

LET'S

TWO RIVERS CHURCH

ASK

SUMMER PRAYER GUIDE 2017

GOD

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How to Use this Guide

- This Summer Prayer Calendar is intended to invite you into intimacy with God through prayer. Just as you would never follow a script when talking to your earthly father, this guide is meant to provide ideas on ways to interact with your Heavenly Father, but it's not a script!
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- The topics represented within this calendar are some of the things the Bible tells us are important to God. This guide is intended to help us pause and focus on topics that are important to God, but may not regularly get our attention or show up in our prayers.
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- Each topic will contain a “Getting Personal” section and a “Getting Practical” section. The “Getting Personal” section contains ideas to make each topic personal to you. The goal is invite you deeper into these topics, leading to heartfelt, “personal” prayers.
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- The “Getting Practical” section contains ideas to consider how God might awaken something in you during your prayer time that would lead to some sort of practical action.
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How to Use this Guide

Here are some ideas on how to interact with this Summer Prayer Guide

- Ask God to teach you to pray.
- Ask God about His heart on these topics.
- Look for scriptures that speak to these topics. Pray those scriptures.
- Ask God to show you people in your corner of the world who represent each topic.
- If you know someone personally represented by the topic, ask them how you can pray for them during the week.
- Ask God how He might have you personally serve people represented by these topics.
- Consider writing out your prayers in a journal of some kind to help you set your prayers apart from your everyday thoughts.

If you have questions about this guide or would like to share anything God shows you while using this guide, you can email: prayer@2RC.org

May 28 - June 3

Orphans | Foster Parents | Adoption

May is National Foster Care Month, a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. As we wrap up the month of May, consider the following ways of praying:

Getting Personal:

Find a scripture that speak about God's heart for orphans. Write it out and pray through it.

Do you know any foster parents? Ask them how you can pray for them this week.

Do you know anyone going through the adoption process? Ask them how to pray for them.

Google ministries/organizations that serve orphans and/or place people for adoption. What are their needs? Pray for them.

Do you know any social workers or child welfare professionals? How can you pray for them?

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May 28 - June 3

Orphans | Foster Parents | Adoption

Getting Personal (continued):

If you are a Christian, think about your adoption into God's family. Tell God how you feel about that as you reflect.

In a quiet place, ask God about how he felt the day you were adopted into His family.

Getting Practical:

Ask God how He might have you bless someone this week. Maybe it's write a note of encouragement to a foster parent. Maybe you can make a small donation to a ministry that cares for orphans.

June 4 - 10

Widows | Elderly | At-Risk Seniors

In a recent report, Dr. Maria Carney of North Shore-LIJ Health System says a quarter of Americans over 65 are at risk of becoming so-called "elder orphans."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-american-seniors-at-risk-of-becoming-elder-orphans/>

Getting Personal:

Find a scripture that speaks about God's heart for widows. How and who does that scripture apply to today?

Who do you know that is currently caring for aging parents? How can you pray for them?

Google local ministries/organizations that serve seniors. What are their needs? How can you pray for them?

Ask God to show you seniors you pass by during your day who He would have your pray for.

Getting Practical:

Ask God how He might have you bless a widow or senior adult this week. Maybe it's visiting an elderly relative you haven't seen in a long time. Maybe it's writing a note to someone you know who regularly cares for aging parents. Maybe it's just slowing down and having a conversation with someone you encounter in your day.

June 11 - 17

Families with Special Needs

From “Confessions of a special needs parent: the hard things”, by Ellen Stumbo

“Parenting a child with a disability can be a challenge, and often those challenges feel like a strong tidal wave coming at us, threatening to make us lose our balance, to fall, to give up. But we don’t. We never do. The love for our children compels us to stand strong against the tide crashing against us: the stares, the school system, the medical billing, the ignorance from other people, or the lack of support. And although we stand strong, we get tired, sometimes we are barely keeping our feet planted and we fear the tide will finally defeat us and wash us away. So we reach out and hold each other’s hand. Because we know together we are stronger, and because we need someone to stand with us, we cannot do this alone.”

Getting Personal:

What scriptures come to mind when you read the above quote? Pray through those for moms and dads like Ellen.

Make a list of people you know who have children or care for individuals with special needs and pray for those people.

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June 11 - 17

Families with Special Needs

Getting Personal (continued):

Participating in church is often difficult for special needs families. Pray for Two Rivers to be a place with special needs families feel welcome and supported.

Ask God to show you who needs some encouragement today. Step out on faith and offer that encouragement. Think about a time when you were overwhelmed by caring for others. Tell God how you felt and thank Him for the ways He met you in that place.

Getting Practical:

Ask God how to bless people in your life who care for individuals with special needs.

Google “Special Needs and Church” and familiarize yourself with the struggle.

Watch for God to point out people who have a need that you can fill.

Ask God to show you who needs some encouragement today.

June 18 - 24

Single Parents

Getting Personal:

Chances are you know someone who is a single parent.

Maybe you are a single parent. Maybe you came from a single parent family.

Find a quiet place, and after settling in, ask God to bring someone to your mind for whom you can pray. You can ask Him HOW to pray for them as well.

If you are a single parent, spend some time pouring out your burdens to God. Sometimes doing this in written form is helpful.

If you know children who are currently being raised by a single parent, ask God to bring to mind scriptures that you can pray for them.

Think about a time when you felt it was all up to you to take care of something or someone. Tell God how you felt and thank Him for the ways He was faithful.

Getting Practical:

Take a single parent friend to lunch, your treat.

Offer to let a friend's kids come over for an afternoon, so he or she can have some time to re-charge.

Offer a note of encouragement to a single parent, along with a small gift card for some coffee or a treat.

Ask God to show you who needs some encouragement and how to serve that person.

June 25 - July 1

Mission Trips: Costa Rica and Ghana

Costa Rica Mission Team | Trip Dates: June 25 - July 2

Team: Chris Jessen, Jake & Maggie Calella, Jordan Dover, Jenn Hand, Kevin & Sarah Murdock, Paul Osbourne, Teresa Pritchett, Glenna Rogers, Evan Shaver.

Website of Ministry: <http://thebackwardsmissionaries.com/>

Prayer Request:

The “mission” and purpose God has for the Costa Rica Team in ministering to the people of Samara, CR.

Kelly and Adam Vaughan, missionaries on the ground in CR.

Wed. June 28, pray for the Pastors in CR, Chris Jessen as he teaches Leadership Training, and the team as they serve during the Prayer/Ministry Time. Pastors in CR need much encouragement!

Pray for the children as we minister in schools in Samara. Food Distribution to the needy families.

Pray for the neighborhood recreation time that we will establish community in Samara.

Team verse:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly LOVED, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." - Colossians 3:12

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June 25 - July 1

Mission Trips: Costa Rica and Ghana

Ghana Mission Team | Trip Dates: June 30 - July 10

Team Members: Ron & Luke Pankratz

Ron Pankratz and his 15-year-old son, Luke, will be traveling to Ghana, Africa to serve alongside the Seed Ministry. They will be leaving on Friday, June 30th and returning on Sunday July 10th.

Seed Ministry serves throughout the country of Ghana, Africa, primarily training leaders to show the love of Christ to the children through developing and sustaining Bible clubs in the native villages. Seed Ministry also supports budding churches in the villages by training pastors and building church buildings.

Website of ministry: <http://www.seedministry.com/>

Prayer requests:

Safe and smooth traveling

Seeing God move in lives of a predominantly Muslim nation

Being used by God

Life changing experiences for Ron and Luke

July 2 - 8

Marriages

Getting Personal:

Ask God to bring scriptures to mind that represent His heart for marriage. Pray those scriptures for marriages of people you know.

If you are married, ask your spouse to pray with you every day this week for your marriage.

If you are not married and would like to be, pray for your future spouse.

In the Bible, God compares marriage to Jesus' relationship with the church. Ask God how you can pray for His marriage -i.e., how can you pray for the church.

Getting Practical:

If you are married, ask your spouse what is one way they have felt loved/cherished by you in the past.

Maybe offer to watch children for a young family while the husband and wife go on a date.

Take your spouse on a date.

July 9 - 15

Neighbors

Getting Personal:

Make a list of your neighbors and pray for each of them.

Take a walk, and pray for the people's houses you pass. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your prayers, listen and then pray how He leads you to pray. Step out on faith and pray what the Holy Spirit puts on your heart to pray.

Ask God to show you scriptures that speak to being a neighbor and pray those over your relationship with your neighbors.

Ask God how to pray for people you encounter throughout your day.

Getting Practical:

In Mark 12:29-31, Jesus was asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Ask God to show you how to serve your neighbors this week.

As in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37), consider that your “neighbor” may mean people you encounter throughout your day. Ask God to show you who and how to love those you come in contact with throughout your day.

July 16 - 22

Military

Getting Personal:

Who do you know that serves in the military or has a family member in the military? Make a list and pray for them by name this week.

What comes to mind when you think of the military? Maybe its protection, honor, sacrifice? What scriptures come to mind regarding those concepts? Write them out and pray through them.

Pray for the local military men and women who were affected by the shootings 2 years ago in Chattanooga. As you see news coverage of that event this week, ask God how you can pray.

Getting Practical:

Ask God to help you notice men and women who are in military uniform this week, thank them for their service.

Consider attending a memorial event happening in Chattanooga to commemorate the shootings from 2 years ago.

July 23 - 29

Government Officials

Getting Personal:

What scriptures come to mind when you think of government? Pray those scriptures over those government officials that serve you and your community.

Find scriptures that speak to the characteristics that government officials need to display and pray those for them.

Make a list of the various government officials that serve you and your community. Pray for them by name.

Consider the vast number of ways different government officials serve you and your community. Thank God for providing those people who do those jobs.

Getting Practical:

Write a note of thanks to those government officials who serve you and your community.

Drop off treats at a local government office with a note of thanks.

Attend a meeting that is open to the public to see what types of things go on in your community. For example, a county council meeting, an HOA meeting, a school board meeting. Or turn to the C-SPAN channel and watch for a few minutes to get a sense for the things our legislators do for us and our country.

July 30 - August 5

Teachers and School Administration

HCDE Teachers Return August 3

Getting Personal:

As teachers return to school this week to prepare for a new school year, ask God how to pray for them.

Ask God to show you scripture you can pray over teachers and over which specific teachers.

Pull into the parking lot of a school and pray for the teachers and administrators of that school.

Ask a friend who is a teacher what his or her hopes and dreams are for the year and pray accordingly.

If you have children going to school, pray for his/her assigned teacher. Include your children in praying for their teachers. If you do not have children going to school, pray for a teacher that has been significant in your life.

Getting Practical:

Write a note of encouragement to the teachers you have been praying for this week. Include some of the scriptures that you felt were significant in the notes.

Drop off some back-to-school treats to a school near you with a note letting them know you are praying for them.

August 6 - 12

Students: K-12, College, and beyond

Hamilton County Schools start August 10

Getting Personal:

If you have children going to school, ask them what their hopes and dreams are for this school year and pray with them for those things.

If you do not have children going to school, make a list of the children you know who are going back to school. Ask God how to pray for them. Ask God what scriptures to pray for them.

Think about your back-to-school times and things you worried about or dreamed about. Ask God to show you how He worked all things for your good.

Getting Practical:

Write out a scripture that was significant during your prayer time. Give that scripture card to the student over whom you prayed it.

Share a story with a returning student of your school days and how God showed up with a student returning to school. Ask God when & where to share your story to encourage someone.

Adopt a college student thru the 2RC College Ministry to connect with throughout the year.

You can email: joe@2RC.org