

A P R I L

PRAYER GUIDE

HOW TO USE **THIS PRAYER GUIDE**

These devotions with prayer prompts are intended to assist our church family as we seek Christ personally in our daily time with Him and corporately during our monthly family prayer service. It is vital that we pursue the Lord in prayer with a humble heart and depend on His guidance and leadership.

DEFINED BY THE WORD
DEVOTED TO PRAYER
DEPENDENT ON THE SPIRIT

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GOD'S CHARACTER

Key Scriptures: 1 John 4:8, "...God is love"; 1 John 1:5, "...God is light..."; John 4:24, "God is spirit..."; Psalm 119:68 "You are good..."

This month we are praying about God and His attributes, or character traits. As believers, we are called to be "increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). To be sure, we cannot know God exhaustively, but we can know what He has told us about Himself. Scripture is the location of God's self-revelation; therefore, we can be sure what we know about God is true and "profitable for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). While these attributes or character traits can be thought of as descriptions of God, we must proceed thoughtfully.

Undoubtedly, when we talk about attributes of God, we are thinking about who God is and what God is like. Knowing God is the single most important endeavor we can engage in. Yet, we must inspect our hearts and ask why we seek to increase in the knowledge of God. What's our goal? What will we do with this knowledge? The psalmist in Psalm 119:10 would answer, "With all my heart, I have sought you." So it should be with us. Our goal here is not to know about God (although that is helpful) but rather to know God intimately and personally so that we may love and enjoy Him forever.

Moreover, it is vital to remember that God is not an assortment of attributes; instead, He is simultaneously the embodiment of all these character traits. Wayne Grudem explains, "Each attribute is simply a way of describing one aspect of God's total character or being." Furthermore, "Every attribute of God also qualifies every other attribute." Remembering these cautions will guard us against misunderstanding God's character.

Questions to Consider:

Do you understand the difference between knowing about God and knowing Him? Has your knowledge of God led to a growing love for God? Why or why not?

Prayer Prompt:

Father, help me increase in the knowledge of You so that I may love and enjoy You forever.

GOD'S ACTIONS ARE HIS CHARACTER

Key Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:9a For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him...

This month, we'll be looking at various instances from the Scripture of whom God reveals himself to be toward us. Yesterday we used the word attributes, but we could also use the word character. One of the things you'll notice for almost all of these prayer guide entries is that they meditate, in one way or another, on something God has done.

For God, who He is and what He does are totally consistent with one another. With human beings, that is not always the case. We can pretend, put on a mask, or act one way while feeling quite another way deep inside. For God, this kind of fakery is non-existent. So when we see God rescue His people from Egypt, we know that He is a saving God. When He sends fire down from heaven on false prophets, we know He is a jealous God. When we see Him send water from a rock, we know He is a graciously providing God.

Ultimately, this complete consistency between action and character is made known in Jesus, who is the image of God and the exact imprint of His nature. Jesus was honest, true, and plain-spoken. He said what He was going to do, and He always did it. And Jesus' most selfless acts, suffering and dying on the cross for our sins, show a fundamental aspect of our God's character: He is love.

As you meditate on this month's entries, thank God that you can always count on Him to speak and act in complete harmony with His gracious character.

Questions to Consider:

Do you sometimes look at circumstances and doubt God's goodness? If so, does meditating on His character restore your trust?

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, help me to trust You as You reveal Yourself in the Scriptures. Guide my heart to believe that everything You do, You do for my good and Your glory.

GOD IS LORD

Key Scripture: Exodus 3:15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

Moses was intrigued by the burning bush that was miraculously unaffected by the fire. God used this opportunity to capture Moses’s attention so that His words would never be forgotten. God expressly announces to Moses in their first encounter that from then and throughout eternity, God is Lord, and this will be His name forever. In Exodus 3:3-14, God explains to Moses He SEES His people, HEARS their cries, KNOWS their suffering, has COMPASSION for them, and will DELIVER them from the Egyptians. God still sees, hears, and knows us because He is the One true God and the God of our ancestors. We, as believers, fall under this protection and provision.

Many people in the world want to be their own lord. The world even encourages the concept of many different “lords” in a person’s life, depending on what season they are in. Ultimately, whatever or whoever has power and control over your life, thoughts, and decisions becomes your lord. For the believer, there is only One Lord who has made the ultimate sacrifice and who has the ability to govern all the days of our lives. There is only One Lord to whom we should surrender our every thought, action, and decision, and He will be the One who directs our paths.

Questions to Consider:

The secular definition of ‘lord’ (noun) in Webster’s dictionary is “someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler. Example: lord of the sea.” Who or what can you honestly say is lord over your life? Is it your spouse, children, job, or favorite activity? Or is it yourself, your appearance, your own popularity? Who/What receives all of your time, treasures, and attention?

Prayer Prompts:

Dear Lord, examine my life and reveal whom I have placed as lord in my life over You.

Remind me and give me strength and wisdom to rightly make You Lord over my life.

GOD IS THE GOD WHO SANCTIFIES; MAKES HOLY

Key Scripture: Leviticus 20:7-8 “Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.”

God calls us to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). We should praise Him for lovingly sharing this attribute so that we may look more like Him because “without holiness, no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). God sent His holy Son to take our place on the cross so that we can be sanctified in truth and become blameless before the Lord. We are purified and gain salvation through this shed blood of our Lord and Savior. Our prayers should forever offer praise that we are made holy because of the work of Jesus Christ.

We are also expected to set ourselves apart and obediently follow Christ in our everyday walk. Leviticus 20:26 declares, “You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.” We can accomplish this lifelong task through the power of the Holy Spirit and by obeying the Word of God. John 17:17 reads, “Sanctify them in your truth, your word is truth.” His Word reveals our sins, helps deepen our relationship with Christ, and sustains us on the right path.

Pray for strength as you seek to be a faithful follower of Christ and for guidance and wisdom as you strive to follow His decrees and put them into practice. Ask God to purify your heart and mind and to be well disciplined in fervently applying His Word to your life. For “I am certain that God, who began a good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns” (Philippians 1:6). We must actively participate in the Spirit-led transformation of our lives!

Questions to Consider:

Have you been sanctified? Do you endeavor in all ways to be holy as He is holy?

Prayer Prompts:

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for your holiness, giving us your word, your sacrifice, and sanctifying us in truth. “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

GOD IS THE GOD WHO PROVIDES

Key Scripture: Genesis 22:6-8 “And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife ... And Isaac said to his father Abraham, ... ‘Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’”

Genesis 22 is the famous passage where God tests Abraham. God said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” We could read this passage and focus on what Abraham was willing to sacrifice for God. But the true emphasis is God’s provision of a sacrifice—a substitute for Isaac.

Throughout the Scriptures, we read of God providing for the needs of His people in countless ways. When you think of God’s provision, what comes to mind first? Is it His provision for your physical needs or spiritual needs? Genesis 22 vividly illustrates His gracious plan to provide for our greatest need, not physical but spiritual. All of us have sinned in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The most significant consequence of our sin is a broken relationship with God. We cannot do anything to fix it, but God can and did. “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them” (2 Corinthians 5:19). The Lord “laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Abraham rightly called the name of that place on Mount Moriah *Jehovah-Jireh*. The day would come when God Himself would provide the ultimate sacrifice. He would not stay His hand against His Son. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world would willingly go out—the wood of the Cross on His bloodstained back (John 19:17). The one and only Son would give His life on the same mountain—God’s provision of a sacrifice—a substitute—for us.

Questions to Consider:

What is your most significant physical or spiritual need right now? How might God increase your faith through your circumstances?

Prayer Prompt:

Praise God for providing all you need for life and godliness—in Christ.

GOD IS THE GOD OF PEACE

Key Scripture: John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

We know our God to be *Jehovah-Shalom*, the God of peace. The Bible is full of verses that tell us about the peace of God. We are told His peace passes all understanding, that he will keep us in perfect peace, and that the peace of Christ will rule in our hearts (Phil 4:7; Isa 26:3-4; Col 3:15.)

So how do we have this peace in the midst of chaos and hurt? First, you have to be surrendered to Jesus Christ. This means that you put your faith and trust in what took place on the cross. Jesus was punished for our sins so that we could have God’s peace. Second, Paul tells us in Romans 8:6, “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” If we set our minds on the things of the flesh and this world, we will put our trust in the insufficient peace that the world offers us.

Pastor Paul Tripp says, “It’s only when God looms hugely larger than anything you could ever face in this fallen world that your heart is able to experience peace even when you don’t understand what is happening (and you don’t have the power to solve it if you did.)”

So to add peaceful days to your life, seek peace through the truth and wisdom of God’s Word. He gives peace and rest to all who come to Him in faith (Matt 11:28-30.)

Questions to Consider:

Do you hang on to the world’s peace that will surely disappoint, or do you accept the peace that comes from knowing God? Do you believe that God promises peace to His people? (Psalm 85:8)

Prayer Prompts:

Jesus, thank you for taking the punishment that I deserved so that I could have peace with You.

Thank you for your peace that passes all comprehension. Help me give all my cares and anxiety to you, believing that you will provide me with your peace.

Isaiah 57:21 tells me there is no peace for the wicked. I pray now (by name) for those that I know who don’t know you as their Lord and Savior.

GOD IS THE GOD WHO HEALS

Key Scripture: Exodus 15:26 “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

Humanity experiences various physical ailments. Psalm 103:3, “Lord... who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.” In illness, we should call to the Lord for healing. We must also remember we live in a fallen world, and instead of a physical cure, God may use suffering for our good and His glory (2 Cor 12:8-10).

In our passage, God’s chosen people experienced a demonstration of the Lord’s power as He delivered His people from slavery, the Egyptian army, and through the Red Sea. The Hebrews now grumbled at the lack of good water. In an interesting manner, the Lord graciously transformed the water from bitter to sweet. Then, the Lord put His people to test. Trust and obey, and God would heal them. They failed the test. Not much has changed since the garden of Eden. Humanity has a great need.

More than water for physical life, man needs healing for spiritual life—healing of the disease leading to eternal death. That disease is sin. Every man inherited a sin nature from Adam. Consequently, every man inherited death through sin, so death spread to all men because all sinned (Rom 5:12). The only cure for this sin is Jesus Christ.

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:6-7)

For all who repent and believe, humanity’s only hope is found in Jesus Christ. This salvation is a free gift of grace. When it is received, one is delivered from death to life—eternal life.

Questions to Consider:

Have I received this free gift of eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ? What illness is there that I should call to the Lord for healing? Do I understand that I may not receive physical healing but that God may use this experience for my good and His glory?

Prayer Prompts:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the free gift of salvation. God, please heal my diseases. But if not, help me trust you and tell others of your goodness.

GOD OUR BANNER

Key Scripture: Exodus 17:15 “And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, THE LORD IS MY Banner.” (Exodus 17:8-15)

Banners represent. Exodus records God preparing a people to worship Him, not just corporately, but also a whole heart devotion and dependence upon Him. While God’s people already experienced incredible circumstances through God’s mighty power and providence, they had not learned worship of God as a way of life.

Early in their journey, they encountered an unprovoked attack from the people of Amalek. With no military experience, but only in the Lord’s power, the children of God fought back. As the battle raged, Moses stood atop a hill overlooking the fighting while upholding the staff of God. No more than a walking stick by nature, this staff represented the power and presence of God. With Moses’s staff in hands lifted heavenward, the people of God prevailed in battle. As Moses wearied, he lowered his hands, and the Amalekites prevailed. God was fighting their battle.

Moses gained physical support from Aaron and Hur as they came and supported his arms. God used the leadership of Moses, the support of Aaron and Hur, and the untrained fighters to “overwhelmingly” defeat the Amalekites. Truly, the victory belonged to the Lord.

“And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, THE LORD IS MY Banner, saying, a hand upon the throne of the LORD!”

“The Lord is My Banner” is much more than an identifying marker. It was a reminder that they belonged to God, and He fought on their behalf for His glory. A weary lot of freed slaves experienced overwhelming victory in battle over the Amalekites—not through a stick, a leader, or military might—but solely from the mighty hand of God. “The Lord is My Banner” commemorated the presence and power of the Lord. This reminder stood to represent God’s presence with them, which should evoke a deep heart of worship of the Lord as they remembered. We, too, should heed that reminder.

Questions to Consider:

Do I wholly depend on the Lord to fight for me? Do I consider victories a result of my efforts?

Prayer Prompts:

Heavenly Father, thank you that I am under your Banner and you fight for me. Thank you that I can fully trust you to know and do what is best for me. Please help me to be careful to depend on you.

GOD IS LOVE

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 5:1-2, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

1 John 3:16, “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

As these verses point out, we can understand what love is by understanding who God is. Love is one of God’s most well-known attributes. Because love originates with God, He is also most worthy of love. Because of this, we start in discipleship by learning how to direct the love we have been given through salvation back to Him and to those around us. We are called to both love God and love others.

Love often is displayed in a very fleeting, conditional, worldly manner. To love someone is often wrapped up in temporary emotions. People base their love on the things someone else has done or not done for them, the conditions of life. However, as Christians, we have the privilege to understand unconditional love through the sacrifice of our Savior! The Scriptures point us to the fact that when we remain in the love that God has shown us, we are remaining in Him. When we fully understand God’s love, it gives us an understanding of how to love those around us. We are called to walk in love. This should be an overflow of the love God has given us. Just as Jesus showed us, this should be unconditional and sacrificial. We do not get to choose who is worthy of our love but rather should freely and graciously give it out as an example of Christ’s love for us.

Questions to Consider:

Have I accepted God’s, unconditional love? Do I display unconditional love in my daily life? What must I work on to love God and love others well?

Prayer Prompts:

Father, I pray that I will walk in love daily. I pray that I can share God’s love with those around me through your words and actions.

GOD IS OUR FATHER

Key Scripture: Romans 8:15-17 “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

“Abba! Father!” The word *Abba*, from the Aramaic language of first-century Palestine, was the most intimate term people could use in addressing their fathers. Most closely translated in English as “Daddy.” Jesus used this same term when He cried out to God in the garden of Gethsemane in Mark 14:36. The moment we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we belong to Him as His children. There is a testimony within the hearts of believers that assures them of God’s fatherhood and preservation of them as His beloved sons and daughters.

We are no longer slaves to sin and death but are alive in Christ. And when we do sin, we can boldly go to the throne of grace and confess our sin and God will forgive our sins (1 John 1:9). The Gospel is the remedy for the fear in this fallen world. We have a Father in heaven who works all things together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28-30).

Questions to Consider:

Are you resting in the knowledge that you are a fellow heir with Christ? If not, spend some time in God’s Word and learn more about what it means to be a child of God.

Prayer Prompts:

Thank you, Father, for the privilege of being fellow heirs with Christ, who died for our sins and was buried, and raised on the third day. May we live our lives worthy of being called your Sons and Daughters, to bring You glory and honor.

Thank you, Father, for providing us with Scripture, to meditate on, and to grow in our knowledge of your grace and mercy.

Meditate on Ephesians 1:3-6

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Key Scripture: Psalm 115:3, “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

God is sovereign. We understand sovereign to mean all things are under God’s rule and control and that nothing happens without His direction or permission. God is supreme in authority and infinite in power. He alone has absolute freedom to do whatever He chooses, whenever He chooses, in any way He chooses. There is no greater authority. There is none higher, nor one more powerful, than Almighty God. A. W. Tozer writes, “There is not one rope or chain or hindrance upon Him.”

According to the Scriptures, God spoke the universe into existence. God continues to uphold and sustain all things—in the heavens and on the earth. From major events that lead to the rise and fall of nations to the smallest details of an individual human life, nothing escapes His notice. Nothing happens outside of His will. God determines. God commands. God permits. God appoints. God rules over creation, and over human history, according to His eternal purposes. God sets the course. Always, and in all ways, His plan prevails.

The sovereignty of God includes the act of salvation through His redeeming work in Jesus Christ. “You have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:2-3).

No one is beyond His reach. Of all the people in this world, Christians ought to be most at peace. Yet, we worry instead of worship. We doubt instead of doing what God commands. How often are we weighed down by fear instead of walking by faith? In those moments, let us remember the truth and be filled with hope. God is sovereign over all. “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 10:36).

Questions to Consider:

What circumstances are you facing today? In light of God’s sovereignty, how can you walk in a different way daily?

Prayer Prompts:

God, I praise You for your sovereign authority and power over the world and for Your sovereign care over my life.

God help me to remember Your sovereignty when I am tempted to walk through circumstances in fear instead of by faith.

GOD IS MERCY

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3–4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

Can you think about a time in your life when you deserved to be punished, but instead of being punished, you were extended mercy? Maybe you were driving too fast because you were late for work, and without realizing you were speeding, you found yourself being pulled over by a law enforcement officer. While you were guilty of speeding, the officer chose to be merciful (to not give you what you deserve) and not write you a ticket for speeding.

In the Old Testament, we see God’s demonstration of mercy to the Israelites through His covenantal promise. He maintains His covenant to them through His great love. While many times they deserved punishment, wrath, or death, God upheld His covenantal love and promise while extending mercy to them. In the New Testament, in Jesus, we see how mercy is extended to all people. It is only because of Jesus that we are able to receive the greatest demonstration of God’s mercy—namely, the gift of salvation.

God is both merciful and just, for they are two sides of the same coin. To be in relationship with God means the punishment for our sin must be paid in full, and we are unable to do that on our own. God demonstrates both His great loving mercy and His righteous justice in the atoning death of the Lord Jesus on the cross in our place.

Questions to Consider:

Have you personally experienced the mercy of God (Psalm 103:8,10–12)? How does your life look different because His mercy has been poured out on you?

Prayer Prompt:

Father, may the mercy you have shown to me empower me this day to be merciful to those around me.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Key Scripture: Psalm 100:5 “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

What words come to mind when you think about what it means to be faithful? Loyal, unwavering, committed? While these are strong words to describe faithfulness, God’s faithfulness encompasses much more because it is who He is. If He ever stopped being faithful, He would also stop being God.

Throughout Scripture, we see that when God says He will do something, He does it. From eternity past to eternity future God has committed Himself to being faithful to His people (See Genesis 1, 2, 15; 2 Samuel 7; Jeremiah 31; Philippians 1; Revelation 22). We see as far back as Genesis His faithfulness to Adam and Eve. We see God’s faithfulness all throughout the Bible but especially on the cross. Those who place their faith and trust in Jesus are forgiven of their sins—past, present, and future. Faithfully, God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. By this, God’s steadfast love and faithfulness are on full display. What’s more, even in our unfaithfulness, God remains faithful (Rom. 5:8).

A verse from a hymn written in 1893 says, “Never a trial that He is not there, Never a burden that He doth not bear. Never a sorrow that He doth not share, Moment by moment I’m under His care.” You can rest in the fact that God is faithful. We are often not faithful to Him, but He is always faithful to us.

Questions to Consider:

What are some specific times in your life when you have seen God’s faithfulness? Did you spend time worshiping and thanking Him for being faithful? Have there been times you have doubted His faithfulness even though He has shown His faithfulness time and time again?

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, thank you that you are with me in all circumstances. Help me never doubt your faithfulness. I can see all throughout Scripture where you always have and will always be faithful to your children.

Forgive me for those times when I have not trusted you to be faithful.

GOD IS THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Scripture: Jeremiah 33:16 “In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

Righteousness is the condition of being proven or declared morally excellent. After the fall of man, we lost our righteousness as we became separated from our holy God.

If we need righteousness to have a relationship with God and live eternally with Him, we need the righteousness we lost in the garden to be restored. How can a sinner become morally excellent on his own? It's not possible. Thankfully, we are not left to achieve righteousness on our own.

The story of Abram sets the foundation of justification by faith; a concept examined many times throughout Scripture. God promised Abram numerous blessings, and in great faith, Abram gathered up his household and left everything he knew – his country, his people, his home. For many years, he waited for the promises to be fulfilled, accepting God's words as reliable and true. Abram did nothing to make himself “morally excellent.” He simply listened and believed. “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:8).

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Paul explains, “God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is by Jesus's work on the cross that we are made righteous, and by faith, we are justified, or declared righteous, before God. God does all this “for his name's sake” to bring honor and glory to His name.

Questions to Consider:

Have you surrendered yourself to the voice of God, trusting His Word as reliable and true? Do you take time to thank Him for the gift of Jesus's sacrifice, which covers us in His righteousness?

Prayer Prompts:

Righteous God, help me to seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commandments either through ignorance or by willful disobedience. Help me to treasure your Word in my heart so that I will not stray from your perfect plan for me.

Additional Scripture to pray: Romans 4; Galatians 3; James 2:23

GOD IS THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

Read all of Psalm 23

Key Scripture: Psalm 23:1-2 “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”

This psalm of David is written as a song of confidence in the Lord’s protection. This psalm is split into two sections—God as our shepherd and God as our host.

Verses 1-3 show the Lord guiding His people. The term “shepherd” literally means to guide or direct. He guides them to places of rest and nourishment, to the point where they do not lack (or want). He leads them to “green pastures” and “still waters” to restore their souls—leading them in paths of righteousness. The paths in which the Lord chooses to lead His faithful people point toward righteousness for *His* name’s sake.

Verse 4 shows them being protected from the “valley of the shadow of death.” This is like a shepherd protecting his flock from prey and dangerous environments, gently using his rod and staff to guide them away from dangers. Because the Lord is with them and guiding them—they need not fear. The Lord guides us towards righteousness. He provides safe paths for us to take while also providing a place of peace without fear for us to dwell in.

Verses 5 and 6 show the Lord as our host, yet this is also still showing Him as our shepherd. He is preparing the table for His flock and allowing their cups to overflow with goodness and blessings. This shows that those who have accepted the Lord as their savior are promised to live in the house of the Lord forever. Literally “for days without end.” What an amazing thought to behold!

Questions to Consider:

In what ways have you seen the Lord as Shepherd in your life? How can you share this with others?

Prayer Prompts:

Father God, I praise you for being the Good Shepherd and protecting me from evil. Lord, show me how I can help others to see how you are a Shepherd for them as well.

GOD WHO IS THERE

Key Scripture: Genesis 16:13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”

Hagar was an Egyptian maidservant living in the tents of Abram and Sarai. They lived in Canaan for ten years when Sarai insisted Abram lay with Hagar so they might claim a child and build a family. This makes no sense culturally to us today, but it was not an unusual circumstance then. Hagar does indeed get pregnant, and she goes from maidservant to wife - though she does not carry the same status as Sarai. Hagar scorns Sarai for her continuing barrenness. Sarai retaliates by blaming her husband and treating Hagar unkindly. In fact, she is so mistreated she runs away, pregnant, into the wilderness towards her home in Egypt. This strange set of circumstances has gone from bad to worse! And where is God amidst all this human manipulation?

As the narrative continues, we see the faithfulness of God in a remarkable way! He pursues Hagar in her flight to Egypt, speaking to her as she rests at a spring. Through “an angel of the Lord,” He asks her questions—though we know He knows the answers! He engages her, wanting her to share her experience with Him. God pulls no punches. He commands Hagar to return to her uncomfortable situation. He also comforts her by acknowledging her painful circumstances. He takes time with this pagan maidservant lost in the wilderness. His words comfort her. She responds with praise! She now “sees” (perceives) that God has seen her—He has recognized and intervened in her situation. She acknowledges He is a mighty God who is there, aware of the circumstances and taking care of her.

Questions to Consider:

Are there uncomfortable circumstances in your life that have left you questioning whether God “sees” you? Do you approach God, sharing openly with Him, or do you “flee into the wilderness” with these concerns? Do you trust the bigness of God and His good purposes in all circumstances?

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, “You have searched me, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways” (Psalm 139:1-3). I thank you that I can trust you will always be there, an ever-present help working in all circumstances.

GOD IS THE LORD OF HOSTS

Key Scripture: Psalm 46:7 - The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Fortress.

When the psalmist calls God the “Lord of Hosts” here in Psalm 46, he is giving us a very clear image of the vastness and the power of God’s authority. Throughout the Old Testament this title is ascribed to God 261 times. Like a mighty general commanding a large army, God is pictured as one not only commanding Israel’s armies (1 Sam. 17:45) but also a heavenly host of armies (1 Kings 22:19). This strikes fear in the eyes of His enemies (Is. 1:24) and hope for his people (Ps. 46:7).

When Israel would rely on the strength of their own armies, they would often fail in what they sought to do. However, whenever the Lord of Hosts led them into battle, they could never fail. God makes this same promise to us, He will lead us into battle, and although it may feel like we are standing in the fire, we can know with full confidence that the very God who commands the hosts of heavens is standing there with us.

Questions to Consider:

The Lord of Hosts desires for us to rely on His strength and not our own; where are you seeking to do things in your own strength instead of giving it to Him?

God never said that Israel wouldn’t experience heartache; in fact, He would often use this pain to “remove the impurities” (Is. 1:26) from among His people. What are some areas that the Lord is working on in your life to bring you to righteousness, and how can you surrender those to Him?

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, provide me with the strength to follow you into every situation I face, knowing with full confidence that you are the one who orchestrates the outcome.

Pray Psalm 46 back to Lord as an offering of praise, knowing that the very one this psalm is talking about is the very God you are praying to right now.

GOD IS PATIENT

Key Scriptures: 1 Timothy 1:16, “But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

2 Peter 3:15, “And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.”

Romans 9:22–23, “What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.”

2 Peter 3:9, “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.”

The patience of God is best understood when we meditate on it alongside His other attributes such as love, mercy, strength, power, goodness, meekness, justice, and holiness. God’s patience directly manifests itself in the love He shows us in our salvation. The Lord shows His patience toward us, in that He extends mercy rather than wrath for our sin. His forgiveness is firmly rooted in His patience. Therefore, if He were not perfectly patient, we would have no hope for salvation.

His patience is also proved in His omnipotence, justice, and perfection as He exercises His will and providence throughout time. His patience shows us His strength, endurance, and power. May we bow in humble reverence and thanksgiving, giving glory to the Father for His great patience toward us.

Question to Consider:

What can you learn from having a right understanding of God’s patience?

Prayer Prompts:

I praise You, Lord, for Your perfect patience. I confess my lack of obedience in response to the patience You have shown to me, the ways I have not been patient with Your plan, and when I test Your patience. Thank You for patiently waiting for me to respond rightly to Your love.

Please help me to reflect Your patience in my interactions with others and give me the courage to offer You my repentance.

GOD IS THE GOD WHO SEES

Key Scripture: Genesis 16:13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

Amongst sin and sorrow, Hagar was seen by God. He was not merely a witness to her pain; instead, He intervened. God found her fleeing, and He also spoke, listened, and blessed her (Gen 16:1-16). Hagar, a foreign female servant, is the first recorded to have an appearance of the angel of the Lord and to ascribe a name to God – El Roi, the God who sees.

When God sees, it also means He understands, He knows, and He gets involved. Every emotion and thought is exposed. Further, the last phrase of today's verse connects God seeing with God responding. He is the all-powerful caretaker of His creation. No one overlooked, no injustice invisible. God knows everything, from our sin to our sorrows, and He graciously intercedes.

Like Hagar, we too were slaves – slaves to sin, surrounded by sin's consequences, wandering hopeless, and in need of rescue. Hebrews 4:12-16 tells us there is "no creature hidden from His sight." And "we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." Isaiah 53:3-11 reminds us that our Savior "was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and... his soul makes an offering for guilt."

God first sees people and then calls us to see and know Him. He offers salvation and tender care. Though Christians may at times feel unseen, remember, "Where can I go from your Spirit?" (Ps. 139:7) Nowhere! Nothing escapes the sight of the all-knowing, ever-present God. Our heavenly Father looks after birds and flowers; how much more He loves and sustains us.

Questions to Consider:

Do I fall into the trap of incorrect thinking that God's understanding of my situation is limited? Do I look for His comfort and intercession or for my own solution?

Prayer Prompts:

God, thank you for being near the brokenhearted, saving the crushed in spirit (Ps 34:18). Even in moments of pain, may I trust and do what is right in your sight (Deut 12:28).

Help me be more like Jesus as I look after the needs of others this week (Phil 2:4).

GOD IS THE EVERLASTING GOD

Key Scripture: Psalm 90:2 “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

We live in a world of disposable things, like paper cups and cardboard boxes. Decay is the natural order where summer flowers succumb to winter temperatures and our cars to the wear and tear of the road. The idea of eternity is almost comical, fantastical, dismissible. We need to be intentional and persistent about understanding the eternal. Psalm 90:2 reveals the great truth that God is eternal. But what does this mean for us personally? There are two things to understand.

First, God’s Word is eternal. Psalm 119:89 reads, “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.” Every promise He has given us is sure, unchanging, dependable, and steadfast.

Next, we are eternal—made in His image. Genesis 1:27, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female, he created them.” Matthew confirms these truths in 25:46, “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” How do we put this all together? You are not a paper cup. You are not disposable, laughable, or dismissible. For those who believe in Jesus, your future is secure, eternal, promised by the word of the eternal Father. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” As believers who have been promised eternity with God, we must be passionate and diligent about understanding this well and living it daily.

Questions to Consider:

Have you really grasped that you were created for eternity? Do you live your life according to the truth that all that we have now is temporal, and all that we have next is eternal?

Prayer Prompts:

Heavenly Father, everlasting God, you are so powerful and wonderful and good and true. It is only by your grace and mercy that I can comprehend myself in light of who you are. I pray that you will open my eyes and heart to understand the eternal clearly. And that you will lead me to live my life accordingly, not as a paper cup, but as someone with great value in your kingdom and for your glory.

GOD IS A MIGHTY GOD

Key Scripture: Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Rev. 19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.”

God is glorified when we praise Him in times of weakness and admit that our wisdom and power is limited, but His mighty power is beyond measure. He has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit so that we can rest in His power alone and be secure in knowing that He fights every one of our battles for us! John’s vision in Revelation is of Jesus with a sharp sword coming out of His mouth. The sword represents His Word. Jesus can destroy His enemies with just a word from His mouth, exemplifying how mighty He truly is. He battles on our behalf, even in the moments we cannot seem to find our strength. His second coming will be in a blaze of glory and power, and He will crush His enemies single-handedly with His Word. Until then, we have the same power within us from the Spirit and from the Word to battle our own enemies.

Questions to Consider:

Do you need strength in your life? Where do you typically reach for strength? Is it through a wise friend, a spouse, or a relative? Do you hide your fears and pretend that your strength is of your own resolve and might?

Prayer Prompts:

God, help me find my strength in you alone. Remind me that you have given me your Spirit, and your grace is sufficient for me. Help me see that your power is made perfect in my weakness. 2 Cor. 12:9

Meditate on these two verses that remind us that everything was made by and through Him and all things are held together by His mighty power and strength: John 1:3 and Col. 1:16,17; and that God battles on our behalf even in our sinful brokenness Gal. 5:16-23.

GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD

Key Scripture: Exodus 34:14, “for you shall not worship any other god, because the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

Human jealousy is often a negative emotion; but in a proper context, it can be a beautiful response—if done in a godly manner. In the other attributes we have studied this month, we have seen that God deserves our praise simply because of who He is. However, we often turn aside and run from acknowledging His deity, His sovereignty, His glory, and the fact that we are His bride. God’s jealousy is aroused because our worship rightfully belongs to Him. This is why we are told numerous times not to worship anything other than God. He alone deserves all worship from His creation whose purpose it is to bring Him glory. He alone is God. When we choose to substitute anything else for God, we are provoking His jealousy.

We see God’s jealousy for His people when anything tries to steal His people’s hearts away. Whether it is the lure from idols or our own wandering, God will pursue His bride. He has redeemed us through Jesus and will lovingly pursue us because of His jealousy for His great name. When we see ourselves distracted by idols or giving glory to something that is not God, remember this is grievous to God.

Questions to Consider:

Do you possess a godly or worldly jealousy? Are you inviting God’s jealousy by worshiping someone or something else?

Prayer Prompts:

God help me to acknowledge your deity, sovereignty, and glory in my life.

I pray for myself and those around me to focus on you and to not get distracted by other idols.

CHRIST OUR INTERCESSOR

Key Scripture: Hebrews 7:25 “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”

As believers, Christ is our intercessor to God the Father. Christ intervenes on behalf of His children. In the Old Testament, a priest had to take the requests of the people to God because there was no other way for a sinner to approach a holy God. But God made a way to come directly to Him by becoming a man in Christ, giving us the ultimate high priest—who was also God. Now it is through being chosen by Him that our sins are covered, and we have His righteousness applied to our account.

On the days you feel like you have millions of things to say but can't speak any of them, Christ goes to the Father and makes every thought, confession, thanksgiving, and emotion clear. On the days you feel coherent and clear, Christ goes before you to the Father and covers any selfish or ungodly request or statement. When God looks at a believer's unrighteousness, instead of seeing the reality of our filthy rags, God sees the righteousness of Christ. Dr. Paige Patterson points out, "Jesus is repeatedly pictured in the New Testament as "seated at the right hand of God" (Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12). We see Jesus seated there as completion of His work covering our sins and in a perfect position to point this out to God on our behalf.

Questions to Consider:

Have you received Christ's free gift of salvation? Do you think of Christ being your intercessor? Do you thank Him for choosing you and interceding for you before the Father?

Prayer Prompts:

Thank you, God, for your work in my prayer life to make you clear through Christ your intercessor.

God, I confess my understanding of my own unrighteousness, and I praise you for sending Christ as an atonement for my sins.

Verse to meditate on: Psalm 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!"

THE GOD OF ALL TRUTH

Scripture Reading: John 18:33-38; Psalm 86:8-13

Key Scripture: Psalm 86:11 "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name."

There are several one-off statements in the Scriptures that say, "God cannot lie" (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18), but the reality of God's character is deeper than this. The reason He cannot lie is because He is the embodiment of truth itself. In fact, since He is all-knowing, "truth" is simply thinking the same thoughts as God.

Imagine how the knowledge of things like gravity was still unknown in the 1600s. But God, being all-knowing, has a firm grasp on all of these facts. After all, He was the creator of them. When Isaac Newton "discovered" the laws of gravitation in 1666 or Albert Einstein further clarified them in 1905, they were really only uncovering the knowledge God already has.

This is what makes Jesus's encounter with Pilate in John 18 so ironic. Jesus says, "I came to bear witness to the truth." This truth is the gospel, the message that He is God in the flesh who will very soon take away the sins of the world. But without understanding the weight of the situation, Pilate exclaims, "What is truth?" and storms off. Truth was literally staring him in the face, and he simply couldn't see it. We often reason like Pilate. Even as believers, we put aside the truth of God for a lie because it offers a convenient justification for sin. We absolutely cannot compromise in this area. We must continue to shape our thinking to fall in line with God's thoughts and reflect His truth. Insofar as we believe, speak, and live truth, we will reflect the God of all truth.

Questions to Consider:

What lies have you encountered that tempt you to deny the truth of God? What does God's Word say about these lies? Can you recall specific passages that refute them? How does Scripture memorization help combat the lies of Satan?

Prayer Prompts:

Pray through John 16:13-14 that the Spirit would continue to guide you into truth and that you would be open and attentive to His guidance.

I pray that God's truth, particularly the gospel, would be constantly fresh on my mind, heart, and lips.

GOD IS JUST

Key Scripture: Romans 1:18 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

The wrath of God is not something we like to think about, but Scripture has a great deal to say on this topic. We would do well to meditate on this attribute of God. God’s wrath is nothing like the anger of man. The wrath of God is described as a consuming fire against ungodliness or unrighteousness. God’s wrath is the righteous anger of a holy God who hates sin (Psalm 5:5, 11:5). Yet, God does not lash out in anger and is simultaneously merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Exodus 34:6).

God is the righteous, just Judge whose very nature requires him to judge sin (Psalm 7:11). “He will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:7). God cannot “write-off” sin but must address it. He did so with His own Son Jesus Christ, “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God” (Romans 5:9).

The wrath of God is satisfied in the person and work of Jesus Christ. “For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Those who trust in Christ for salvation receive the righteousness of Christ. Our sin was laid on Christ (Isaiah 53:4–6). Therefore, in Christ, we have no fear for we are saved from the wrath of God by “Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10). This is wonderful news for those in Christ.

Those who have not trusted Christ are under God’s wrath (Ephesians 2:1–4). Yet, God patiently delays His wrath to lead men to repentance (Romans 2:4). “God has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Questions to Consider:

Have you placed your faith in Christ who will deliver from the wrath to come? Does the wrath of God on the unrighteous spur me to share the gospel?

Prayer Prompts:

Thank you, God, that your wrath was satisfied in Christ. God, give me boldness to share the gospel with those still under the wrath of God.

GOD IS WISE

Key Scriptures: Psalm 147:5, “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite”; Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

Often in Scripture, we see the words “wisdom” and “knowledge.” Though these words are related, they are not the same. Knowledge is information gained through intellectual understanding, personal experience, and personal relationship. Wisdom is discernment for what is right and true and is based on application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment. Wisdom builds on knowledge.

There are numerous passages in God’s Word that speak to His infinite wisdom. God’s wisdom is perfect, consistent, limitless, and everlasting. God’s attribute of wisdom is one that is both communicable to us, in part, and also incommunicable as He is infinitely and perfectly wise.

A.W. Tozer writes, “Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and is thus able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision.”

Only God possesses this perfect wisdom that is described above. For believers, wisdom is applying God’s Word to daily living and living a life pleasing to God. How can we obtain this wisdom? Through consistent Bible study, obeying the Word, and prayer. We can ask God boldly and confidently to give us this wisdom, for the promises of His Word are true as James 1:5 tell us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

Because God is infinitely wise, we can trust that His decisions are always wise, and that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Questions to Consider:

Do you recognize that wisdom is a gift from God? Do you trust the wisdom of God in your everyday life?

Prayer Prompt:

Pray James 1:5. Father, You are perfectly wise. I pray that You will give me wisdom that can only come from You as I seek to follow You in obedience.

GOD'S IS IMMUTABLE OR UNCHANGEABLE

Key Scripture: Malachi 3:6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."

Nestled amid other attributes in Malachi (love, justice, grace, faithfulness, wrath, and sovereignty), we see the truth of our unchanging God. The Israelites were preserved, protected, and prospered because God doesn't change; He faithfully kept His promises to His people.

Wayne Grudem and Louis Berkhof summarize immutability (unchangeableness) as "God is unchanging in his being, perfections [character, attributes], purposes, and promises."

Synonyms for immutability can aid our understanding: steady, true, consistent, stable, and predictable. Humans are not reliable; we change our minds on a dime. Consequently, we are tempted to take our view of mankind and wrongly apply it to God.

God's attributes are not like different hats He wears at different times, changing them as He reacts to what we do or based on His mood for the day. No. He is perfectly being and doing these attributes eternally. In Psalm 102:27, we are told, "But You are the same, and Your years have no end." James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Within today's attribute, we see an important connection to all others—no aspect of God's character changes. The impact is constant harmony; each attribute is steady and undivided from the rest. For example, God is not simply just or loving; but just and loving. He never sets aside His love and picks up His justice. Every attribute is consistent and active due to God's never-ceasing character.

Questions to Consider:

How is God growing my trust in Him? Where am I inconsistent in my growth in Christlikeness? What plan should I put in place to be intentionally obedient?

Prayer Prompts:

Thank you for giving us a secure foundation. I confess areas with which I am inconsistent in exhibiting your character. Grow my understanding of you so it may grow my desire to be transformed by you. Help me be obedient in the areas I identified today.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - CREEK KIDS

Key Scripture: Psalm 78:4-7

The Preschool and Elementary Ministry of Richland Creek seeks to teach children to Love God (in His Word, prayer, our witness, our worship) and Love Others (through our church, ministry, generosity, while on mission) all while partnering with parents in the Biblical discipleship of their children.

Creek Kids is separated into four areas:

- Nursery (birth to age 2)—strives to show babies and toddlers the love of Jesus through His Word, introducing them to the Bible while keeping them safe and well cared for. Our desire is to love and encourage each family in discipleship by being a resource for them.
- Preschool (age 2 through pre-K)—exists to assist parents in laying a spiritual foundation for your child that, through prayer and guidance, would lead to their salvation. We minister using The Gospel Project curriculum and on Wednesday nights through our Discovery Pointe curriculum.
- Kindergarten - 3rd grade—we work to build a strong, gospel-centered foundation for our children. We do this by teaching children about the nature and character of God in creative environments that are safe and fun.
- 4th/5th grade—intended to bridge students in 4th & 5th Grade to middle school. Students will learn how to have a relationship with Jesus, grow in their Christian walk, and learn how to share their faith with those in their church, school, and community.

We accomplish this by providing a safe and engaging place for students to be discipled using God's Word and prayer as our main tools. We have three avenues for discipleship: Sunday morning Creek Kids 4/5 Worship, Creek Kids 4/5 Life Groups, and Wednesday night Discovery Pointe. Interested in serving? Contact the Creek Kids team at creekkids@richlandcreek.com.

Prayer Prompts:

God, I thank you and praise you for this wonderful ministry at our church. God, I pray for the raising up of additional servants for this ministry.

I pray that children will be transformed by the truth of God's Word.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT- SPECIAL FRIENDS MINISTRY

Key Scripture: Psalm 139:13-14

Richland Creek's Special Needs Ministry (called Special Friends) exists to glorify God as we make disciples who make disciples. We accomplish this by loving God and loving others through reaching and cultivating relationships with families and servants in the special needs community.

We believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to worship, learn, and serve in our church, regardless of their abilities. We regard special needs as different abilities rather than disabilities, and we provide a Christ-centered environment with a person-centered emphasis to help individuals and families flourish in their unique abilities, as well as their collective spiritual growth. We seek to transform lives through heart-to-heart relationships and a foundation of trust that will extend to trusting others and trusting in Christ.

- To intentionally and systematically share the Good News of Jesus Christ with children and adults who have special needs and help them grow in their faith.
- To integrate children and adults with special needs and their families into the life of the church body.
- To welcome, support, and include the families of those with members who have special needs into the fellowship of Richland Creek Community Church.
- To reach out to the community and provide a safe and loving environment where individuals with special needs can worship God and learn about Jesus Christ.
- To nurture each individual's skills and abilities while learning about the Christian faith.
- To provide an opportunity for individuals with special needs to learn about God's love in a way that is accessible and understandable to them.

We offer our separate classrooms for individuals with special needs in rooms 115-120 on Sunday mornings (9 am and 10:30 am) and Wednesday nights. These classes are offered for all ages, including adults!

Interested in serving? Contact Eleanor Waterman at eleanor@richlandcreek.com.

Prayer Prompts:

God, I thank you and praise you for a church that seeks to minister to all, regardless of ability levels. I pray for intentionality and purpose in the body as we love and serve these families. I pray they will feel included in the body of Christ as we boldly proclaim His name together. I pray for the raising up of additional servants for this ministry.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - FOOD PANTRY

Key Scripture: Mark 8:5-8 and Matthew 25:35

Our bi-monthly Community Food Pantry at Richland Creek is helping to feed hundreds of families in our community by both meeting their practical needs and, more importantly, engaging them with the Gospel. This ministry is a tangible way to Love God and Love Others, and we want to invite you to participate.

There are many opportunities to serve, and it's a great place for families to serve together!

Interested in serving? Contact Tish Williams at tish@richlandcreek.com.

Weekly Service Opportunities

- Local Food Pick-up Drivers (Truck/SUV Vehicle Recommended)
- Stocking Shelves

Bi-Monthly Service Opportunities (2nd & 4th Thursday & Friday)

- Thursday Food Pick-Up (9:30 am)
- Friday Food Pick-up and Set-up (9:30 am)

Bi-Monthly Service Opportunities (2nd & 4th Saturday / 9-11 am)

- Set-up (7:00 am)
- Food Distribution (9:00 am)
- Prayer Counselors (9:00 am)
- Clean-up (11:00 am)

The food pantry is also in need of food donations. Items may be dropped off in the Community Food Pantry collection barrels both inside and outside the church near the office entrance. To see the list of items needed, please visit: <https://richlandcreek.com/food/>.

Prayer Prompts:

God, I pray for the raising up of additional servants for this ministry.

I pray that the congregation will be gracious and abundant in their donations of food for the ministry.

I pray that the sharing of the Gospel each month will bear much fruit.

I pray for lives to be transformed spiritually through the meeting of physical needs.

Thank You

We praise the Lord for all those who contributed to make this prayer guide possible. We are so grateful for the faithful servants who have dedicated their time and talents to writing this prayer guide.

To God Be the Glory!

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

But we ask you, brothers and sisters, to recognize those who diligently labor among you and are in leadership over you in the Lord, and give you instruction, and that you regard them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.