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Committed to Pray

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WHAT  
WOULD  
WE LEARN  
ABOUT YOU  
FROM YOUR  
STORIES?

## The POINT >

Commit to pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of others.

### > COLOSSIANS 1:3-12

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. <sup>7</sup>You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

In 1789, George Washington unanimously won the presidency with 100 percent of the electoral votes.<sup>2</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus sits at God's right hand and continually intercedes for believers as our advocate, mediator, and high priest.

If you need to call the president of the United States, the White House number is (202)456-1414. Just don't expect to actually talk to the president. But that hasn't always been the case. The White House originally had just one phone, and it was down the hall from the executive office. If you called the White House in 1893, President Grover Cleveland answered the call personally.<sup>1</sup> This certainly seems strange and old-fashioned in light of today's age of smartphones. But let's be honest—it's pretty cool that anyone with a phone could call and expect to talk with the president himself.

These days are long gone. Still, we have direct access to One who is far more powerful than the president. We've been invited to come before the sovereign, all-powerful Creator of the universe. But, for some reason, we often take this connection for granted. In prayer, God has given us the incredible privilege of talking directly to Him.

## COLOSSIANS 1:3-6a

**1** Why is it helpful for us to pray for one another within the church?

**2** How might your prayer life be different if you focused on thanking God for other believers?

## COLOSSIANS 1:6b-8

**3** List a few specific things we can pray for our ministers, church leaders, and missionaries.

**4** How can we be intentional about following through when we say, “I’ll pray for you”?

**5** What’s the role of prayer in fulfilling the Great Commission?

## COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

**6** What’s the relationship between prayer and God’s work in us and through us?

**7** How does praying regularly and specifically contribute to our spiritual growth?

**8** Based on these verses, what are some specific things you can pray for this week?



*When the people of God pray for one another, the church is strengthened and Jesus receives honor.*  
*#allinBSFL*





# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

*Jesus sits at God's right hand and continually intercedes for believers as our advocate, mediator, and high priest.*

As followers of Christ, we are called to be like Jesus in every way. When Jesus was on the earth, He devoted Himself to prayer for several reasons: to remain relationally connected with the Father, in seeking the Spirit's power to walk in obedience to God, and that others would be blessed. Further, Jesus continues to pray, even today, interceding before the Father on behalf of His followers. For us to be like Jesus, we must pray for all the same things, including the salvation and the blessing of others.

## > CHRIST

Because Jesus longed to live in close relationship with the Father, He prayed continually while He was on the earth. If we want to have a close relationship with Christ, we must do the same.

**9** What words would you use to characterize your prayer life?

**10** What prayer practices would help you grow closer to God? List a few ways you'll commit to praying beginning this week.

GOD

**JESUS**

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD





## › COMMUNITY

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Paul said to the Colossian church, “we haven’t stopped praying for you.” When we deeply care about our church family, our natural inclination will be to pray for them.

**11** Journal a brief prayer for your church as a whole, including your leaders, and the ways you’d like to see God work in and through your church.

**12** Who is someone specific you know you need to pray for? Journal a brief prayer for this person.

**Make it a point to pray for your church and for this person every day this week.**

## › CULTURE

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Because of the church’s hope in Christ and their being boldly willing to share the gospel, it was “bearing fruit and growing all over the world.”

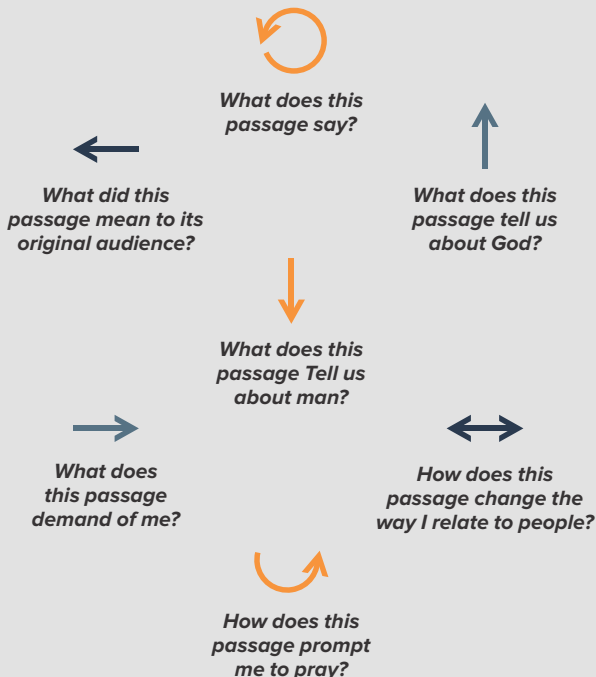
**13** How do you see the gospel bearing fruit through your church in the community?

**14** How is God calling you to share the hope of the gospel with non-believing friends? Make sure to pray first and then share!

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One EPHESIANS 6:10

In Ephesians 6, Paul describes the Christian life as one where the forces of darkness are at war against God and good. Though many believe that life becomes easier when we come to God, this is simply not the case. There are probably times when you feel like you're in a battle. We shouldn't be surprised when this happens because the devil is literally out for our souls. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, He has won the victory over sin and death, and Satan has already been dealt a fatal blow. Though his fate has been sealed, the devil is still working to drag as many people as possible with him into death. For this reason, God has called us to stand strong. We must understand that we aren't strong enough in our own strength to stand against the devil. However, God hasn't called us to stand on our own, but by the strength that He supplies. And His power is limitless!

➤ **When have you felt like you were in battle?**

➤ **How have you experienced God's strength in your life?**

## Day Two

# EPHESIANS 6:11-17

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Oftentimes, when we face difficult things, we tend to focus on the people or circumstances that are immediately before us. For instance, when you have a disagreement with your friend and you feel upset or discouraged, you may be tempted to believe your friend is coming against you. Or when you study diligently and still make a D on your test, you may be tempted to think you'll never be good enough. Scripture teaches that even when others treat us unkindly or when we struggle with unhealthy thoughts, ultimately our struggle is not against others or even our own thinking—it's against the forces of evil. Thankfully, God has provided us with a tool—with armor—which we can use to defend against the attacks of the enemy.

- **When have you felt like you were under attack?**
- **What spiritual tools have helped you overcome sin and temptation?**

## Day Three

# EPHESIANS 6:18

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Aside from the specific tools at our disposal which Paul mentioned—God's Word, the testimony of a righteous life, the message of the gospel, our faith, our salvation, and the Holy Spirit—we are called to pray at all times. Most Christians understand that prayer is very important; however, far too many people don't follow through on what they say they believe. We need to understand that we're in a spiritual battle, and if we fail to pray, even though we may not suffer ultimate defeat, we will fail to see victory from day to day. If you're struggling with sin of any kind, a key to overcoming that sin is to pray continually. Further, we are called not only to pray for ourselves, but also for others who are alongside us in the battle against evil. We are to think not only of ourselves, but to be continually aware of the struggles others are facing. When we pray, God hears and answers, and our prayers make a powerful difference in God's purposes being accomplished.

- **What does it mean to pray at all times?**
- **How will you commit to praying not only for yourself, but also for others?**

## Day Four

# EPHESIANS 6:19

It's important that we understand a little about Paul's experience when he was writing this letter to the Ephesian church. He was in prison for preaching the gospel, and it certainly wasn't a comfortable experience. When we go through difficult times, most of us tend to focus on ourselves, pray that the Lord would bring us out of the hardship, and ask others to pray for us. But this wasn't the way Paul responded at all. He asked the church to pray for him, but he specifically asked that the Lord would give him boldness to continue proclaiming the gospel—the very reason he was in prison. Even more than his own comfort and safety, Paul's concern was for the people who hadn't heard the gospel. Though he would ultimately be released from this imprisonment, he would later be dragged back into prison, where he would never again be freed. Either way, Paul's primary concern wasn't for his own well being, but that the gospel would go forth.

➤ **Why was Paul's concern for the gospel even above his own welfare?**

➤ **How did the prayers of other believers impact Paul's ministry?**

## Day Five

# EPHESIANS 6:20



In an earthly and political sense, an ambassador is someone sent by his own people to a foreign nation as an official representative. Further, host nations typically allow diplomatic immunity, that is, freedom from prosecution, to foreign ambassadors. Yet this wasn't Paul's experience at all. Instead, he found himself in chains having been accused of offenses which were made up by his accusers. As ambassadors who speak on behalf of Christ in this world where we are foreigners and strangers, we will not be treated as honored guests with diplomatic immunity. Instead, we will be rejected, falsely accused, and mistreated. Yet this doesn't change our mission to share the gospel. Because of this, we should continually pray for boldness to unwaveringly proclaim, just as Paul did, the goodness of God.

➤ **When have you been rejected or even wrongly accused for living out your faith?**

➤ **How does prayer help us to boldly live out our faith?**