

Prayer Calendar

February 2021

Loving God, Neighbor and Lent

This prayer calendar accompanies the Bible Reading Plan throughout February. Our scripture readings cover 1st John, 2nd and 3rd John, Jude, 1st and 2nd Peter and we enter into Lent with Matthew. Our themes cover loving God and loving one another and the prayer practices we find in Matthew as we enter into Lent. I hope you will use this Prayer Calendar as a companion to your daily bible readings and they both will be a blessing to your continued spiritual formation and discipleship.

The Season of Lent is not about giving something up, instead it is about confession and dying to self so that we may be a part of the new life and resurrection of the Christ.

Monday, February 1

1 John 1:5 | This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all."

~ Holy God, how can we say we love you, when we live in and love the darkness? We don't think we dwell in darkness, but we confess we do in so many ways. We do live in dark corners when we refuse to confess our sins, forgive others, or judge others without mercy or understanding. Hear our confessions now and we trust you will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we have done wrong. Thank you.

Tuesday, February 2

1 John 2:6 | Who ever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

~ Lord, we know we are foolish when we claim to walk with you but live in darkness and deceit. Help us recognize all the ways we are not consistent in our walk of discipleship, then address them one by one.

Wednesday, February 3

1 John 3:18 | Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions in truth.

~ Jesus, you always followed your words of truth with action – reaching out and including and accepting those who were different or on the margins. Help us really follow up our words with actions of love from our hearts.

Thursday, February 4

1 John 4:7-8 | Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

~ God of all, sometimes we humans put conditions on our love – when we disagree with another, when we judge others to another standard, when we decide others are below us in education, economic power, or race or religion. Crave the words of John upon our hearts and help them live within us transforming us into Christ's image.

Friday, February 5

1 John 5:21 | Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

~ Loving God, we are tempted every day to worship one idol or another, forgive us. Sometimes we don't even recognize our worship of idols; they seem harmless enough, even good. Our spouses, our children, our church, our homes! Sometimes we get confused and think we do not worship idols, but when we focus so much on our work, our finances, our politics, our status or our education, we do worship them as idols and turn away from you, O God. We don't think we do because we are so enmeshed in the culture. Forgive us, help us, guide us away from these temptations and help us trust only in you.

Saturday, February 6

Rest | Enjoy the day as you are able. Take a nap, prepare a simple meal, walk or sit by a window and watch the birds. Call a friend or write a thank you note. Sit in the sunshine or the light of your room and let it pour over you.

Sunday, February 7

Reflect | Reflect on your readings from last week. What verses or themes from the readings stood out to you? How might the scriptures read from last week be applied in your own life? In what ways did the Holy Spirit convict you?

Monday, February 8

2 John vs. 5-6 | And now, dear lady, (church) I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

~ Lord God, to walk in love seems like an easy thing to do, but sometimes it is hard. It is hard to set aside our own judgements, prejudices and opinions because we think we are right. How can we love if we think others are so wrong and misguided? Help us recognize that your true love transcends everything else and we are to love one another in our walk with you.

Tuesday, February 9

3 John, vs. 11 | Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

~ Lord of Life keep us faithful to doing good; those things that bring life, hope and faith. Help us pay attention to the nudges of the Holy Spirit to do good, do no harm and practice prayer to stay close to you, for we are prone to wander away. Keep us strong to hold on to what is good.

Wednesday, February 10

Jude, vs. 20-21 | But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

~ Holy One, you call us to stay in the center of your love to stay strong and faithful. Encourage us through your Holy Spirit to read scripture with an eye for transformation, to pray with a heart like Jesus, to practice humility and forgiveness, and to love one another with your holy love and not our conditional love.

Thursday, February 11

1 Peter 1:13 | Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

~ Holy God, self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it is really hard to lean into self-control when it is so much more satisfying to just let go. Help us today to remember that self-control is the fruit of spiritual practice, growing closer to our Lord, and will lead us into a stronger faith and relationship with you, O God.

Friday, February 12

1 Peter 2:16 | As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone.

~ Father, help us remember not to allow loud voices, loud persuasion and false hope drive us to wrongdoing. As Jesus honored all people, help us set aside our prejudices and personal opinions to honor others because they, too, are your children.

Saturday, February 13

Rest | Today just be. Take deep breaths and go about your activities breathing in what is good and beautiful about the day.

Sunday, February 14

Reflect | Today is Valentine's Day, the day we celebrate love in all its forms. Reflect on all the ways you reflect and express God's love to those you know, those you disagree with and those you do not know. In what ways are these expressions the same; in what ways are they different?

Monday, February 15

1 Peter 3:8 | Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and humble mind. . Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

~ Loving God, show us what unity of spirit looks and feels like in a world where everyone wants to be right and there is no space for differing opinions or viewpoints? Teach us to listen with open ears, eyes and hearts to others in all humility.

Tuesday, February 16

1 Peter 4:10 | Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

~ Holy Spirit, you have given each one of us is given gifts. They all work together for the good of and to build up the Body of Christ. Show me how to you use my gifts of the Spirit this week.

Wednesday, February 17

1 Peter 5:5b | And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another...

~ Lord, how does one wear humility and have it not look like pride? What does true humility look like to you and what difference does it make to be humble? Give us new eyes to see your grace offered through humility

Thursday, February 18

2 Peter 1:5-7 | For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

~ Father, through the insights you gave Peter we see a progression in our discipleship that builds one on another bringing us into a life transformed. Help us keep these concepts in the forefront of our day so that we may be a witness to love.

Friday, February 19

2 Peter 2:19 | They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

~ Holy God, these are strong words that give us much to think about. What has mastered me; us? Addictions of all kinds – food, drugs, chemicals, pursuing wealth and power, material goods, having my own way all the time? Forgive us for following others that promise freedom, but only lead us to slavery to sin.

Saturday, February 20

Rest | Take time to do something for yourself; something that gives you life and feeds your soul.

Sunday, February 21

Reflect | Reflect over your past week. Where did you see God at work in you and in others? What scripture verses touched you and caused you to think about your life as you are living it now?

Monday, February 22

2 Peter 3:18 | But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

~ Great God, the closing of Peter's letter to us is a command and a blessing. Draw us closer to you through the love of one another to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus the Christ for Christ is our Lord and Savior. Help us live like we are his disciples and not strangers.

Tuesday, February 23

Matthew 1:1-17 | Read The Genealogy of Jesus

~ Creating God, behind each hard to pronounce name is a person and a part of the story of Jesus the Christ. We don't want to take time to read these names for we don't understand they are all part of the story of our Lord. Help us to think about our own ancestors and about our own children and grandchildren and what our lives may be to influence them for good or for bad. Thank you for the ancestors of Jesus and how they made him fully human.

Wednesday, February 24

Matthew 2:14 | Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

~ Loving God, let Joseph's obedience to your call help us remember to obey the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Help us so to trust you, as Joseph trusted you, to step out into the unknown in faith and love, trusting in your goodness.

Thursday, February 25

Matthew 3:1 | In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

~ Lord, why is repentance so hard? It is much easier to say, "I'm sorry," and then go and do what we want to do all over again. It is much harder to stop what we are doing and turn around and act in goodness. Help us today to stop, to confess our sins, to think and pray, and then step into the light of goodness and hope, refreshed and cleansed and begin once again.

Friday, February 26

Matthew 419 / And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

~ Lord Jesus, you call each of us in our own way according to what you have for us to do. Help us respond to your call and your voice to hear your call on my life.

Saturday, February 27

Rest / Today be still and let go of anxiety, breathing deeply and giving thanks for each breath.

Sunday, June 28

Reflect / Reflect on this past month. What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about others? What did you learn about God's love for humankind? In what ways will you apply what you have learned and experienced in your life to stretch and grow?

All scripture is taken from the NIV, 2011

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer.

Read the scripture for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an "ear of the heart" to a word or phrase that strikes you.

Reflect on that word or phrase asking yourself the question: "What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?" Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

Allow God to speak to you in the silence. Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

Thank God for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.