

JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 19

40

**DAYS OF
PRAYER**

2026

 **TeachBeyond**

40 PRAYERS FROM GOD'S WORD

As we approach 40 Days of Prayer 2026, we will pray **"40 Prayers from God's Word."** God's Word is so rich and full, providing us with wonderful opportunities to saturate our lives with his thoughts and ways. Each weekday has a specific focus: Prayers of Paul, Praying a Psalm, Praying Lament, Praying Blessing, and Prayers of Others in Scripture. Saturdays we pray Prayers of Praise with a story celebrating answers to prayer. Sundays, we encourage you to pray and worship in community wherever you are.

How to Engage in Prayer

Use 40 Days of Prayer 2026 to deepen your prayer life, the ways you listen to God, and the time you spend in his Word. Invite a friend to join you and create a chat group together, or just talk about it as you walk to school! Invite family members to join you and have this be a part of your day together, around the dinner table, on a video call, or at bedtime. Invite your church and ministry partners to join you in prayer using the guide together. Read the passages with friends or in your class over the next 40 days. Let 40 Days of Prayer 2026 impact your team meetings; use it for group devotions. Create or enhance a habit of prayer at the beginning of this year!

Let's pray together, grow together, share stories together, and give God the glory for the transformation he has for us.



David Durance
President



Brian Delamont
Executive Vice President



Mark Giebink
Global Member Care Director

MONDAY 5TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and share your thanks to Him.

Scripture

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

PRAY WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF HOPE

In 2018, my in-laws entered the care-taking season of their lives, beginning with permanently welcoming a parent into their home. In preparation for this bittersweet chapter, my mother-in-law matched each bedroom with a biblical name for God. Names like Jehovah Rohi, El Shaddai, Jehovah Jirah now mount the door frames. The cohesive design of each room mirrors the name and engulfs occupants with a distinct impression of God's character, often producing an acute desire to learn more about that aspect of God. One of these names is Miqweh Yisrael or "The God of hope."

Why is he called the God of hope? In Romans 15:13, Paul uses this title to point out that we can hope in God because he makes promises and he keeps them (Ro. 15:8). You know that feeling of security when you can trust someone to do what they say? When you know a fellow laborer for Christ wouldn't dream of letting you down unless the world was literally at an end? Paul's prayer is marked with an abundance of hope because he knew something we tend to forget: God always keeps his promises.

As you pray today, call upon God's promises and abound in hope; he will keep them. Begin here: Matthew 11:28-29, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Isaiah 40:31, and Romans 8:28. Build your life on these promises and experience renewed joy and peace in Christ.

Baylor May, Development Manager at the Christian International School of Prague (CISP), Czech Republic

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: How has God kept a promise to you?

TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all
the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
Through the praise of children and
infants
you have established a
stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the
avenger.
When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are
mindful of them,
human beings that you care for
them?

Psalms 8

First, pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

You have made them a little lower
than the angels
and crowned them with glory
and honor.
You made them rulers over the
works of your hands;
you put everything under their
feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the
seas.
Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all
the earth!

GOD'S TRIUMPH IN THE WORLD

"You have taught children and infants to proclaim your strength; thus you have silenced your enemies and all who oppose you."

God's greatest triumph in the world is humanity's vulnerability. It is the awareness of not living up to expectations. While testosterone-fueled men retreated in fear, God raised up among them a small, faithful woman: Deborah.

Among so many experienced soldiers, it was through David's heart that God chose to demonstrate his strength and precision. He took on the great battle but rejected the armour he could not carry.

When the twins Esau and Jacob were born, it was the younger who was chosen to rule over the older, because God chose the least expected one. He is the one who prays, 'I will not let you go until you bless me.'

God the Son became as tiny as an egg and taught us true humanity when he showed himself to be tired and cried out, 'I am thirsty!'

He could have done everything alone, but he chose to include us. Just as a father delights in his baby's first words, simply for the pleasure of being together, so does the Lord show himself to us as we offer our best and stumble through our worst.

So, the question remains: where is your vulnerability taking you? Will you hide behind your achievements, gifts and intelligence, or will you bring your weakness, fear, inadequacies and guilty pleasures to God in search of transformation? Our vulnerability is not an accident; but an invitation to form relationships.

Fabiano Goulart, Diretor Member Care LatAm, Brasil

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: If you could ask anyone for help, who would it be and why?

WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.
Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint;
heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.
My soul is in deep anguish.
How long, Lord, how long?
Turn, Lord, and deliver me;
save me because of your unfailing love.
Among the dead no one proclaims your name.
Who praises you from the grave?
I am worn out from my groaning.

Psalm 6

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Finally, read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

All night long I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears.
My eyes grow weak with sorrow;
they fail because of all my foes.
Away from me, all you who do evil,
for the Lord has heard my weeping.
The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;
the Lord accepts my prayer.
All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish;
they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

TO LEARN LAMENT

I am a person who "looks on the bright side of life." I live and serve with enthusiasm, expectancy, and anticipation. I tend to speak of my life from the perspective of the joys, positive outcomes, and bright hopes for tomorrow. This is also how I cope with life and ministry. Some of you may relate.

In the study of God's Word and in learning to pray for others in great need, sorrow, and grief, God's Spirit has taught me to understand Lament. I've come to see that to live deeply and intimately with my Heavenly Father means to acknowledge and express my sorrows. The Psalms give me words to ponder when I tend to make light of my hardships, fears, and sadness.

Psalm 6:2-3

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint; heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.

My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?

As I ponder these verses, I begin to notice the faintness and anguish within my soul. As this awareness grows, I allow myself to weep and cry out. And God meets me here and shows Himself in a deeper way.

Mark Vroegop, in his article "Why Missionaries Need to Be Fluent in Lament," speaks to my tendency. He says, "Instead of allowing the pressures of ministry to create despair or a stoic denial, lament invites us to talk to God with all the messiness and grit required for perseverance."

Let's learn the language of lament.

Katherine Koop, Member Care Coach, Germany

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: What do you want to tell God today? (A child might tell you or they could write a letter to God)

THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again, slowly. What do you notice?

GOD LOOKS YOU STRAIGHT IN THE EYE

This ancient priestly blessing holds a special place in my heart because my father often reminded us that the phrase, "the Lord turns His face to you," means that God looks us straight in the eye—not in judgement but rather in love, as "the apple of His eye," one in whom He delights. It is usually so much easier for me to see how God is disappointed in me rather than to see and believe that He delights in me. The prayer that "His face would shine on you and be gracious to you" is a prayer that His holiness, truth and love shine on me, so that through His unmerited kindness (grace!), I would be forgiven and transformed to reflect Him. This blessing is a prayer for intimacy with God our Father who cares for us, forgives us, delights in us, and transforms us. Dwelling in that intimacy gives us deep peace.

It was fitting that, on the occasion of my parents' 50th wedding anniversary, my father prayed this blessing over each of the grandchildren individually, holding up their faces and looking at them straight in the eye.

Today, draw near to God and let His face shine on you. Imagine your Heavenly Father looking you straight in the eye. What is He saying to you?

Maria Festen, Assistant Director/People Services, USA

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: Can you think of a blessing that God has given you?

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day." Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:5-9

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

WISDOM FOR WHAT GOD ENTRUSTS TO US

When God appeared to Solomon and said, "Ask for whatever you want," Solomon didn't seize the moment for personal gain. Instead, he recognized his own inadequacy and asked for wisdom to lead well. That humility still moves me. Before requesting anything, Solomon acknowledged God's faithfulness to his father and the weight of the responsibility placed on him.

I often think of that moment when I face tough decisions. Leadership isn't about having all the answers; it's about turning to God when you don't. True wisdom isn't mere knowledge – it is the real-life application of the Word of God.

God gives wisdom through many channels: through His Word, through the quiet prompting of His Spirit, through experience that trains discernment, and through the counsel of the wise. Yet even with wisdom, obedience remains essential. Solomon's story reminds us that wisdom left unheeded still leads astray.

"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace-loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere."

James 3:17 Prayer:

Lord, help us to recognize our need for Your wisdom in all You've entrusted to us. Teach us to listen, to obey, and to walk humbly in Your ways – so that our decisions reflect Your heart and bring life to others.

Brad Eyre, Board member: TeachBeyond Global Committee, Open Schools Worldwide, TeachBeyond South Africa

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand..."

Kids' Question: Where do you need God's wisdom and help today?

SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

A STORY ONLY GOD COULD WRITE

We praise God for His faithfulness—for never letting go, and for continuing the work He begins in each of us. In His mercy, He not only redirects our steps but reshapes our desires to align with His. Seasons that felt like loss became sacred surrender. Waiting became the soil where transformation took root.

We've seen this most clearly in the lives of the teachers at our school where we had the joy of walking with them. Many arrived overlooked or underestimated by the world's standards. But God, in His wisdom, saw their true potential. Through prayer, intentional investment, and their own willingness to grow, they were transformed—becoming grounded, confident, and equipped. One teacher shared, "Thank you for giving me wings to fly." Another said, "I'm thankful for where your guidance has placed me today." These are more than kind words—they are testimonies. Only God could write stories like these.

When our school unexpectedly closed, we were devastated. But God's work didn't stop. Those same teachers are now leading and influencing excellence in new places, carrying the DNA of transformation into other communities. What was never part of our plan was always part of God's greater purpose—to expand His kingdom.

This is why we return to prayer: In prayer, we remember that God is not done. He is still shaping, still calling, and still completing what He started. And so, we praise Him—with joy, gratitude, and open hands for all that's still to come.

GR, National Director, Creative Access Country

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. "God you are..."

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

FAITHFUL TO THE END

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus..." (v.4)

Paul begins his letter with gratitude, not for the Corinthians' perfection, but for the grace of God at work in them. This grace is the foundation of their identity and calling. Verse 8 offers a powerful assurance: "He will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." Our security is not in our performance but in God's sustaining grace. And why can we trust this promise? Because "God is faithful" (v.9). He has called us into fellowship with His Son, and He will never abandon what He has begun in us.

I have had moments of doubt in my ability to serve God's people since I have shortcomings as a person. So, are you weary or feeling unworthy? Take heart—God's grace is active in you, His gifts are present in you, and His faithfulness will carry you through.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your unshakable faithfulness. Thank You for the grace You have poured into my life through Christ Jesus. Even when I feel weak or unworthy, You remind me that You are the One who sustains me. Lord, help me to walk in the gifts You've given me—not for my glory, but for Yours. Teach me to trust in Your promise to keep me guiltless until the day of Christ. Strengthen my heart to remain in fellowship with You, knowing that You are always near.

In Jesus' name, amen.

*Vivian Tendo Nakayenga, Administrative Assistant for
TeachBeyond Uganda, Uganda*

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: How have you noticed God at work in your life and making you new?

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and
forevermore.*

Psalm 121:1-2

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

THE LORD OUR KEEPER

Psalm 121 is a pilgrim's song of trust—a reminder that our security does not rest on the hills of human strength but in the unfailing presence of God. The psalmist begins with a question of dependence and ends with a declaration of assurance. The One who created the heavens and the earth is also the Guardian of every step His children take.

"He will not let your foot slip; He who watches over you will not slumber." The image is tender yet powerful. While the world grows weary and anxious, the Lord remains ever alert. His care does not fade with time or distance. He neither overlooks our weakness nor abandons us in our trials. Day and night, His protective gaze rests upon His people.

"The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life." This promise does not guarantee an absence of hardship but the continual preservation of the soul. God's keeping power surrounds our coming and going—both now and forever.

As we journey through today, we can overcome all uncertainties. We must fix our eyes and heart upon the Keeper who never sleeps. The Maker of heaven and earth walks beside us; His steadfast presence is our greatest help and eternal peace.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to rest in Your unfailing protection.

SS, BD National Director, Creative Access Country

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: What are some things that brought your family joy even in the face of uncertainty?

WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

*My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving
me,
so far from my cries of anguish?
My God, I cry out by day, but you do
not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.
My mouth is dried up like a
potsherd,*

*and my tongue sticks to the roof
of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.
Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my
feet.
All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.
But you, Lord, do not be far from
me.
You are my strength; come
quickly to help me.*

Psalms 22:1-2, 14-19

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" In this most poignant of prayers, we pray the prayer of Jesus on the cross lifted high, every bone out of joint, hands and feet pierced, back torn to shreds, limbs twisted, forehead bleeding, mouth dry and unbearably thirsty, sinking into the creeping darkness. Lament expresses the reality of suffering, the agony of life. And all the more, when the suffering is a direct consequence of obedience.

"But You, O Lord, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance." The Father is near even in this felt absence. Suffering for obedience draws out lament as prayer of enduring trust in the Father.

Lament gives us words when we cannot find words to express our anguish.

We pray Jesus' prayer to enter more deeply into the reality of the cross of Christ. We pray it also with the psalmist as the expression of his and our experience. Lament draws us into a deeper awareness of God, of our longing to do God's will and proclaim Him in the congregation. For the psalmist God has intervened. The cry for relief has purged the soul, leading to a vow of deepened obedience, generating redemption. Suffering provides a platform like no other for that self-forgetting prayer that worships Christ in His unique suffering whilst drawing out our deeper truer self, surrendered to oneness with our suffering Christ, a posture that leads to salvation for others and greater glory for God.

Howard Dueck, Executive Vice President/Regions, Canada

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: Psalm 22 paints a picture of suffering and grief. Mr. Dueck paints a picture of Jesus' suffering in this devotional. Draw a picture of suffering and grief in your own life.

THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

*Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go
well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

3 John 1:2

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

ENCOURAGEMENT AND CARE IN A PRAYER OF BLESSING

As we pray for others, what an encouragement it is to pray a blessing over them. This is exactly how John begins his letter to his dear friend, Gaius.

Gaius is facing a stressful challenge in the church. Yet before addressing the struggle, John cares for his friend first. His encouragement is heartfelt and genuine because, as his close friend, he knows Gaius' strong faith. Also, he acknowledges that fellow believers have witnessed Gaius' faithfulness and how he continues to walk in the truth (v.3).

John prays that all may go well for Gaius, including good health, just as it is well with his soul. John's words aren't just to flatter or spread cheer. He affirms Gaius' faithfulness to truth as what holds him regardless of the challenges that come his way. We bless others by telling them of the faithfulness we see in their lives.

What can a blessing mean to those around you? What does it mean to you? Just like John, the pen and paper await, or email, as it may be for us today. Or, as John writes in verse fourteen, the desire is to see him face to face. Who can you write a blessing to or invite to coffee and bless them in person? Ask God to show you who might need a prayer of blessing and speak life-giving encouragement over them.

Susan McCrary, Europe Member Care Coordinator, Spain

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: What qualities do you look for in friends? Could you encourage a friend who displays those qualities today?

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:10-17

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Being on Home Assignment can bring about some needed time for reflection. Recently, I was sharing about our ministry in Thailand and what a spiritual battleground it is we serve in. However, as I am home in the US, I find that the same kind of spiritual warfare is still very prevalent. In one of my recent quiet times, I was reminded of this passage in Ephesians that admonishes us to be strong and stand firm. It really does not matter what side of the ocean we are on and where we are. We are always going to be in conflict with spiritual forces in this world. But I was encouraged and reminded that I can be prepared for battle when I put on the armor of God. As I read these passages aloud, I could imagine myself donning the armor with its defensive and offensive weapons. I feel I have the courage to stand firm and resist the temptations of the devil and to fight for living a life of obedience and service in the Lord's army. I pray that each of us in our own way will acknowledge God as Lord of the universe and that he has given us the tools to be strong in the Lord.

Stephen Anderson, Director, Head of School, Thailand

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand...."

Kids' Question: Write three key words from today's passage on a paper for your kids, reading the words to them if necessary. Have them decorate the words as they reflect on the passage and devotional for today.

SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

*If the Lord had not been on our side—
let Israel say—
if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us,
they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;
the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
the raging waters
would have swept us away.
Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalms 124

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

GOD IS A MIRACLE WORKER!

Last year we had a student who was going through a very difficult time at school. The student was rebelling and damaging school property.

We spent a lot of time working and praying with this student. The parents were very worried as well because they too had tried all they could to help him correct his ways.

We have a Friday night youth meeting at school called Refuel. The student started coming to the Refuel meetings.

Some young adults from YWAM and even alumni of our school speak regularly at Refuel.

The student started to change after hearing other young people's testimonies and we have seen a tremendous change in the student's attitude and behavior.

We congratulated him and continue praying for him. The highlight was when we were able to share his behavior changes with his parents and they confirmed behavior changes at home too.

Praise God who changes hearts and minds and transforms young people through His word.

*Kevin van Rensburg, General Director, Asunción
Christian Academy, Paraguay*

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. 'God you are...'

MONDAY 19TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

*"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him
with music and song..."*

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all
sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

REAPING IN THE LORD

Abounding grace, or as NIV says, abundant blessings. These four words show the heart of our God, He who is the God of sufficiency. We may habitually pray over our meals, and it is easy to pray for what we want from God. How often do we remember to ask the Lord to provide what we *need* and seek His blessing on what we're given? We may recognize the fruit we sow is a harvest of the hard work we put in. While God does request us to do everything as unto Him, the act of reaping is less about our work and more about our worship.

Do we remember to ask God to sow into our work so that we grow the fruit He desires, that which is healthy and thriving because of Him? The harvest is not determined by our physical capabilities or the resources in our pockets. The power of the Spirit is what takes the whole process from the beginning to the end.

As you reflect on your day, ask the Lord for what is needed to abound in good works today. Do you need an extra measure of patience? Is financial strain limiting your generosity? Is a lack of peace in a difficult situation distracting you from what God is asking you to do today? His grace abounds and His blessings are abundant. Invite Him into your work, asking for Him to show how His sufficiency is all that you need.

Dana Robinson, ARD Org Dev (Latin America), Honduras

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: How does scripture show us how to handle uncertainty and fear of the unknown?

TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

*Show me the right path, O Lord, point out the road for me to follow.
Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

Psalm 25:4-5 NLT

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

SO MANY OPTIONS – ONE BEST PATH!

If your journey with Jesus has been anything like mine, there have been many opportunities to choose a path ahead that seems perfect, at least from my limited perspective. However, time and again, Father has graciously caused me to take pause and reconsider where I am to place my next foothold. That pause may come through a lack of unity with my bride, or that familiar stirring deep in my soul that reminds me to look UP before looking out.

In *Psalm 25*, as David reaffirms his trust in Father God, remembering and declaring the promises he has received throughout his life, he so perfectly models for us the posture of submission, inquiry, and humility – being willing to admit to both himself and to God that he does not know what is best. That uncertainty does not paralyze, but propels him into conversation and community with Father, the author of all Truth.

In verses 4 and 5, David implores Father to *"Show me the right path, O Lord; Point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me,"* This isn't a casual request for God to confirm the direction in David's own heart, but an active desire for intimacy – to more deeply understand Father's methods, character and will.

Are you facing a big decision, navigating a difficult relationship, or a prolonged season where clarity seems illusive? Take comfort in knowing that Father waits with the promise of Hope. Take a few minutes to pause and pray Psalm 25 – asking Him for the one best path forward!

Matt Baldwin, Associate Regional Director, Africa

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: How would you like God to lead you today?

WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

*How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.*

Psalms 13

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

LAMENT TO PRAISE: TRUSTING GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

Most of the time I'm content, but every so often I slip into a funk. Last fall was especially hard. I experienced what seemed like spiritual warfare, and the weight of it was heavy.

Yes, I prayed for relief, but God seemed quiet. Over time, though, I shifted my focus away from my troubles and toward simply thanking God for who He is. *"You are good, and what you do is good"* (Psalm 119:68a). *With each prayer of praise, He lifted me a little higher until I was finally pulled out of the 'mud and mire.'*

As you read Psalm 13, notice the depth of David's despair. But then comes the turning point in verse 5: *"BUT I trust in your unfailing love."* Just like David, we face troubles, BUT we can trust in God's 'unfailing love' – His covenant faithfulness to Israel, to David, and to us. This promise is where our focus should rest. It's the ultimate mood changer.

Prayer: Lord, help us hold fast to who You are. On the days when we feel forgotten, when it seems like You've turned your back on us, or are giving us the silent treatment, give us the strength to praise You in the waiting, in the struggles, in the quiet. When we wrestle with our thoughts day after day, help us turn our eyes to You. May our hearts sing of Your goodness as we trust in Your unfailing love and rejoice in the joy of our salvation.

Amanda Kmett, Executive Assistant to the Regional Vice President & Associate Regional Director, Member Support, West Asia

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: When you're feeling sad, what makes you feel better?

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

When Nancy and I boarded the plane to "go on mission" with TeachBeyond 14 years ago, we certainly had more questions than answers. We had said yes to God's call to Southeast Asia, but we felt, at least at a human level, completely unprepared, with limited knowledge of Asian culture, and, thankfully, no idea of what challenges lay ahead. All we had was a deep conviction that God was asking us to go. Looking back, we see that the prayers of others in the months leading up to this moment prepared us for this journey. The many friends, family, and church partners did not just pray for safety or success; they prayed that *God would bless us, equip us, work in us, and through us for His glory.* And He has, in ways we could never have imagined, opening doors, shaping our character, and giving us strength to accomplish His work.

This is the heart of Hebrews 13:20-21. This benediction is not a polite farewell; it is a bold prayer to the God of peace to actively transform lives. When we pray blessings, we are asking God to supply everything needed to do His will. In short, a prayer for blessing *is always asking for God's blessing to bless others.*

In a world that presses us to be independent and self-sufficient, our prayer for blessings reminds us that mission begins and ends with God's power. Therefore, let us be the kind of people who intentionally take *moments each and every day to pray for God's power of blessing over each other* so that we can be equipped for everything good and pleasing to God through Christ Jesus. This is my prayer for you today!

David Durance, President, USA

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: What is a gift God has given you?

FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

*Two things I ask of you, LORD;
do not refuse me before I die:
Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say,
'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.*

Proverbs 30:7-9

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

FRAMING OUR PRAYERS WITH WISDOM

When we were married, our officiant unknowingly left out the "for richer" portion of my husband's vows. Because everyone but him noticed, when it came my turn, I really exaggerated the "for richer," phrase, and may have rolled my eyes at, "for poorer." It was very funny, and maybe a little prophetic. We were already poor and about to give our lives on the mission field, although at the time it was supposed to be a four-year commitment. Here we are, sixteen years later, continuing to stand before God asking for our daily bread.

Agur's prayer reminds us where wisdom resides: It is a place of utter trust in the Provider, lest we take our lives into our own hands to meet our own needs and satisfy our own desires. He precedes the request for his daily bread with a plea that God would keep "falsehood and lies" far from him. From this place of protection he can then pray the prayers of his heart.

Lord God, protect our minds from the lies of our hearts, the lies of the world, the accusations of the wicked and those against your purposes. Keep us planted firmly in the adequate provision of Your Kingdom and help us to pray for our lives, our families, and our ministries, a prayer like Agur's: That You would help us walk in dependence upon You for all our needs, spiritual, mental, physical, financial...so that we and the story of our lives would honor Your Great Name.

AS, Member Care Counsellor, Creative Access Country

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand...."

Kids' Question: Agur asked God for two things, what two things would you ask God for today?

SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

*David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,
"Praise be to you, Lord,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.*

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

AN IMPROBABLE JOURNEY

It was one of the last important steps in an improbable journey that had begun almost three years earlier.

In August of 2022, Black Forest Academy had been confronted with the daunting task of replacing two no longer sustainable dorms, with new government-regulation-compliant dorms, at an estimated cost of 10 million USD, without adding mission-crippling debt, and all before January of 2026.

Over the next two years, one apparently insurmountable obstacle fell after another. First a building became unexpectedly available that was perfectly suited to our needs, and at a cost that was significantly cheaper than even our optimistic estimates. Then political and bureaucratic barriers began to crumble, followed by unprecedented giving from the BFA global community. But one major hurdle remained.

KVJS, the government body responsible for residential schools in Germany, needed to approve the building and our proposed renovations. Just days before the 2025 graduation, the head inspector for KVJS arrived and we all held our breath. The hour-long tour through the site was full of questions from the inspector, some concerned expressions, and the occasional shaking of the head. Then, at the end of the tour, the onslaught of questions started.

"How did you hear about this building? Am I right that it will allow you to have three fully equipped dorms instead of two? And the town has been supportive of this project? And the school campus is how far from the dorm? 200 meters?" And on and on the rhetorical questions came. Finally, the inspector just shook his head and said, "It's as though this building was made for you. You are so LUCKY!"

Lucky is the only explanation that a secular bureaucrat could offer for the miracle that he had just witnessed, but we knew different. God's people had been praying and God had done it.

Phil Dow, Head of School, Black Forest Academy, Germany

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. 'God you are...'

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:15-17

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

PRAYING FOR A KNOWLEDGE THAT TRANSFORMS

Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus provides us with an inspiring example. Rather than beginning with a list of material needs, he starts with a grateful heart, celebrating 2 essential marks of living faith: Trust in the Lord's will and love for one's brothers and sisters. This gratitude and trust are grounded in the first 14 verses, which provide a perspective on God's action and existence. It is this fixed gaze on God that compels Paul to trust, leading to gratitude.

Thus, his central request is not for deliverance from difficulties or earthly blessings, but that they may receive a 'spirit of wisdom and revelation'. The apostle's greatest desire is for them to know God in a more intimate, personal and transformational way. This wisdom transcends intellect; it is the spiritual ability to see life from God's perspective.

During these days of communal prayer, the greatest gift we can seek for ourselves and others is full knowledge of the glorious Father. It is through this growing relationship that all other areas of our lives find their true meaning and direction. We must also express sincere gratitude to our Father.

Prayer Reflections

- Like Paul, take a moment to thank God for the faith and love evident in the lives of your fellow Christians.
- What dominates your prayers these days? How can you incorporate asking for more wisdom and revelation into your daily life?
- In practical terms, what does it mean to have a 'full knowledge' of God rather than merely knowing information about Him?
- What practical steps can you take during the next 40 days to actively seek this transformational knowledge of God?

Arthur Lupion, Regional Vice President for Latin America, TeachBeyond

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: Does something you heard today make you want to know God better?

TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul.

*I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

*Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.*

*When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

*Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.*

*He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—*

Psalms 146

*he remains faithful forever.
He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.*

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

WHO IS MY HELP?

Verse 5 says "whose Help is the God of Jacob" (emphasis added). God is Help itself. And yet, so often, my heart seeks other help – other things, other people or (most often) myself and my own ideas.

This psalm calls us higher. After briefly warning us to not place our trust in anyone else, it turns our eyes toward God Himself, who is worthy of our total trust and all our praise.

All other objects of trust (including leaders, others, and ourselves) can do nothing to save; they and their plans will pass away. But God is different. He is the faithful, eternal, sovereign Creator King who saves us and acts for our good, thwarting evil. Only He can truly help.

The burdens listed here are heavy: oppression, hunger, prison, blindness, depression, living as a foreigner, fatherlessness & widowhood. In the midst of the pull to trust what we can see (instead of the God we can't) for help with our heavy burdens, verse 5 holds out a beautiful promise and call to us: "Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

Praise God we have Someone fully worthy of our trust and hope!

Where do you need God's help today? How are you tempted to place your trust and hope in something or someone less worthy? How have you seen God help and save you?

Esther Burnham, Teacher Development Coordinator, USA

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: Who is your hero? How does what you like about that hero point you to Jesus? How is Jesus better than your hero?

WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.*

Psalms 130

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

OVERWHELMED BY BROKENNESS, A LAMENT

I cried from my soul, "Hear me Jesus, hear my pleas for mercy." I was too overwhelmed to say anything else. I was holding my close friend, Barom, as he mourned the death of his son, unborn grandchild, and daughter, who had all died in quick succession. Barom's son, Maikel, had left his small village and gotten involved in criminal activity in the city and had been murdered! Barom's pregnant daughter, hearing the news of Maikel's death, had thrown herself to the ground in mourning, landing on her stomach. A few days later she suffered a miscarriage that didn't discharge properly and she died from sepsis shortly after.

I held Barom at a funeral for 3 lives lost. I was overwhelmed with the brokenness of the world, the senselessness of death, the loss of innocence, and the prevalence of sin. I cried a prayer of lament like I never had before. Psalm 130 had never felt so prescient.

Where do you turn when the depths crush you? When we are overwhelmed with the hurt around and in us, what do we do? We cry to God a prayer of lament, recognizing that if God counted our sins none could stand. But in all of this lament, there is hope! We never lose sight of the forgiving nature of our father Yahweh.

We feel the depths when in them, not numb to sin, but not letting it overwhelm us. We never lose hope, even in the pain. We wait. We hope in His Word. Our very soul, crushed by the hurt, waits. Imagine the night watchman. Longing for morning, when the darkness is overwhelmed by the light. When the sun brings clarity to the shadows. We pray the lament without losing the hope, we pray the condition without ever losing sight of the position.

Sam Bruce, Hillcrest School, Indonesia

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: Share about a time when you were sad, is there anything you would like to tell God about it?

THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:13-16

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

PRAYER POWER

In these verses from James, the half-brother of our Lord, we see *prayer power*. Four things in relation to prayer power to draw from this passage: First, *prayer is important*. The scripture here teaches us that prayer is the way to overcome difficulties such as sickness and discouragement, or other needs. Second, *prayer is power*. By praying, we invite the Almighty God into our situation, and God's presence is power. Third, *prayer is, or can be, effective*. When we pray we get results. The effectiveness of prayer is based on our faith and in the goodness of God. As such, we pray confidently and we pray with expectation. And, fourth, confessing sin and forgiving one another are the *principles of prayer* which we need to abide by, in order to experience the power and the effectiveness of prayer. Therefore, we must *seek victory over sin and we must live in forgiveness with one another*. The good news is *prayer power is at everyone's disposal*.

- So, are you going through difficulties, such as sickness, loneliness, or discouragement? Take time right now to pray.
- Thank God for the mechanism of prayer through which we experience God's power.
- Think of the needs of someone, or of the ministry of TeachBeyond, and spend time praying for those needs.
- Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Confess it. Is there someone whom you need to forgive? Forgive them. Do you tend to struggle with forgiving other people? Pray for a forgiving spirit.

Ruth Mbennah, Sparrow Project Lead Facilitator, TeachBeyond Tanzania

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: Who is someone you would like to pray for today?

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

2 Chronicles 20:12

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

EYES ON HIM

There's something profoundly honest about this moment in Scripture. Jehoshaphat doesn't hide his fear. He doesn't mask his uncertainty with false confidence. Instead, he gathers the people and prays.

He stands before God and admits what many of us feel more often than we'd like to say: *"We don't know what to do."*

And then he does the one thing that makes all the difference—he lifts his eyes.

This is the posture of prayer: not performance, not control, but attention. Prayer begins not when we have the right words, but when we turn our eyes—our focus, our trust, our desire—toward God.

Sometimes, all we can do is look. And that is enough. This kind of prayer doesn't rush to fix, to plan, or to speak. It waits. It watches. It remembers who God is. It slows us down just enough to notice again the One who has been near all along.

When we begin with stillness—our eyes on Him—we start to see His presence in the ordinary. Our posture shifts, our hearts soften, and prayer becomes less about results and more about relationship.

If we could live from this place—eyes lifted, heart open—how might that reshape not just our prayers, but our whole way of being?

Today, pray not to be heard or to have answers, but simply to look.
What might shift in you if you began every decision, every fear, and every joy by turning your eyes to Him?

GR, National Director, Creative Access Country

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand...."

Kids' Question: How can you look to God today?

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you

purchased for God

persons from every tribe and

language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a

kingdom and priests to serve our

God,

and they will reign on the earth."

Then I looked and heard the

voice of many angels, numbering

thousands upon thousands, and ten

thousand times ten thousand. They

encircled the throne and the living

creatures and the elders. In a loud

voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and

wisdom and strength

and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in

heaven and on earth and under the

earth and on the sea, and all that is

in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and

to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory

and power,

for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5:9-13

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

FROM THE QUARRY TO THE CLASSROOM

In the heart of Livingstone, Zambia, lies a community called Ngwena, where Open Schools operates a vibrant program. We met several children who had previously worked alongside their parents at the local quarry, crushing stones to earn a living before joining the program.

One of our tutors, Gladys, leads a project with 60 children in and around her home. She stands as a testimony of hope, persevering through her own life challenges, to serve children who have never attended formal school.

Chilileko, an 11-year-old girl, joined the program without understanding a single word of English. Over the past 3 years, she has excelled tremendously and now stands ready to transition into formal schooling.

Living with her unemployed mother, Chilileko *faithfully attends the* Open Schools program every day. *By the end of this year, she will be assessed for placement in a local formal primary school – likely entering at a grade beyond her age level, due to her remarkable progress.*

Through the Open Schools program, we have seen how the power of poverty can be broken, one child at a time. *Even more beautifully, we have witnessed the love of Jesus Christ expressed through these children as they perform short plays, sing songs, and recite Scripture with joy and confidence.*

Angie Pape, Director OSWW, South Africa

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. 'God you are...'

MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

BEYOND THE FURTHEST STAR

Dear Christ-follower,

Wherever you are and in whatever state you are, be strengthened with the Holy Spirit's power deep in your being. That your heart will be reminded of the truths you know of Christ – His love for you, the cost He paid to have you near, the power that He has given you to accomplish things for His glory. Stop, pause, and think about that last sentence. How does this apply to your life, right now?

The Almighty God abides – dwells, lives, spends time – with you. Just like His glory descended on the tabernacle where the Israelites would worship Him, so you are His temple – the place where His glory exists on earth in relationship with humanity. Not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus finished on the cross!

Ask God to ground you in love, giving you a firm foundation that relies on His character and promises. Who is God? What is God like? How does God show His love to us?

As you reflect more on the character of the Lord, may you be reminded how wide and deep and long and high His great love and power is. Imagine something extending beyond the furthest star – that is a small example of how vast His love is for you, (insert your name here). Mull on these truths about God and meditate on these verses throughout your day, that you may be filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!

Sincerely,
A fellow Christ-follower

Hannah Hocutt, Local Member Care Coordinator, Hungary

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: What does today's scripture tell us about the character of God?

TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Psalms 51:10-12

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

THE FATHER'S INVITATION

I first came across this Psalm when I was going through a difficult season in my life. I felt so low and discouraged. I felt stuck, but I was reminded through these words of David, that God is the One who can pull me up out of the mess. What encouraged me here is that God welcomes us back – every time! He is ready and waiting for us. Later in the Psalm, in verse 17, it says, "You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." How beautiful it is that our Father desires for us to turn to Him in our brokenness. He responds to our reaching out by restoring our joy and helping us walk in obedience.

Friend, I don't know what season you are in, but I hope through these words you will be encouraged that our Father is waiting, with His arms open for you to turn to Him. Take some time now in confession to be honest with God. Tell Him how you feel with raw emotion. Tell Him where you have gone wrong. Ask Him for His presence in the midst of what you are experiencing. Lean into the intimate presence of the Holy Spirit. Lastly, ask Him to restore the joy of salvation and for help to walk in obedience. Thank Him for the gift of His presence and His kindness towards us, His children.

*AP, Regional Coordinator for Member Support
in West Asia (Middle East & Central Asia)*

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: Picture King David praying this prayer, what do you see? What is he doing? What does he ask God?

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Matthew 23:37-39

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

BROKEN-HEARTED PRAYER

When was the last time you prayed with a broken heart? Maybe it was earlier today; maybe it has been a while. I've prayed with a broken heart for family, for friends, for my city, and for nations. It can be discouraging, and I'm still waiting to see answers I've longed for. How about you?

This is Jesus' last public prayer in the temple. His heart is to gather, to welcome, to protect. But the listeners, the nation, and even his closest friends will soon reject the invitation. Rejecting Jesus leaves heartbreaking desolation.

Jesus references Psalm 118, shouted by the crowds just days earlier as he entered Jerusalem, "Blessed is he who comes..." Yet even in the enthusiasm, there was no genuine welcome, no embrace of his invitation. They were not willing. They rejected the one who would become the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22-23).

A lament is Jesus' final word in the temple. In the very place built to reveal the glory, invitation, and provision of God to his people. So when you and I pray, we can continue to pray realizing that God too has prayed broken-hearted prayers. For you. For me. For those we love. For his kingdom to come and his will to be done. Even when it looks like it is being rejected and refused.

Who or what are you lamenting in prayer? Hold fast to your lament for them, and like the compassionate Servant-King, long to see them be gathered. What is your prayer of lament today?

Brian Delamont, Executive Vice-President, Canada

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: Jesus prayed a sad prayer; how does this help you to pray when you are sad about things?

THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

*Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from
the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

2 John 3 [NKJV]

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

KINDNESS THROUGH HIS GRACE

Especially when living in another country, I really try to keep my focus on the last 2 parts of this passage: truth and love. Whatever circumstance I am in, if I can show a bit of the love that Christ showed for us, I feel it is a little victory. My current location has very few foreigners, so much so that many people don't know how to react when they encounter one. A simple smile often transforms a tense, nervous encounter into one of happiness during that moment.

A little more difficult task is how to communicate the truth of God and His love for us through His Son. Not only can it be challenging to separate cultural differences from truth, but also how to demonstrate that truth to not turn others away from Jesus, when their culture is strongly against Him.

This is where I feel especially blessed to have the grace, mercy and peace of God. Knowing that I need not specific deeds, actions or outcomes; that there is not a chance, but a guarantee of this marvelous gift is almost overwhelming. When challenges arrive, I can be confident that God has a plan that is grander than I can imagine. Remembering this helps me rest in and accept the grace, mercy and peace that God has generously given me, which then encourages me to show more love to others.

ST, Teacher, Creative Access Country

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: How do you show kindness to others?

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

BEFORE CALLING, ENCOUNTER

Many of us have asked God, "What is my calling?" and received only silence in reply. We feel that we pray, yet He does not answer. But what if His silence is an invitation to prioritise something we have not yet realised?

Isaiah had a personal encounter with the Lord that transformed his life (Isaiah 6:1). Such an experience is only possible when we dedicate ourselves to seeking true intimacy with God through prayer. When Isaiah saw the Lord in all His glory and holiness—and this was only possible

because he already had intimacy with Him—was that when God showed him what his calling, his mission? Was it? No! It was, in fact, when God showed Isaiah who he was. He made Isaiah see himself (Isaiah 6:5).

Encountering the holy God reveals who He is and who we are. His holiness convicts us of our sin, not to condemn us, but to redeem us (1 John 1:9). Before God can use us, He must break and purify us. Before we are sent out into the world, we are confronted. Isaiah was stripped of his ideas, his sense of righteousness and his titles, leaving only a contrite heart. However, the Lord purified Isaiah and transformed his impurities, giving him a new awareness of God's call to service (v. 8).

When we are close to God, He helps us to see ourselves and realise that we cannot fulfil His calling without first being transformed. If you already have a relationship with God and have allowed Him to reveal your true self to you and begin your transformation, continue to be attentive and prayerful, listening to the Lord.

When we are close to God, He helps us to see ourselves and realise that we cannot fulfil His calling without first being transformed. If you have a relationship with God and have allowed Him to show you who you are and begin your transformation, remain attentive and prayerful, listening to the Lord.

In verse 8, God asks the prophet, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' He then waited for Isaiah's response before revealing His will. It was only after Isaiah's response that God revealed His will and sent him (Isaiah 6:9a). God appears to us, forgives us, relates to us, purifies us, transforms us, calls us and then sends us. If you are seeking your calling, stop seeking a mission. Seek the encounter.

Adriana Guarneri Stoelben, Member Development Facilitator, Brasil

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand...."

Kids' Question: What are three characteristics that describe what God is like?

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*

Psalm 9:1-2

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

FATEB'S 10 YEARS: YEARS OF SUCCESS AND THANKFULNESS!

Among the great things God has accomplished through FATEB Kinshasa, we want to lift our voices to share the testimony of Mama Joëlle Tshiswaka, mom to Steacy, Seth and Sam who have been students at FATEB for 10 years.

This enterprising mom has a women's hair salon where she regularly welcomes clients for braiding services. She never stops joyfully talking about the many advantages that FKA (FATEB Kinshasa Academy) has offered her children over the years.

She highlights how in addition to academic excellence, FKA helps shape students who are transformed in their way of life, carrying strong Christian values with them for all their lives.

Glory to God! What joy to witness, that the parents are deeply convinced not only of the academic quality of the education their children receive, but also of the transformation they see. Many of them recommend FKA to other parents without reservation, so that their children may also benefit from a comprehensive education and a better future.

To God be the Glory!

Fima Héritier, National Director, Democratic Republic of Congo

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. 'God you are...'

MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

FLOURISHING EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE

I am joining TeachBeyond at a time its sights are set on Vision 2040 – “transformational education for everyone, everywhere” – emphasizing the importance of flourishing National Entities (NEs) to accomplishing this vision. As I reflected on our text, the Lord impressed upon my heart the NKJV translation about our God “who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above” (v. 20). Before our text, Paul highlights the manifold wisdom of this God (v. 10), and the riches of his glory (v. 16). From our text, Paul extols God as the One:

- Who is able to do;
- Who is the unlimited God who can do unlimited things;
- Who is the All-Powerful (Omnipotent) – empowering us through and blessing us beyond our asking (in prayers), our thinking (of ideas, insights and visions), and enabling us to do (perform, excel) as TeachBeyond.

In this vein, all our NEs are not only to just flourish, but *flourish exceedingly abundantly above!*

In line with Paul’s prayer, I ask that we pray for:

- The superabundant prosperity of NEs within economically challenged contexts,
- A grand transformational experience for NEs within socially challenged nations, and
- An abounding reign of Christ within politically challenged nations.

Certainly, beyond our “asking” or “thinking” about these things, God is more than able to do it! It would not be by the President’s power, nor by his national representatives, but according to divine power (Zech. 4:6). Above all, this shall be to God’s glory forever and ever in Jesus’ name! Shalom!

Bolaji Bakare, National Coordinator, TeachBeyond Nigeria

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids’ Question: If you could ask God to do something big, what would it be?

TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

Read Psalm 91

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

AT HOME IN HIS SHADOW

To walk (or dwell/abide, as verse 1 says) in someone's shadow takes intentionality. If you've been on a walk with a friend, usually there is a little bit of space, and certainly you are not trying to walk in their shadow. Now imagine a young child, following a parent, trying to stay in his or her shadow. To walk in someone's shadow means walking closely to them, in step with them as they walk. What rhythms or practices help you walk closely with Jesus?

Charles Spurgeon writes, "The shadow of God is not the occasional resort, but the constant abiding place of the saint. Here we find not only our consolation, but our habitation—not only a loved haunt, but a home. We ought never to be out of the shadow of God." Home is where we are most at rest, where we can be ourselves and share what is most deeply on our hearts. What might you thank Him for or ask Him for as you rest in His shadow?

In the rest of Psalm 91, we see what happens when we "dwell in the shelter of the Most High." We have a loving Father who wants us to draw near to Him so that He can:

- Deliver us (v. 14)
- Protect us (v. 14)
- Answer us (v. 15)
- Be with us in trouble (v. 15)
- Rescue us (v. 15)
- Satisfy us (v. 16)
- Show us His salvation (v. 16)

What would it look like to "abide in the shadow of the Almighty" (v.1) today?

Brittany Mann, Director of Church Relations (USA & Canada), USA

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: What helps you to walk closely with Jesus?

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

*How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?
Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.*

Habakkuk 1:2-4

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

HOW LONG?

"How long?" - The phrase "how long" indicated that a situation had been occurring for some time. The people of Judah continually ignored God's laws, and the prophet saw no end in sight.

Although the prophet was concerned about the future of Judah, he had a correct view of God. He was not complaining against God or criticizing God. Instead, he was asking God to act in the way He had promised to act. *He brings his burdens to God in prayer*, knowing that he could request God's help for relief. Habakkuk addresses God directly, wishing for Judah to become holy again and to fulfill its priestly function; he was saddened to see the exploitation of others in place of love.

As a committed servant, Habakkuk believed that God would not allow wicked people to dominate Judah. As he continued to observe the iniquity and injustice in the land, he asks God: *"Why do you make me see iniquity and look at wrongdoing?"*.

It is very difficult to deal with the time and the silence of God. On most occasions, we are neither prepared nor mentally ready to wait indefinitely. Our lament wants to be relieved immediately. We question, as the prophet did, without understanding that our time is not God's time and what we want to hear is not always what God has to tell us. Our dissatisfaction and discontent may even be justifiable, and our lament certainly will be heard and understood by the Lord. However, we need to add to all this a generous dose of faith, hope, and rest in God's timing, will, and sovereignty. In His time and in His gentle and wise way, God reveals everything, teaches everything, and consoles everyone.

Duarte Casmarrinha, National Director, Portugal

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: What is something you are waiting for? What would you like to ask God to change in yourself and in the world?

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:15-19

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU

Jesus prayed for protection from evil (vv. 15-16)

The reality of living in this world confronts us daily. Our brokenness echoes when we see abuse of power, injustice, calamity, corruption, and blatant evil. Our hearts ache for an end to it all, and yet we remain *here*. Jesus, who could remove us from the world, instead prayed that the Father would keep us and protect us from the evil one. He knows exactly what we face. And He reminds us: "We are not of the world." That is deeply encouraging. This world is temporary; our true home and eternity are with Him. Protection does not mean escape from hardship but preservation in it, kept by God in the midst of *it all*.

Jesus prayed for sanctification in the truth (vv. 17, 19)

Our world is saturated with lies. Jesus' prayer for our sanctification in the truth is profoundly relevant. God's Word is truth, living, reliable, and timely. As we read and receive it, the Spirit uses the Word to renew our minds, reorient our desires, and correct the lies we have believed. In Christ's self-giving ("I consecrate myself"), we are set apart to belong to God and to reflect his character.

Jesus prayed for our holy mission (v. 18)

"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them." We are not spectators, but we are sent people. This mission takes shape in ordinary places, at home, at work, in our neighborhoods and classrooms, bearing witness to Jesus with integrity, love, and truth.

Even in education, we participate in God's work of forming minds and hearts that know and love what is true.

Lord, thank You for seeing our need and keeping us from the evil one. Guard us moment by moment. Sanctify us by Your truth, Your Word is truth. And send us into Your holy mission with courage and compassion, to reach the nations through education. In Jesus' name, amen.

Claudeene Blairee S. Acyatan, National Director, Philippines

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: What is your reaction to Jesus' prayer for you?

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Speak out who God is for you right now.

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me."

PSALM 66:16

Ponder: What breath prayer do you often repeat? A breath prayer is a Bible phrase that helps you focus on God in the moment. You intentionally speak this phrase to remind yourself that God is God and He is here.

Scripture

And Mary said:

*"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call
me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done
great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who
fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds*

*with his arm;
he has scattered those who are
proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from
their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good
things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his
descendants forever,
just as he promised our
ancestors."*

Luke 1:46-55

What do you know about this person's situation when they are praying this? What does this prayer mean for the person praying? What phrase in their prayer stands out for you? Can this be a breath prayer for you?

GOD'S UNEXPECTED PRIORITIES

In Luke 1, God answers the prayers of an old woman who *couldn't* have a child, a prayer that Elizabeth and Zechariah may well have stopped praying long before it was answered. Then He sends a messenger to a common girl in a common place who shouldn't have a child, at least in the ordinary way, and tells her that all things are possible with God. Mary believes, and as she hears the prophetic words of Elizabeth, she erupts in a song of praise.

Mary, a humble, common girl, rejoices in God's loving attention. All proceeding generations will call her blessed. She focuses on God's unexpected priorities: The rich and powerful are scattered, brought down, and sent away empty. The poor and humble are seen, lifted up, and filled with good things. And all those who are Abraham's children by faith are remembered by their covenant-keeping God. This is how God works.

Jason Mandryk of Operation World reminds us: "If our ministry's success were dependent on our organizational systems or how much money we throw at a problem, then we would be failing all the time. Success is based on the power of God at work in the nations. That means that no matter how new we are, how poor we are, how illiterate we are, how alone we are, we have access to the power that actually brings about change." Let us humbly come before the God of Mary, who is also our God. He delights to come to the aid of those who realize they have nothing but He has everything.

Source for quote: <https://www.chinasource.org/resource-library/blog-entries/jason-mandryk-on-intercessory-prayer/>

*Scott Finnamore, Associate Regional Director for Strategic Support, East/
West Asia, USA*

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of this prayer could you pray for them? You might want to say, "Father, please help [name] understand...."

Kids' Question: When do you feel God's loving attention in your life?

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Breathe deeply and exhale slowly. Imagine going to a high place with Jesus. Let the excitement grow in you as you follow Him and wait for what He wants to show you.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts."

PSALM 96:8

Ponder: What experiences in your life have filled your heart with amazement at God's greatness?

Scripture

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1-2

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

A DAILY BECOMING

Ever heard of Schrödinger's cat?

In the 1930s, Erwin Schrödinger, an Austrian physicist, used the thought experiment of a poor little cat in a box with a deadly but unpredictable poison to help explain the idea that multiple possible realities co-exist, until observed. The box contained both a live cat and a dead cat at the same time, but when the box was opened, one of these scenarios ceased to exist leaving only the one we see. I always hoped the cat made it.

Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." It took me a while to read this as, "When I focus on my relationship with God, and being who he wants me to be, then my desires begin to align with his will." This is not about getting anything I want, but receiving what is truly best for me.

So my story of transformation is the slow and ongoing one God is working in me over the years, as I live through this verse, becoming increasingly joyful in the seasons I am in.

For this, I daily praise God.

There may or may not have been multiple possible versions of me, or indeed you - a disturbing thought right there - but the only one that exists in the present is the one that made multiple small decisions to delight in the Lord, allowing Him to gently bend my will to His. This is not subjugation, but freedom.

For this, I daily praise God.

My cat is doing fine.

Mark Prothero, Regional Vice President/West Asia, United Kingdom

Tell God what you noticed about His working in this story. Tell God how this makes you feel about Him. Speak out 5 attributes of God that this story makes you think of. 'God you are...'

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Focus your mind on God.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song..."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: List 5 things about God that you are thankful for. Sit quietly and speak your thanks to Him.

Scripture

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:9-12

First, listen for what this prayer says to you. Insert your name and imagine someone is praying this for you. Read the verses again slowly. What message do you hear?

PRAYER WARRIORS

In reading the letters of St. Paul, I am often challenged by 2 things in particular. The first of these is how often he tells the readers how he has not stopped praying for them, and sometimes this is only since hearing about their faith but not having met them. The second challenge is the specific prayers he prays. Here, he prays that the Colossians will be filled with knowledge and understanding, that they would be strengthened with power and that they would be blessed with endurance and patience. It humbles me when I think about the regularity and substance of my own prayers for those congregations I minister to.

I recall a few years ago when my home church had a 24/7 week of prayer, where people signed up for hour slots across the week. I took the early morning slots, 2am, 3am or 4am. The church had created and still runs a prayer room, filled with creative ways to pray. One such way was to write down our prayers. I remember being very much challenged by the written prayers of many who would not be front of house people, those who would be much too shy to speak with any confidence of their faith. I was humbled and challenged by the depth of love in those prayers, prayers of people much simpler than myself, prayers of people I had underestimated in the high opinion I had of myself. My prayer life changed forever after that week and the peep into the prayers of my humble brothers and sisters.

Prayer Room

*I felt like a fountain
Overflowing with thankfulness,
Appreciation,
Just to be there.
Thoughts bubbling over
Catching the written prayers of
others,
Prayer tree, prayer board, prayer
pictures,*

*Making them my own
Falling into a deeper pool
Than I ever knew was there
Immersed in unspoken care,
A holy place in a holy week
Walking without shoes
On the floorboards of reflected love,
Of a people gathered in care
Just glad to be there.*

Brian Callan, Trustee on the Board of TeachBeyond UK & Ireland, Ireland

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Insert their name(s) as you pray.

Kids' Question: What are some creative ways you might pray to God?

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider breathing deeply and exhale slowly. Listen deeply. What words of praise do you hear in your soul?

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

PSALM 95:2

Ponder: Sing a short song of praise. Sit quietly and let it ring on in your heart.

Scripture

Read Psalm 139

First pray this prayer for yourself. Read it 2 more times slowly. How does it bless you or help you?

FOREVER KNOWN, NEVER ALONE

Can you name 20 things about someone special to you? This was recently asked of *our 3rd and 4th graders*. *It was easy for them to name 10 things, but naming 20 became more difficult. Then they were asked to name even more... what about 2,000 things? I'm not sure I could name 2,000 things about myself!*

But our Creator can. He knows everything about you. He knows when you sit down and when you rise. He knows your thoughts and your words before you even speak or take action. He knows everything about you—and He still comes for you. You can't escape Him. He is everywhere. He is present in the good, the bad, and the ugly.

He walks with you through your entire life: in all the great moments and memories, in the moments you feel alone, and in the times you think you've messed up beyond repair. We can lift our heads high because the Creator of the universe not only *knows us completely but loves us unconditionally*. There is nothing that can separate us from His love!

Father, thank You for knowing me so completely and still choosing to love me. Reveal Your presence in the good, the bad, and the ugly to me. Guide me along the path You have laid out for me. Show me Your thoughts and Your way, *and lead me in Your everlasting way. Thank You for creating me – a light to shine in the darkness. Amen.*

AC, Principal, Creative Access Country

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Write out the prayer related to them. Ask God if you should send it to them.

Kids' Question: Name 10 things that are special about yourself. Thank God for them.

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY



Quiet your heart and mind. Consider placing your hands, palms up, in front of you. Release what is distracting and receive God's gift. What does He have for you today?

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"

PSALM 95:6

Ponder: Jesus lovingly touched many and brought healing. Think of some Bible people Jesus healed.

Scripture

Read Psalm 88

First, think about your own life and relationship to God. Read the lament again and pay attention to what stands out for you. Read it again and open your heart for Jesus' touch. Palms open to receive.

LAMENT OF DARKNESS

Where is the darkest place you've ever been? A cave? The Wilderness? A windowless room?

When was the darkest period of your life? After a loss? During transition? When caught in a sin?

The Bible shows us what to do in those dark places – cry out to God! This is the nature of the lament Psalm – a unique form of prayer.

Though raw and full of complaint, most end with a glimmer of hope. But not Psalm 88. In Hebrew, it literally ends with the word *darkness*, the Psalmist naming it as his only remaining friend.

I encourage you to read Psalm 88 again. What words and images does Heman, the writer, use to describe his anguish? Who does he hold responsible? For instance, in verses 10-12 he argues that he would be useless to God if dead. It's interesting to note that Heman was compared to Solomon in his wisdom (1 Kings 4:31), was a leader in Israel's worship (1 Chronicles 16:41-42) and was under the direct supervision of King David (1 Chronicles 25:6). If he can do some *holy complaining*, so can we. Use his words, or make up your own, to create a personal lament regarding a dark place in your own life. Be honest. Don't hold back. Cry out to God.

Mark Giebink, Director of Member Care, Global, USA

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. What part of their suffering could you pray for? What truth could you pray into their life?

Kids' Question: Describe a hard situation in your life. God will hear you.

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY



**Quiet your heart and mind. Imagine going with Jesus to a quiet place.
Humbly kneel at Jesus' feet.**

*"Come and see what God has done, his awesome
deeds for mankind!"*

PSALM 66:5

Ponder: Jesus "took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)." Imagine that you are one of those children.

Scripture

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

2 Corinthians 3:14

First, imagine Jesus is focusing on you, looking you right in the eye, and holding out a gift for you. Hear Him pray this over you. Read the blessing again slowly. What do you notice?

WE DO NOT WALK ALONE

The blessing of the Apostle Paul captured/expressed in 2 Corinthians 3:14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," comes to us like a trinitarian embrace that sustains daily scholastic life. In the midst of daily challenges, full classrooms and noisy school yards, this blessing reminds us that we do not walk alone: The grace of Christ lifts us, the love of the Father defines our identity, and the communion of the Spirit unites us.

The grace of Christ invites us to begin again: to look at every student, teacher, and family through His eyes, with mercy, forgiving the imperfect and celebrating the little things. The love of the Father affirms us in our identity: We are His beloved children, with the call to be instruments of His love through our words and actions, so that every person feels valued and cared for. As well, the communion of the Spirit teaches us to nurture unity through listening, serving, and making each decision with discernment and wisdom from above.

Today we take a pause, we breathe deeply, we draw close to our God in prayer as if sitting at the table with a friend. We present our challenges, joys, fears, and dreams before the God that sustains us. We ask that the grace of Christ dismantles our hardness of heart, so that the love of God can heal our wounds and that His Holy Spirit can renew our unity in the educational mission we have.

May this blessing serve not only as a liturgical greeting, but a daily lifestyle: when opening a notebook, entering the classroom, grading an assignment, beginning a meeting, or walking through life with someone.

*Maribel Ayos, Head of School, Santa Cruz
Christian Learning Center, Bolivia*

Now ask God who you can pray this prayer for. Imagine them sitting on Jesus' knee as you pray.

Kids' Question: Paul prays for God to be with his friends. Take time to pray for God to be with your friends.