

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus... Never stop praying... Always pray and never give up... And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's



Pray First.

my first response, not my last resort

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*ck, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks,
ives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the
r will open... The amazing grace of Jesus Christ, the
avagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy*

*spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out...
Lord, teach us to pray... Bless me and enlarge my t
Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm
that I will be free from pain... Ask, and you will be*

Ways To Pray

I'm praying for and inviting...

to Easter 2023

We believe that God invites us to “Pray First” as our first response, not a last resort. As we consider the Lord’s Prayer, a Lifestyle of Prayer and the Prayer of Jabez during this sermon series, we have included some key thoughts and scripture references on which you can reflect. On the cover, as a reminder, write down the names of those you that you are praying for that you would like to invite to Easter at Edge Church.

Week 1: The Lord’s Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1). “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever” (Matthew 6:9-13) “Our Father in heaven...”

CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY: God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Father. Starting our prayer time acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well. Romans 8:15 NLT.

WORSHIP HIS NAME: God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His name. When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is. Proverbs 18:10 MSG.

PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST: Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about and loving who He loves. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first. Luke 12:31 TLB.

DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING: Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. Bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. Psalm 121:1-2 NLT.

GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE: Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any area that He brings to mind. 1 John 1:9 NIV.

ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God’s Word. Ephesians 6:12 NIV.

EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD’S ABILITY: God is more than able to move in every situation, and ending our prayer time claiming His authority and power focuses our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do. Jeremiah 32:17 NIV.

Week 2: Lifestyle of Prayer

How do we make prayer a part of our everyday life? We can learn from three things that Jesus did... Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35 NIV.

A CERTAIN TIME: Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. In order for prayer to work, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

A CERTAIN PLACE: Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud and perhaps have some worship music playing in the background.

A CERTAIN PLAN: Go into your prayer time with a plan. If it changes that's fine. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave His disciples a prayer outline. We call it the Lord's Prayer. This outline along with several other tools are available in this booklet.

Week 3: The Prayer of Jabez

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV.

The Prayer of Jabez is a helpful model of a prayer we can pray every day.

BLESSING: Jabez begins his prayer by asking God for His blessing. We need more of God's blessing to be better equipped to make a difference for His Kingdom. We need more provision, more spiritual gifting, more wisdom, and greater understanding so that we can bless others with what God has given us. As James points out, God sees our heart, and we get His attention when we ask for blessing with the motivation to help others. James 4:2-3.

"Oh, that You would bless me..." 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV.

Ask God for His blessing. Recognise your need for His provision, and set your heart toward wanting more than you need so that you can be a blessing to others.

INFLUENCE: Next, Jabez asks for more influence. As God's blessings increase in our lives, we ask for and experience greater opportunity to influence the world around us for Him. God has the power to bless us greatly, and He also has the power to open doors of opportunity for us to make a difference. We want to walk through doors that only He can open, and He responds when we specifically ask Him to give us more influence for His name.

Pray for more influence. Knowing that God can make a way, trust in Him to open doors and lead you on the best path for your life and for His glory. Ask Him for boldness to take the steps He lays out for you.

PRESENCE: In order to have lasting influence, we need God's presence in our lives. Through His power at work within us, God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). As we ask for blessing and influence, we also need to ask for His presence as Jabez did so that we are not operating out of our own strength but through the presence and the hand of our Almighty God.

In humility, acknowledge your need for God's presence. Depend on Him and ask for more of Him in your life today.

PROTECTION: Finally, Jabez asks the Lord to protect him. If we are influencing the world for Jesus, we must understand the enemy will try to stop us. This leads us to pray that God will not only help us if the enemy attacks, but that He will protect us from the enemy attacking us in the first place. Jesus has already won the victory, so we don't need to fear destruction. God promises to be with us and protect us, and because He is with us, we have nothing to fear.

Trust God to protect you. Tell Him specific areas where you feel the need for His protection and ask Him to cover areas that you can't yet see.

Click on this link for more

Prayer Resources

More Resources available on the website

www.edgechurch.co.za

Download the Pray First – Prayer Life Plans App,
Church of the Highlands *(from your play store)*