CONNECT

Find deeper relationships with Jesus & AFA

IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer Guide Group and Class Info



For those of you who are here for the first time, and for those of you who've been here for a while- welcome :)

We want to help you get and stay connected with God and each other.

Regular connection with God happens through prayer and scripture, and we need set aside time to slow down and hear from God. The first section of this booklet is devoted to that, to help you slow down in prayer and scripture reading. We've put together a prayer guide and scripture reading for you. You can use this daily.

When I use this prayer and scripture guide, I usually pray and read out loud. It helps me to be more focused.

I pray you will always remember that you are an image bearer of Jesus Christ. You possess his Love and his Spirit within you. Don't you dare hold back in sharing that love and Holy Spirit power with others.

Paretor Norte

PRAYER GUIDE

WE PRAY TO BE FORMED BY GOD. TAKE A MOMENT AND QUIET YOUR HEAD, HEART AND SPIRIT. OPEN YOURSELF TO HEARING FROM GOD AND THEN BEGIN WITH THESE PRAYERS EACH DAY. THIS IS THE WORK OF SLOWING DOWN AND POSTURING YOURSELF TO HEAR FROM GOD.

FIRST WORDS IN PRAYER

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION

Most merciful God,
We confess that we have
sinned against You in thought, word and deed,
By what we have done,
And by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us;
That we may delight in your will,
And walk in your ways,
To the glory of your name, Amen.

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me [a sinner].

LORD, I'M WILLING

by Henri Nouwen (The Only Necessary Thing, 203)

Dear Lord, I love you. You are all I desire, all I hope for, all I long for.

You are beautiful, good, kind, gentle, just, peaceful, forgiving, merciful, and loving. To you I direct my eyes; to you I stretch out my arms; to you I lift up my heart. You are my Lord and my God.

I know, Lord, that I think about many things which keep my mind from you, look at many things which do not lead me to you, and do many things which do not bring me closer to you. I know that on the surface I am restless and distracted. But I also know that the center of my being cries out to you, even though this cry has not yet permeated all my senses.

Accept, O Lord, my love, even when my ears and eyes, my lips and hands are not fully disciplined yet in the service of love. Accept my love as a desire to love you more every day. Amen.

When we open God's word, it's like we're opening his mouth— take some time each day to immerse yourself in God's word. As you read the daily Psalm, imagine the feelings you encounter as your own. As you read in the Old Testament, work to discover what it has to do with the Good News of Jesus Christ. As you read in the New Testament, imagine you are present with Jesus or with the early church.

Week of April 3

Psalm 92-98 Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:8-14

Week of April 10

Psalm 99-105 Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Philippians 2:5-11

Week of April 17

Psalm 106-112 Isaiah 51:9-11 Luke 24:1-10

Week of April 24

Psalm 113-119 Job 42:1-6 Revelation 1:1-19

Week of May 1

Psalm 120-126 Jeremiah 32:36-41 Revelation 5:6-14

Week of May 8

Psalm 127-133 Numbers 27:12-23 Revelation 7:9-17

Week of May 15

Psalm 134-140 Leviticus 19:1-18 Revelation 19:1-9

Week of May 22

Psalm 141-147 Joel 2:21-27 Revelation 21:22-22:5

Week of May 29

Psalm 147-150, 1-3 2 Kings 2:1-15 Acts 1:1-11

Week of June 5

Psalm 4-10 Genesis 11:1-9 Acts 2:1-11

Week of June 12

Psalm 11-17 2 Samuel 11:26-12:15 Galatians 2:11-21

Week of June 19

Psalm 18-24 Zechariah 12:8-10; 13:1 Galatians 3:23-29

Week of June 26

Psalm 25-32 I Kings 19:15-21 Galatians 5:13-25

BIBLE READING QUARTER 2

Psalms: one each day

Old and New Testament: same each day

PRAYER FOR FAMILY AND NEEDS

This next section is all about bringing our requests to God. Before you begin this specific time of prayer, read **Psalm 23** and **Psalm 91:1-2**.

Pray for your immediate family by name.

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Pray for these Missions and Outreach Partners.

APRIL | Pregnancy Resource Center of Stanly County | www.prcstanly.com

MAY | Steve Bortner | Chi Alpha Campus Missionary | www.facebook.com/steve.bortner.5

JUNE | Chris and Lenee Oakley | Missionaries to Central Southeast Europe | www.buildinghiskingdom.com

Pray for your personal requests and needs.

Use this time to pray for whatever is on your heart. Employ your spiritual gift and pray in tongues to edify yourself before the Lord.

Prayer to the Crucified Christ.

Lord Jesus, you stretched our your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace; So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen.

Pray The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).

CLOSING PRAYERS

These prayers are an appropriate ascent from the slower, more contemplative prayer that we've just prayed. Pray these as you wrap up this time of prayer.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, Hope;

Where there is darkness, Light;

Where there is sadness, Joy;

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to Love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

PRAYER OF GRACE

Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF THE MYSTERY

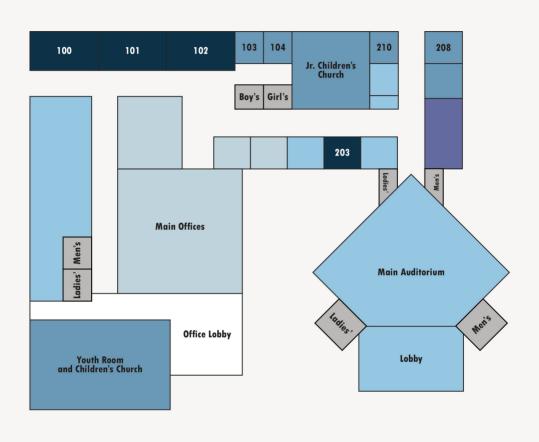
Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me [a sinner].





MIDWEEK GROUPS

- Living Free (adult co-ed) Tuesdays at 7pm in Rm 102 with Pastor John Murray
- Rise Up Women's Small Group 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in Rm 100 with Abby Maples

WEDNESDAY GROUPS - 7PM

- Royal Rangers Rm 100 with Pastor John Murray
- MPact Stars (girls grade 3-5) Rm 102 with Pastor Lilly Wilson
- MPact Prims (girls grade K-2) Rm 104 with Lisa Shank
- Rainbows (boys and girls ages 3-5 yrs) Jr. Children's Church with Abby Maples
- Youth Group (boys and girls grade 6-12) Youth Room with Pastor Beau Linker
- Prayer School (adult co-ed) Main Auditorium with Pastor Nate Drye
- AFA Young Adults coming in June

SUNDAY GROUPS - 9:30AM

- Women's Class Patty Shannon
 Will be studying 1Peter, 2 Peter, and Ephesians.
- Men's Class Mike Utley 2 John, 3 John, and Titus.
- Co-Ed Class Dr. Ken Shank "Warning Against False Teachers" and "True Characteristics of God".
- Youth Class Jon Aney/Beau Linker "TalkSheets" Continuing year-long study of various topics designed for teenagers.
- 5th/6th Grade Bonnie Morton
- 3rd/4th Grade Loretta Talbert
- 1st/2nd Grade Lisa Shank
- 3 years old/Kindergarten Kathy Streuber

All Children's Classes will be using the AG Quarterly Booklets for their respective grades/Ages.

AFA KIDS - 10:30AM

- Children's Church (Kindergarten-5th Grade) with Pastor Lilly
- Jr. Children's Church 3-4 yr old class with Misty Bost



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