

# CONNECT

*Find deeper relationships with Jesus & AFA*

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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.

*Peggy Narte*

# PRAYER GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

**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.

O Lord, open my lips

And my mouth will declare your praise. (*Psalms 51:15*)

For your inexpressible gift; Thanks be to God. (*2 Corinthians 9:15*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was, is now, and forever will be.

Gracious, Blessed, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

## CONFESSION AND DECLARATION

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against  
them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I keep silent, my bones waste away through my groaning  
all day long.

For day and night your hand is heavy on me; my strength  
sapped as in the heat of summer.

So I acknowledge my sin to you and I do not cover up my  
iniquity.

"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgive the guilt of my sin. (*Psalms 32:1-5, adapted*)

## **JESUS PRAYER**

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

## **JESUS AT THE CENTER**

*by Israel Houghton, Micah Massey, and Adam A Ranney*

Jesus at the center of it all,  
Jesus at the center of it all  
From beginning to the end,  
It will always be, it's always been You, Jesus, Jesus

Nothing else matters, nothing in this world will do  
Jesus, You're the center, and everything revolves around You  
Jesus, You

Jesus be the center of my life  
Jesus be the center of my life  
From beginning to the end  
It will always be, it has always been You, Jesus, Jesus

From my heart to the heavens, Jesus be the center  
It's all about You, Yes, it's all about You

Jesus be the center of Your Church  
Jesus be the center of Your Church  
And every knee will bow  
And every tongue shall confess You, Jesus.

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 July 3**

Psalm 66-72  
Isaiah 66:10-16  
Acts 13

**Week of August 7**

Psalm 33-39  
Genesis 15:1-6  
Acts 18

**Week of September 4**

Psalm 1-7  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Philemon 1-20

**Week of July 10**

Psalm 25-31  
Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
Acts 14

**Week of August 14**

Psalm 82-88  
Jeremiah 23:23-29  
Acts 19

**Week of September 11**

Psalm 51-57  
Exodus 32:7-14  
I Timothy 1:12-17

**Week of July 17**

Psalm 15-21  
Genesis 18:1-10  
Acts 15

**Week of August 21**

Psalm 40-46  
Isaiah 28:14-22  
Acts 20

**Week of September 18**

Psalm 144-150  
Amos 8:4-12  
I Timothy 2:1-8

**Week of July 24**

Psalm 138-144  
Genesis 18:20-33  
Acts 16

**Week of August 28**

Psalm 112-118  
Ecclesiastes 10:7-18  
Hebrews 13:1-8

**Week of September 25**

Psalm 8-14  
Amos 6:1-7  
I Timothy 6:11-19

**Week of July 31**

Psalm 49-55  
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14,  
2:18-23  
Acts 17

**BIBLE READING QUARTER 3**

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 **Psalms 23** and **Psalms 91:1-2**.

**Pray for your immediate family by name.**

**Pray the Lord's Prayer.**

**Pray for these weekly needs:**

**SUNDAY: *the church gathered***

All of Albemarle's worship gatherings today; clear gospel!

All of our network churches: AFA, Sandhills Assembly, Restoration City Church.

**MONDAY: *the church scattered in mission***

Wisdom in reaching out with God's love through our various vocations, local businesses and medical missions.

Business owners in the community, doctors, nurses, civil servants.

**TUESDAY: *the church at home and at school***

For homes and schools. All of our county schools, charter and private schools, college and universities.

**WEDNESDAY: *the church serving the needy***

The people who reach out regularly, for the needs of the community.

All of our local and regional outreach partnerships: Pregnancy Resource Center, Stanly Christian Ministry, Convoy of Hope.

**THURSDAY: *the church in our nation and world***

Guidance for those who govern and those who are governed. For peace and justice.

Local, state and national officials and servants.

**FRIDAY: *AFA's own fellowship***

For the growth and deep rooted cultivation of unity and hospitality at AFA.

For our pastor, board, leadership team.

**SATURDAY: *the witness of Christians***

That the church may grow inwardly in discipleship and outwardly through evangelism of the lost.

All of our 60+ supported missionaries, our church plants and partners.

**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.

# **O THE DEEP DEEP LOVE OF JESUS**

*by Samuel Trevor Francis*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love; leading  
onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;  
how he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore; how he watches  
o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own; how for them he  
intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best: 'tis an ocean  
vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest. O the deep, deep love of  
Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me; and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts  
me up to thee..

## **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.

### **BENEDICTION PRAYER**

We are image bearers of the most high God,  
We are covered by the love of Jesus,  
We have the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

Because of the Holy Spirit's power within us,  
We will freely and recklessly give away this love of Jesus  
We won't hold back.

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.

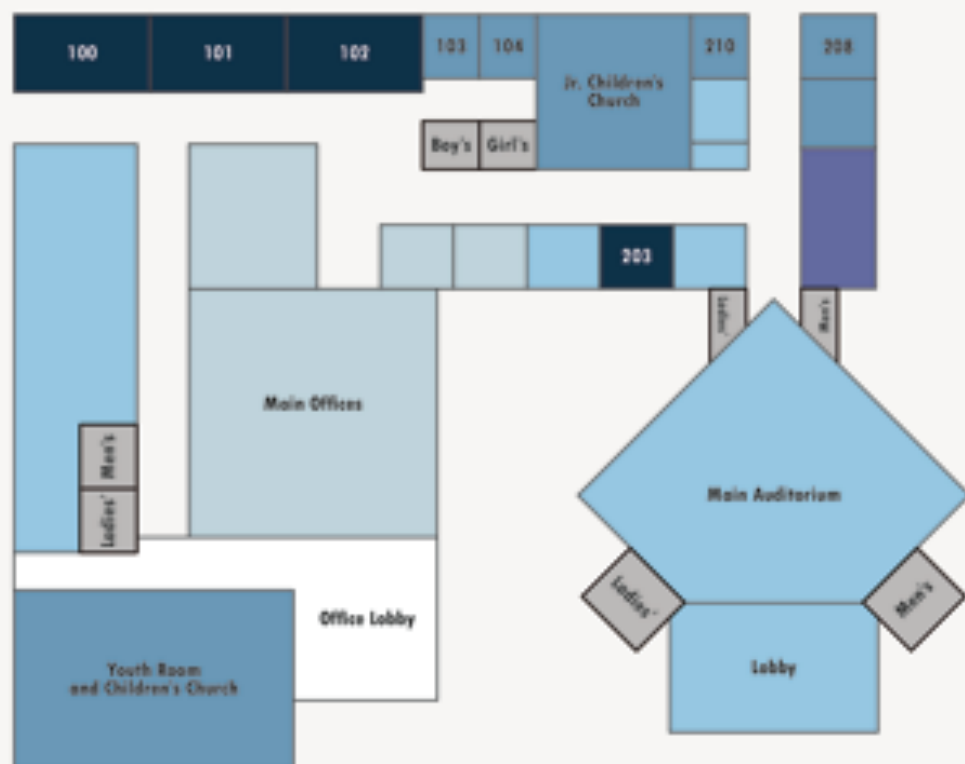
### **CONFESSION OF THE MYSTERY**

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*

### **Rise Up Women's Small Group**

*2nd Tuesdays at 6pm*

**WEDNESDAYS**

**AT 7PM**

### **Royal Rangers**

(Boys grades 3rd-5th)

### **MPact Stars**

(Girls grades 3rd-5th)

### **MPact Prims**

(Girls grades K-2nd)

### **Rainbows**

(Co-ed Ages 3-5 yrs)

### **AFA Youth**

(Co-ed grades 6th-12th)

### **Adult Midweek Study**

### **360 Man**

(Men's Discipleship Group)

*starting August 17*

## **SUNDAY GROUPS**

**9:30am**

### **Men's Group**

**Mike Utley**

### **Women's Group**

**Patty Shannon**

### **Co-Ed Class**

**Dr. Ken Shank**

### **Youth Class**

**Jon Aney/Beau Linker**

### **5th/6th Grade**

**Bonnie Morton**

### **3rd/4th Grade**

**Loretta Talbert**

### **1st/2nd Grade**

**Lisa Shank**

### **3 years old/Kindergarten**

**Kathy Streuber**

# **GROUPS**

AT ALBEMARLE FIRST ASSEMBLY

# NOTES



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