisters in Christ today. I ask that each of them will leave behind the footprints of Your presence wherever they go. May they seize the opportunity to have spiritual conversations with all they encounter today.

*“The question is not, nor has it ever been, whether God is willing to move in the hearts of His people; the issue is whether we are willing to surrender in full obedience to Him so that we may begin to enjoy the enormous blessings He invites us to enjoy by living in His presence.” -Ronnie Floyd*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray families will make strong commitments to Engage 10,000 households and catch the vision.

**DAY 21**

**ENGAGING LIVES**

Matthew 7:24-25

Engaging with Family

*by Joni Bailey*

**J**oshua 24:15 says, “...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (NASB) This was not just a Scripture that looked good framed and put on the wall, but instead, for my husband and me, it was the way our parents chose to live and raise a family.

Naturally, we planned to raise our family with the same spiritual foundation that was modeled for us as we were growing up. Easy, right? Not so much. We learned that trusting God to lead and guide our family only happened when we chose to follow Him day-by-day. We haven’t always done things God’s way, and we haven’t lived a life without trials and frustrations, but we do have a Savior that walks with us each step of the way. As we watched our children come to know Christ’s saving grace at an early age, we couldn’t be more thankful for God’s love and the rich heritage given to us by our parents.

With the blessing of grandchildren, we are excited to watch how God will lead our children as they seek to raise the next generation of new believers.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, let me leave a legacy of Your goodness and grace for future generations. May my life be lived for You alone. I ask that all who are in my family today and in future generations come to salvation in Christ.

*“The same Jesus who turned water into wine can transform your home, your life, your family and your future. He is still in the miracle-working business, and His business is the business of transformation.” -Adrian Rogers*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray for the people of Mobberly to be open to the leadership of God through the sermon today.

## WEEK FOUR: EXAMINING MY PRAYER LIFE

DAY 22

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Hebrews 3:19

The Problem of Unbelief

*by Tim Whedbee*

**D**o we as believers pray believing that God will answer our prayers? I hypothesize that if we did we would spend more time at the altar on our knees. The greatest men and women of our faith



## EXAMINING MY PRAYER LIFE

have been highly committed to prayer, often times spending hours a day before the throne of grace. During your day, when do you set aside time to boldly petition the Father? The Apostle John gives us three pointers for praying in belief:

**Come with Confidence** – *“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence [or boldness], so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

-Hebrews 4:16, NIV

**Ask According to His Will** – *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*

-James 4:3, ESV

**Know that He Hears Us** – *“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry out aloud: and He shall hear my voice.”*

-Psalm 55:17, KJV

Be encouraged! Answered prayer isn’t a complex puzzle God wants you to solve. He’s provided you the way to Himself through Jesus, all because He desires trusted fellowship with you. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV). As a believer, everything is in place. It’s go time!

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I admit my lack of confidence in You. I know that You are more than able to help me overcome my unbelief because You don’t want me to live this way. Help me to find truth in Your Word that erases my doubts and fears.

*“Heaven is full of answers to prayer for which no one ever bothered to ask.” -Billy Graham*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray to see the purpose of Engage10K — to connect a hurting world with Jesus Christ.

DAY 23

**PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION**

Matthew 21:22  
The Benefit of Belief  
*by Karen Bozeman*

**D**id you ever have a “discussion” with your mother, only to hear her end it with the phrase, “Because I said so”? You probably grumbled and didn’t want to obey just because she “said so.” We serve a “because I said so” God. Hopefully we respond to Him joyfully because we recognize there is great benefit in believing what He said. When you came to a saving knowledge in Jesus Christ, you were led by the Spirit to accept Him and prayed to receive Him into your heart. This is saving faith. After salvation, your belief becomes living faith. You believe God and are led by the Spirit in your daily prayer life. Matthew 21:22 states *“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”* (NASB) This verse reveals God’s process for answering prayer. Believe + prayer = receive. He answers because He said He would. Answers are not always immediate, may not be what you want or could ultimately change your mind about someone or something. When you practice living faith, you learn the benefits of believing in our “because I said so” God. In His waiting room, He gives promised peace, divine heart healing and instructive wisdom.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, let me have a fresh faith today that is based on Your Word. Scripture teaches us that faith comes from hearing Your message and that message comes from the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). May I hear from You in such a way that I can only believe and not doubt.

*“Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do.” -Andrew Murray*

**ENGAGE10K REQUEST:** Pray that our eyes and our ears are opened to see and believe what God can do.

DAY 24

**FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

Matthew 5:8

The Pure Heart

by Suzanne Walker

**D**o you ever wish you could have a “do-over” for the week you just completed? If you could erase that week and begin again, would you? Do you feel weighed down by the mess you have made: the errors in judgment, the tasks left undone, the negativity of your thought life, the sharp and unkind words spoken, the missed opportunities, the poor example set for others? What a relief it would be to wipe the week away and begin anew with the wisdom gained by doing it wrong the first time. Where is that giant eraser?

The reality is that once lived, a week is history, never to be erased. But the burden of sin attached to that week can be lifted, removed and even thrown away. It takes humility to get on your knees and discuss your failings with God, but the consequences of not doing so add up to anger, defeat, destruction and more. The fallout affects everyone around you – especially those you hold most dear. Seek God’s forgiveness, His wisdom and His willingness to make you new every day so that you may walk in the way everlasting and lead those who follow you along that same path.

## EXAMINING MY PRAYER LIFE

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**PRAYER:** *Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. God, make a fresh start in me, and shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.* -Psalm 51:10, MSG

*“Not to walk in the straight and narrow way yourself is to give the devil the biggest kind of a chance to get our children.” -Billy Sunday*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray that God will examine and purify our motives in using all our resources to impact lives for His glory.

### MERGE MOMENT: ERASING & BEGINNING AGAIN

Collect up a few erasers from your drawers, backpacks or desks. If you don't have any, dig up some pencils with fairly decent erasers. Gather around the table with your family and give everyone a pencil, a slip of paper and an extra eraser if these are available. Ask everyone to think of something they did or said this past week that was unkind, negative or just a poor example for others. Each person should write this down on their paper. You can decide if the words on the slips should be read aloud. Now, erase the words. As each person in your family studies the now blank slip of paper, have someone read Psalm 51. When the reading is finished, have each person write down what they can say, do or think next time to have a positive impact in the life of another person. Talk about the way God can create a right spirit within each of us that can bring a fresh start.

## GENERATIONAL CONNECTION

Ephesians 2:14  
The Benefit of Peace  
*by Kevin Jones*

**W**hen reading Ephesians 2, you quickly see the divide that the early church is trying to overcome. The Gentiles and the Jews were not taught from an early age to love each other and live in harmony. Now, the early church is trying to get through the differences of these two groups and become one united body. Fast-forward 2,000 years and we see the same issues. The focus is not on the Gospel being spread to the ends of the earth. When a church does not have a generational connection, they experience a battle rather than a battle cry.

When looking through Scripture for generational connections, one theme is that the older generation is to teach the younger. In Deuteronomy 4:1-14, we are to teach others and not forget the things that God has shown and taught us. We must remember that regardless of our age, we must be investing in others. Believers must be honest and transparent. If we simply portray ourselves as sinless saints, we give the younger generation a view of Christianity that is false. If, as a younger generation, we are not willing to listen to those that have gained wisdom by following Christ for many years, then we are saying, “Your experiences do not matter, just your monetary donations.” With generational connection comes peace and harmony in the body.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, may I be one of Your people with my mind set on You. Keep me completely whole and steady on my feet, because I want to follow you daily and never quit. I know this is the only way I can have peace.

*“Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God.” -Charles Spurgeon*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray that our firm commitment to act as if God owns everything will result in peace and Kingdom impact.

DAY 26

**GOSPEL URGENCY**

Deuteronomy 7:9  
The Faithfulness of God  
*by Eric Perkins*

I am constantly amazed at the extraordinary measures God will use to bring the lost and broken of this world to Himself. For some, they hear the message at home because godly parents shared with them about our Heavenly Father’s boundless love. Yet, others hear because a faithful saint answered the call of God to go share with their neighbor, co-worker or with villagers on the other side of the globe. Yes, He is faithful! The desire of God is that all would hear the message of the Gospel and receive His salvation. 2 Peter 3:9 states, *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* (ESV)

Just as God pursued the hearts of his people in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 7:9), He is pursuing the hearts of the lost today. A faithful and loving God offers the gracious gift of eternal life. May God’s faithfulness in your life lead you to share your story daily, so the lost of East Texas hear the life-changing message of the gospel.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for the people of East Texas. Open their eyes to see You. Open their ears to hear Your voice. Give them a desire to find You and believe in who You are. May those who are Christians give testimony of Your faithfulness to those they know need a Savior.

*“It’s in prayer that we experience God and are exposed to His greatness. It’s in prayer that we make ourselves available to God.” - Jack Graham*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for those who have made commitments to pray and fast for the Engage10K campaign and reaching 10,000 households in East Texas with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DAY 27

**SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT**

Luke 14:27

The Cost of Discipleship  
*by Jonathan Holcomb*

**T**im loved sports. Growing up where sports were played and high school athletes were celebrated by the local television stations and newspapers had created a tremendous desire in Tim’s heart to play sports. Football, basketball, baseball, soccer – you name it and Tim could play. Not only could he play, but Tim excelled. In addition, Tim’s dad and mom were committed followers of Christ. Tim accepted Jesus as his Lord at an early age and his parents disciplined him as he matured. As Tim entered high school, God started working

## EXAMINING MY PRAYER LIFE

on his heart and his heart began to change. Not that his desire to play sports had diminished, but Jesus was showing him that He had something much greater. Tim prayed through this season of life and decided to give up sports in order to serve God. Tim took up his cross and followed his Lord.

What about you? What is Jesus asking you to lay down? If you are a true follower of Him, Jesus says you must take up your cross and follow Him.

Do it today. Don't wait. Pick it up.

Jesus didn't say your cross would be easy and pain free, but He did say it would be worth it.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I want a powerful life that can only come through prayer. You know I desire an active, authentic prayer life that keeps me in constant communication with you. Please remove all of the obstacles in my heart that keep me from praying daily.

*"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." -F.B. Meyer*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for those who will give testimonies about God's faithfulness in their lives.



## ENGAGING LIVES

Matthew 25:38-40

Engaging the Hurting

by *The Engage10K Prayer Team*

**O**ur East Texas area provides for the hurting. Through various ministries, people are touched in the name of Jesus. We have shelters for the homeless to have a bed and a meal. There are ministry groups that assist unwed mothers, victims of sex trafficking, and others in need of help with addictions. Even in our own church, the Celebrate Recovery ministry is an avenue for helping those who have needs beyond the everyday bumps and bruises of life.

If we are brutally honest, we would rather not help the people who have extreme needs, much less our own next door neighbors. It's not comfortable, but it is what we are to do if we are to be Christ-like in our actions.

Consider those you work with, go to school with or even sit beside in a Connect Group. Do you know the hurts that others have in their lives? Are you willing to invest time praying for that person, listening to them as they share their needs and offering the gospel to them? People can try to argue that the Bible is full of error, but they cannot successfully argue that your testimony is not real. Share the Good News today.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for those who are hurting because someone they love doesn't love You. Give comfort to those who have a hole in their heart because a son or daughter has turned from

You. Give us a touch of Your grace that meets every need.

*“We are God’s fellow workers, and as such we turn to prayer to equip us for the partnership.” - Phillip Yancy*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for the commitments that will be made today by the leaders of Mobberly to engage 10,000 households.

## WEEK 5: EXPANDING MY PRAYER LIFE

DAY 29

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Psalm 145:18

Help: The Single Word Prayer

*by Tony Puckett*

**F**ire! Mom! Help! Run! Stop! All of these words are guaranteed to get attention. Why? Because words mean something.

Imagine if someone yelled “fmidtrez!” What would you do? Probably not much because “fmidtrez” is a made-up word that even Google can’t define.

So what does that have to do with prayer? Sometimes, a single word is all of the prayer that is required to:

**Free our minds of anxiety.**

**Place our cares upon the Lord.**

**Draw God near.**

**Speak praise for His glory.**

God promises that He is near. He promises that He will hear YOU when you call. He promises that your value is unmeasurable. He promises that a single word will always get His attention.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I know You are near because You promise to hear me when I call. Remind me that everything You do is right and that You stick by all who love You. You never leave me alone; I am never without You by my side. Let my mouth speak praise to You because I know I was created for Your glory.

*“Our minds can be kept free of anxiety if we dump the load of our cares on the Lord in prayer.” -Chuck Swindoll*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray that in our weakness God will show Himself strong to do whatever it takes to lead people to Jesus.

DAY 30

**PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION**

Romans 8:26  
His Interceding Spirit  
*by Noelle Morin*

It had been a long 10 hours in the waiting room, but I had not had a bad day. Both Michael and I were “prayed up” and ready for this elective surgery. We knew the risks, the benefits and the expected outcomes. We had an army praying at home. I spent my time waiting and had even enjoyed encouraging others waiting for their loved ones to come out of surgery. There were warm talks about how trustworthy and good God is. It was joy-filling for my soul and very tiring.

Ten hours was a really long time.

The waiting room crowd had thinned out, and I found myself

alone and wondering about Michael. I learned that Michael hadn't done well in surgery; he had crashed and needed strong medication. He was sedated on mechanical ventilation, but he was alive!

Now my heart praised Jesus with groaning.

It is possible to pray without words. The deep soul level cries of intense need, fear or even gratitude are all wordless forms of communication. And our Maker knows this language. We forget about His constant presence. I had certainly forgotten for a few moments as I stood looking at my downed husband. Michael has since recovered.

Our prayers are heard, friend; both the words and the soul-groans. Our God is mighty to move for us. His love and reach is limitless!

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I thank you that the moment I get tired in the waiting, Your Spirit is right alongside helping me. When I don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. You are there, praying for me, making prayer out of my wordless sighs, my aching groans. I have confidence that every detail in my life of love for You is working into something good (Romans 8:26-28, MSG).

*“God’s plan for you is to move you to a position of impact by infusing you with truth and employing you in prayer.” -Priscilla Shirer*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will intervene in our thoughts, words and actions to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can think or ask.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

## BREAK-FAST

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
**8-9:30 A.M. • THE CROSSING**

Well done! We have made it this far. Let's pray for one another as we finish strong, seeking Him for our part and God's provision. Come and share "Break-fast" on *Saturday, October 22* from 8-9:30 a.m. in The Crossing with Pastor Glynn as we celebrate what God has done in our midst during these 40 days of prayer and fasting.

**Please RSVP by October 13 to [janl@mobberly.org](mailto:janl@mobberly.org).**

Include your name and the number of family members that will be attending with you.

## DAY 31

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 7:11

The Good, Good Father

*by Kevin Jones*

**W**hen our first son was born, I realized how much it meant to lead him spiritually. I wanted to foster a relationship where I could impart spiritual truths to him, and he could come to me with doubts he was having. I did not want him to end up like one of my friends from high school. He was an amazing leader in the youth group and everyone viewed him as this super Christian. We lost contact in college, but there was no doubt in my mind that he would be a worship leader at a church and be on fire for Christ. I ran into his mom about five years after I had lost contact with him and she told me to be praying for him. I was prepared to hear of some illness that he had, or that his family had suffered a tragedy, but to find out

that he was an atheist shocked me. I decided I would email him and try to get back in contact. To my surprise, he quickly responded and told me how he had come to this point in his life. The one thing I remember him saying was that he began to have doubts in college and kept them to himself. He made his decision based on those doubts. At that point, I knew I always wanted my children to be able to come and talk to me no matter what they were dealing with. We cannot expect our kids to do this if we are not open and talking to them about spiritual truths.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for the dads in our midst. May each man be an example of who You are, not who they want to be. Give each man the courage he needs to stand for truth in a world of hypocrisy.

*“The purpose of prayer and of God’s call in your life is not to make you number one in the world’s eyes, but to make Him number one in your life.” -Ravi Zacharias*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for the heads of our Mobberly households as they lead their families in the financial commitment they will make to the Engage10K campaign.

**MERGE MOMENT: SHARING WITH OTHERS**

Consider organizing an activity that will involve another family. Invite a family for a fishing day at our Williams Lake. Have a cookout in your backyard and ask a neighborhood family to share your meal. Let your high school student invite some friends over for pizza and a movie. Be intentional and ask God to lead you to people who need Jesus as you share a time of fellowship with others. Use this opportunity to forge new friendships for the purpose of telling them about Jesus.

DAY 32

**GENERATIONAL CONNECTION**

Philippians 4:6  
Putting Aside Anxiety  
*by Marian Hare*

**A**nxiety is defined as a painful or apprehensive uneasiness of mind as well as a solicitous concern or interest. Today, let us seek God, requesting Him to remove our anxieties. Satan wants to drive us compulsively, but God wants to draw us compassionately. Satan wants to take advantage of our compulsion. God wants to draw us in toward Himself, giving us peace. Be still in His presence. Invite Him to control your thoughts and let His light soak into your mind and heart. *“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6-7, NLT)

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**PRAYER:** Lord, I know that the key to peace is recognizing Your authority on this earth. This is Your earth and You made it. Nothing here happens without You knowing about it. Redirect my heart and mind to trust You with all that is taking place in my life.

*“Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.” - Corrie ten Boom*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray that we will not worry about obediently doing and giving what God asks of us for we can know with confidence that where God guides, He always provides.

DAY 33

**GOSPEL URGENCY**

1 Timothy 2:1-2

God's Desire, My Direction

*by Jan LaJoie*

If we are to engage our East Texas communities for Christ, we must make prayer a daily and intentional act. The Bible says we must pray for all men, including those in authority over us. 1 Timothy encourages us to pray for kings, though the kings at this time were heathens, enemies to Christianity and persecutors of Christians. We must pray for our leaders today because it is for the public good that there should be civil government. We should give thanks for our community leaders and pray that they live a peaceful life in all godliness and honesty. We should pray that God will turn their hearts toward Him.

Just imagine if all our city leaders and officials in East Texas were to turn their hearts toward God. What a difference this would make in our communities. We cannot wait to pray for them, write to them or engage them in conversation. We must be bold to create a



relationship and share the Gospel with each one. Please ask God to guide you to a city leader you can pray for and talk to. Take time in your Connect Group to discuss ways to engage our city leaders as we consistently pray for them daily.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, just when I think I've got it all together, remind me that You are God alone. Your Word is right and true. Let me worship You only, not my 24-hour day, my agenda or my goals.

*"Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience." - A.W. Tozer*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Ask God to show our Connect Groups creative ways to reach out to the people in our communities to engage with them for the cause of Christ.

**DAY 34**

**SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT**

Luke 9:24

Be a Lifeline

*by Geoffrey Davis*

**C**hances are you woke up today thinking of yourself. Your schedule, performance, clothes, hair, food, how people will treat you and if your kids, spouse or friends will appreciate you. These are factors toward what will ultimately make today good or bad for you. If we are honest, you and I spend most days doing our best to make each day a good one. For some reason, our culture is fixated on this.

Have a good day!

How's it going today?

How was your day?

This day, however, Jesus has a different wake up call for you. Jesus is calling you to something different, unique, fulfilling, eternal, bigger than you and yes — GOOD. Jesus is calling you to make a choice about what your life is about and who is really in charge.

What if you started and finished your day living out the truth that Jesus is Lord of the universe and Lord of your life? What would happen if you redefined what made your day good? What if you evaluated your day based on how you led people toward Jesus instead of how people treated you?

Answer Jesus' call today. Sacrifice yourself to build His Kingdom.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, You alone can gird me with strength and make my way blameless. Today, set me on a high place not so I “look down” on others, but so that I see them as You see them – lost and without hope. Help me be a lifeline to someone today who needs to know You.

*“The Lord intends us to be powerful people-mighty in optimism and hopeful of spirit, powerful in evangelistic zeal, potent in influence, sturdy in moral fiber and purity. We can be powerhouses in prayer and preaching.” -David Jeremiah*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for our Mobberly family as each one of us considers the financial gift we should make to the Engage10K campaign.

## ENGAGING LIVES

John 3:16

Engaging with Culture

by Elizabeth Thomas

**A**s I read today's quote, my heart becomes heavy. Agreed: culture does not dictate truth. The LORD, through the gospel of His Word, dictates truth. However, what depresses us is a culture here in the American church where minds, hearts, finances, time and priorities reflect the opposite. Pride, idolatry and deception block the believers from living as Jesus followers.

Love of money, success, accolades.

Love of popularity, self, the world.

What we must be are true worshipers of King Jesus, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor and leave the world and its deceit behind. Immanuel, God with us, is worthy and trustworthy! The Good News is He laid aside true glory. We are deceived if we believe laying aside the false glory of culture is missing out, losing or even boring. In truth, He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). My experience is that His rewards are greatly beyond and more satisfying than anything the world or culture offers. My life verse is Isaiah 30:15: *"This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says, 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.'"* (NIV)

Let us repent, abandon culture, finding rest in Him by following Jesus into true glory and lasting reward.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I ask that You help me use my time wisely. Don't let me be pulled in by social media or television and find I've lost hours of my day. Let me spend more time studying Your Word so that I can know You better.

*"The culture doesn't dictate truth, the Gospel dictates truth." -Voddie Baucham*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for the people of Mobberly to be open to the leadership of God through today's sermon.

## WEEK 6: EXPERIENCING GOD'S BLESSING

### DAY 36

### BIBLICAL TRUTH

Romans 10:1

For the Salvation of All

*by Will Bishop*

**O**n the surface, today's verse seems like a very easy statement for Paul to make. After all, don't we all desire to see people come to salvation? To really understand what Paul is saying, let's examine this verse's context. In Romans 9 and 10, Paul is writing about the irony of God's own people rejecting the Messiah while the Gentiles receive the gospel with joy. While Paul rejoices that the Gentiles are being saved, his heart is filled with "*intense sorrow*" (9:2) for his fellow Israelites who have rejected the gospel message. Right in the middle of this passage, Paul declares that his "*heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them [the Israelites] is for their salvation.*" (Romans 10:1, HCSB)

As you begin the process of engaging people with the gospel, some will gladly and joyfully receive the gospel while others reject the

message — and you. But Paul didn't wash his hands of those who rejected the gospel; he continued to earnestly pray for God to save them. Ask God to give you a heart that is filled with compassion for the lost. Rejoice with those who gladly accept the gospel and don't give up praying for the salvation of those who don't.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for our church plants in South Dakota, Texas and California. Let them be filled with joy as they come together in unity each week. I pray that they don't appear weak or phony to the people of their various communities.

*"A sinning man will stop praying. A praying man will stop sinning." - Leonard Ravenhill*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for your neighbors. Ask God to open doors to help you engage with them in a new way.

DAY 37

**PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION**

James 1:6

Faith Required

*by Judy Hogberg*

**T**he fascination of working puzzles – opening the box and working with all the “one of a kind” pieces connecting them together to reach the completed goal – is something that engages all different ages. When all pieces are secured in their place, it brings a satisfied feeling of completion – temporarily.

Our lives take on the schema of puzzles as we work to make them have sense and purpose, even in new directions we hadn't anticipated. Through my life experiences, both the "blessed and stressed" times, I have found that life without Christ leaves a critical piece missing in my daily living. When I intentionally engage in seeking God's presence in daily prayers, Bible reading and quiet times, God reveals to me new meaning and purpose no matter my age or stage (widowhood). He changes my perspective and helps me grow my faith, leaning on Him, such that I find courage to do things which in my own power I could not do. With our exciting Engage10K vision, what piece or part has God written my name and your name on? Whatever it is, may we embrace it, be excited about it and be empowered, for eternal significance is part of each piece!

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**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to embrace this godly life you have called me to. May I live in such a way that my life will be seen as one grounded in faith and not foolishness. Keep me focused on Your will for my life.

*"Though prayer doesn't change God's mind or God's purposes, prayer does change something. It changes us." -Chuck Smith*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for our widows and single moms to live courageously for Christ. Guide them to engage with others who need Him. Give them boldness and courage to share how He is working in their lives.

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 10:27

Life Lessons

*by Sharon Brooks*

**A** few weeks ago, a friend told me that God was leading her to reach out to a particular group of people. These are people many of us would believe have little desire for godly things or godly people. Yet, as the weeks have unfolded, we have discovered just the opposite. Just as God had spoken to my friend, we have seen that people are hungry for the gospel.

These are people many Christians would shun, judge or condemn. Yet, they are exactly the people whom Jesus spent time with here on this earth. I have learned so much as God has led me on this journey to love unconditionally, let the Holy Spirit do His work and walk beside people to serve as their guide on this journey of faith.

If I love the Lord with all that I am, won't I be willing to spend time seeking Him, hearing His heart and giving myself to His mission here on earth?

Is this what it means to engage? I think so.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, thank You for opening Your hand to satisfy the desires of all of Your people. I thank You that You promise to watch over all who love You. Take me off the throne today and let Your name and renown be the desire of my heart. (Isaiah 43:7)

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S BLESSING

*"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God." -Phillips Brooks*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray for our Mobberly children as they seek creative ways to give to the Engage10K campaign.

### MERGE MOMENT: PRAYER WALKING

This week, set aside a time to prayer walk in your neighborhood with your family. If you aren't able to do this logistically, consider walking the perimeter of your child or student's school. As you walk, pray for the families that are represented by the houses in your neighborhood or the families that are a part of the school your child or student attends. Ask God to give you opportunities to engage with others. Consider taking this one step further and putting the date of your prayer walk on a card and sticking it on your refrigerator as a continual reminder to pray for your neighborhood or school. Add names to the card as you and your family pray for the specific people you engage. This will give you a point of reference to see what God is doing through your family to engage East Texas.

## DAY 39

### GENERATIONAL CONNECTION

John 15:7

Don't Stop Believing

*by Bob Cole*

**J**esus used the example of the true vine (Jesus), the vinedresser (the Father) and the branches (believers) in teaching us how to pray and seek His will. John 15:7 tells us *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."* (ESV)

His desires will become our desires if we remain in Him. His



words are to remain in us. We are to keep believing, keep abiding, and keep so close to Jesus that we are joined into Him. Just like a branch connected to a vine, when we are attached to Jesus then all that we ask in Him will be fulfilled. We must pass on to others what we receive from Him; from one household to another, and from one generation to the next.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, may I recognize today that I am one of Your chosen people, holy and dearly loved by You. May I greet this day full of Your compassion, kindness and humility. Let gentleness and patience direct my responses to others. Above all, help me believe that You are able.

*“Faith is two empty hands held open to receive all of the Lord.” -Alan Redpath*

**ENGAGE 10K PRAYER:** Ask God what He wants you to do as we engage 10,000 households in East Texas. Ask Him to point you to families and individuals who need Jesus.

DAY 40

**GOSPEL URGENCY**

Mark 1:15

Go Now!

*by Will Hagle*

**S**omething special happened in March this year. We had a Cross Service for youth at the Elevation youth building on our Longview campus. We needed to plan for food, set up and take

care of other details. Our attendance on Wednesday nights averages 250 students, so we decided to plan for 500. Over 750 came! It was the largest crowd we've ever had for a service inside Elevation. Many accepted Christ. It was powerful! Afterward, I contemplated why this event was so successful. Our students caught the vision of gospel urgency. On average, every student brought two guests. I've never seen anything like it. Pastor Glynn presented the message in a powerful way. However, one thing was more critical than any other – prayer. We began praying a year in advance. Throughout the day of the event, there were droves of people prayer walking inside and outside of the building. During the service, people were praying all across campus, in the back rooms, even circling the outside of the building. The power of prayer was proven.

Do you believe there's nothing more important than a person's relationship with Christ? Do you understand gospel urgency? I've heard it said that you can do more than pray after you've prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Start with prayer. Then, go out and share Christ with everyone who will listen.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, today I pray for our church plants in Alaska, Hawaii and Preston, England. I pray for those who are new believers in Christ as they begin to grow in their knowledge of You. Help these Christians walk in a manner worthy of You, attracting others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

*“Our prayers lay the track down which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.” - Watchman Nee*

**ENGAGE10K PRAYER:** Pray God's will be done as we reach East Texas through the lives of the Mobberly family.

# WRAP-UP CHALLENGE

Matthew 28:19-20  
Engaging East Texas

**F**orty amazing days of devotions, prayer and seeking God. Now let's GO and take the Good News to East Texas! This is our home, the lost are our neighbors, friends and family. Scripture is clear, the mandate is unwavering: "Go and make disciples." During the battle of the Alamo, in a desperate time, Colonel William Travis took out his sword and challenged all 189 soldiers remaining to step across the line and accept the challenge to fight on. When those soldiers crossed that line in the sand, they knew they were committing to give it their all. In the 1800s, when missionaries left home, many times they took with them all their earthly goods in a wooden box that would one day serve as their coffin. They were going to spend their lives in a far off land, so they could take the most precious message that could ever be shared, the gospel. As believers, we have received this precious treasure. Now it's time to cross the line in the sand and commit to live in such a way that we're undeniably the "light of the world." As the body of Christ, His Church, let's live everyday as His ambassadors, ready and willing to share our story and give sacrificially. Together we will engage East Texas!

All for His Glory,  
*Eric Perkins*  
Serve Pastor



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