



Prayer Guide

“And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

Purpose of 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

Since 2016, we have reserved the month of January for prayer. Let us set aside our agendas and desires and instead intentionally focus on Jesus, seeking Him for guidance, encouragement, and vision in this new year. On the heels of a difficult 2020 and while still in this season of a global pandemic and presidential transition, may we seek God’s heart for our church, community, country and world as we listen to how He is directing us to pray. God’s covenant of faithfulness remains as we lean into His movement and walk where He is calling.

Making a commitment to pray for North Fresno Church, our City and our World is not one made lightly. Sometimes it’s hard to know what to pray and what to read. This guide has been put together to help direct your prayers and focus over the next 21 days. Use a simple spiral notebook and this guide to write down prayers, names and thoughts along your journey.

Each day begins with reading a Psalm. Psalms are the prayer-book of the Jews - Jesus himself memorized the Psalms, referencing them often. A daily reading of a Psalm is a reminder of God’s faithfulness and promise of presence to you.

If you would like to add the spiritual practice of fasting this January, please access our “Prayer & Fasting” brochure explaining information about how/why to fast.

We pray God speaks to You as you read His Word, spend time in silence and engage in prayer.

Seeking His Peace and Presence,
Your North Fresno Church Pastoral Team





"The LORD God is my strength. And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places."
Habakkuk 3:19



Mon., January 11th

Prayer Focus: Prayer for God's Presence

"I come, thankful for Your Presence with me. Thank You for a new year. Give me strength to put You first in my life. Guide me in making wise choices and teach me to hear the whisper of Your voice. Direct my prayers during this season of prayer that I may learn to recognize Your voice and draw closer to You."

Sit in silent listening. Reflect on 2020 - the joys, the losses, the unknowns.

Speak/write them out. Know that God is with you.

Scriptures: Psalm 1 & John 1:1-14

Tues., January 12th

Prayer Focus: Loss & Sadness

"2020 was hard. I have a hard time seeing hope this year as my hands are full of memories and losses of 2020. Help me trust You to lay my memories— good and bad - at Your feet so I can walk into 2021 with open hands. "Search your heart for worry, frustration, sadness or loss that you have carried into 2021. Write your losses and sadness in your journal to commemorate them and spend a moment touching each one you wrote, then turn over a new page.

Scriptures: Psalm 130 & Hebrews 3:16-19

Wed., January 13th

Prayer Focus: Thanksgiving

"Despite the storms around me, I am anchored in You and I can rejoice. Thank you for guiding me when I could not see and carrying me when my legs were weak. My soul rejoices to be Yours." Spend time saying or writing a few people, things, or situations in which to give God thanks. Sometimes it is hard to think of things – start with something little. Gratitude is a spiritual practice that helps us keep our eyes on Jesus instead of our situation. Spend time thanking God for his faithfulness.

Scriptures: Psalm 9 & Habakkuk 3:16-19

Thurs., January 14th

Prayer Focus: Pandemic Relief

"My heart is tired and grieves for lives lost and for life that has become stifled behind closed doors. I pray for the many, many people affected by COVID-19 - from students, elderly, and the vulnerable to healthcare workers, scientists and politicians - we ask you, God, to bring Your intuition and creativity into action and heal our world."

Write down names of children, students, or elderly you know who have taken the brunt of this pandemic. Say their name aloud and pray God's Presence be with them and sustain them. Pray for God's protection over our healthcare workers. Pray especially that God will heal our world. Scriptures: Psalm 3 & Lamentations 3:19-32



*"Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless His holy name." Psalm 103:1*



Fri., January 15th

Prayer Focus: NFC Parents

"Jesus, I lift up parents across our world who are caring for children - little ones and not-so-little ones. I pray Your Spirit would give them strength. Speak to them, and abide with them as they offer continued care, encouragement and guidance to their children. May You be their center upon which can flow rivers of Living Water." **Pray for parents you know who are balancing children at home with work and life. Pray for God's peace to abide in their homes and sustain them when tensions rise or technology frustrations mount. Mail a parent a card of encouragement. Scriptures:** Psalm 63 & Job 19:23-27

Sat., January 16th

Prayer Focus: Racial and Social Injustice

"I see my brothers and my sisters - crying, hurting, afraid. I confess my privilege and my desire to be in control and use power and opportunity to better myself instead of alleviating the weight of others. God, take away fear and replace it with love - love for you and love for others. May I love well in what I do, what I say and how I live."

Spend time in confession and prayer. Look through the online nightly services being offered these next 21 Days and challenge yourself to "attend" one that is different from what you have experienced.

Scriptures: Psalm 91 & Amos 5

Sun., January 17th

Prayer Focus: North Fresno Church

"I lift up North Fresno Church. Thank you for the ministry and blessing this Church is to me, my community and my world. I pray Your face would shine on NFC as we follow You into our future. Thank you for our deep roots that draw from the wells of Your Spirit. May we continue to drink from You and follow You. Spend time reflecting on the ways NFC has blessed you or you've seen NFC bless others. Give thanks. Pray for God's guidance.

Scriptures: Psalm 4 & Matthew 5:13-16

Mon., January 18th

Prayer Focus: NFC Older Members

"Thank you, Jesus, for the beautiful service of your faithful people at NFC. I pray Your Spirit would well up within each NFC member and they/we would be comforted and assured they/we are not alone. God, Your faithfulness and lovingkindness endures forever."

Pray for our older congregation who has suffered much isolation and health worries over the last months. Pray for people caring for our elders. Give them wisdom and discernment as to how to best care and protect each person during this season. Send a note of love.

Scriptures: Psalm 103 & Colossians 2:6-16



“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf...” Jeremiah 29:7



Tues., January 19th

Prayer NFC Children & Students

“Thank You, Jesus, for our children, youth & college-aged students. I pray Your Spirit would guide them, speak to them, and abide with them as they discover their identity and sort through the details of life. May You be the center of their lives upon which they build a strong foundation. Be near them in their sadness and surround them with a community of faith.”

Pray for our young people that their knowledge and experience of Jesus and the activity of the Spirit would increase and ground their lives. Pray especially while they are removed from friend-connections they would remember they are loved and not forgotten.

Scriptures: Psalm 27 & 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wed., January 20th

Prayer Focus: NFC Staff

“I pray for our pastors and staff at NFC. Thank you for their love for You and their love for people. May they keep their eyes on You, Jesus, and find their identity in you alone. Give them strength, vision and creativity as they head into 2021.”

Spend time praying for our pastors, staff, and leadership teams as they continue to pray, serve and direct us forward.

Scriptures: Psalm 121 & Philippians 4:8-14

Thurs., Jan. 21st

Prayer Focus: Micah Project, FACE, SART

“Thank you for the ministries that reach out to the hurting in our community in tangible ways. I pray the ministries of Micah Project, FACE & SART would experience Your peace and favor in this new year to come. Provide for them connections and resources to strengthen their structures, attract more support and interns and better equip them to handle greater loads.”

Write down and pray for the pastors, interns, leaders & people involved in these ministries. Pray for God to guide them as they are so often Jesus’ hands and feet in our neighborhood.

Scriptures: Psalm 93 & Galatians 6:6-10

Fri., Jan. 22nd

Prayer Focus: Robinson Elementary School

“Thank you, God, for Robinson Elementary School and our Robinson Neighborhood. I pray that Your Spirit would put a hedge of protection around our neighborhood. Be with the students and staff at Robinson and our own team with Roadrunner Central. May you give them wisdom as they navigate this season. May we love our neighbors.” **Take time to pray for Robinson Elementary School and the students and staff. Pray for resources and support for every student and teacher.**

Scriptures: Psalm 8 & 1 Corinthians 13



*"You will seek me and find me when you seek me
with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13*



Sat., Jan. 23rd

Prayer Focus: NFC Missionaries

"Today I lift up missionaries who are studying abroad or on mission around our world bringing about Your Kingdom of peace, justice and reconciliation. I pray You would protect our missionaries and families who are serving You. Give them an added measure of strength, grace, wisdom and discernment as they share Your Good News." **Spend time praying for our missionaries (and their families). Send a card to a missionary you know.**

Scriptures: Psalm 67 & Isaiah 52:7-10

Sun., Jan. 24th

Prayer Focus: People on a Journey

"Jesus, thank you for the men and women at NFC. I invite You to be the center of our Church and the foundation for each home. I thank you for the people You will add to our Church in 2021 and pray You would give us wisdom as we care for, raise up and equip men, women, youth and children to follow You. Teach us to make space for others." **Spend time praying for the people God will bring to NFC in 2021.**

Scriptures: Psalm 133 & 1 John 4:7-21

Mon., January 25th

Prayer Focus: Church Unity

"I lift up our churches in the Valley - Fresno, Clovis, Madera, Sanger. Lord, move in the hearts of the pastors, leaders, and congregations to work in cooperation with You and with one another to shine Your Light in our city as we spread the Good News of reconciliation and justice to people living in darkness." **Pray for our city's pastors and leaders that they would have a heart for our whole city– not just their individual congregations. May we be a city unified by our love for God & love for people.**

Scriptures: Psalm 69 & 1 Corinthians 1:22-31

Tues., January 26th

Prayer Focus: Mennonite Central Committee

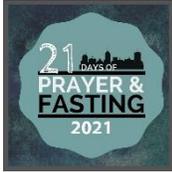
"Thank you for the work of MCC as they bring aid, support, resources, and training to people in need around the world. May their efforts be blessed and the people receiving feel Your love through MCC's work. Let the poor, hurting, or refugee know that You are a God who sees and is near the hurting." **Spend time praying for the many men, women and children who are without food, water or shelter. Connect with their despair and pray for aid and Jesus' message of hope to be delivered to them soon.**

Scriptures: Psalm 86 & Ezekiel 36:24-32

Wed., January 27th

Prayer Focus: Peace in our City

"Jesus, I lift to you the city in which I live. Give us strategy, insight, and unity to tackle the issues of concentrated poverty, homelessness, violence and inequality. May Your Kingdom come to the people who live here, regardless of socioeconomics, race, gender, or religion. Let this be a place where people thrive and love one another." **Take time to write out names of our local government leaders. Pray for our newly elected leaders. Pray for God's mercy to be with us this year. Scriptures: Psalm 142 & Jeremiah 29:4-14**



"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land..." 2 Chronicles 7:14



Thurs., Jan. 28th

Prayer Focus: Health in our City

"I pray today for the health of everyone in my city. Across every age, social, gender, and racial marker, may Your health and prosperity come. As vaccine distributions are organized and administered, I pray justice and love would be foundational as we - as a City - fight this virus together. Keep our eyes upon the disadvantaged and marginalized – let us love and serve all."

Pray for specific government leaders, health administrators and the poor and vulnerable.

Scriptures: Psalm 62 & 2 Chronicles 7:13-15

Fri., Jan. 29th

Prayer Focus: Friends, Family, & Neighbors

"Teach me to conduct myself with wisdom, seasoning my language with the salt of Your spirit that will produce inquiry and conversation with my friends and family. May Your light in me shine on others to light their way and guide them to You."

In silent listening, ask God to bring to your mind names of specific family/friends.

Write their names down & spend time praying.

Scriptures: Psalm 70 & Colossians 4:2-6

Sat., Jan. 30th

Prayer Focus: Healing of Creation (Rain)

"Our Valley is thirsty for rain. Our fields have dried and our hills are bare. This dry land is an echo of our parched souls– desperate for the water of Your Spirit. I pray for Your merciful rain to refresh our Valley floor. Let our lakes rise and our rivers run. Clean our air with the wind of Your Spirit and restore our beautiful Valley. I cry for your mercy."

Spend time continuing to pray that God would renew our valley's resources and heal our land.

Scriptures: Psalm 5 & Romans 8:18-28

Sun., Jan. 31st

Prayer Focus: Thanksgiving

"Thank you, Father, for this season of praying for our church, our city, and our world. I pray You would continue to move at North Fresno Church and in our City. May You be at the center of all we do and guide us in our task of loving You and loving others with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. May Your Kingdom come through us to the places where we live, work, study and play."

Spend some time writing down prayers and/or thoughts you've had during your 21 Days of Praying.

Scriptures: Psalm 136 & Ephesians 3:14-21

Thank you for praying with us!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Amen.