

Pendleton Street Baptist Church

2022
PRAYER GUIDE

A CALL TO PRAYER

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14



Week 1: Praising God Together

Praising God is where all prayer should begin. Indeed, we are made to praise Him. King David, the psalmist, declared that he would praise the LORD at all times, whether those times were good or bad. Like David, we are to develop a constant attitude of praise. And while this is important individually, it is also our privilege to praise God together.

Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² *My soul makes its boast in the Lord;*

let the humble hear and be glad.

³ *Oh, magnify the Lord with me,*

and let us exalt his name together!

When we spend time praising God, our minds focus on who He really is – who scripture reveals Him to be. And the more we know of him the greater our trust in Him (Psalm 9:10). The more we trust Him the more we will step out in obedience to Him. Our increasing trust and obedience becomes a bold witness and testimony to the grace of God, and our lives glorify Him.

This week we will praise God together, focusing on five attributes of God. Obviously they are not comprehensive, but they are an excellent beginning to cultivate the habit of praise.

Day 1 – The Goodness of God

Psalm 34:8-10

⁸ *Oh, taste and see that **the Lord is good!***

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

⁹ *Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,*

for those who fear him have no lack!

¹⁰ *The young lions suffer want and hunger;*

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

When I was a child, we were taught to pray before meals, and one of the prayers we learned began “God is great, God is good...” I wondered back then why it was necessary to say both – apart from the fact that a word was needed that rhymed with “food.” Since then, I’ve begun to understand that both adjectives (great and good) are distinct from each other and that good is more than just another way to say great. Jesus declared, “No one is good—except God alone (Luke 18:19).” We also know that “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).” To say that God is good means that God always acts in accordance with what is right, true, and good. Goodness is part of God’s nature, who He is. God is the standard of all that is good.

That means so many things – His plans are always good (Gen 50:20), He gives everything that is good (James 1:17), and His goodness is ultimately seen in the Gospel – the good news – of Jesus, and it is His goodness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4)

PRAYER: Father, today we give thanks to You, for You are good and Your steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 107:1). We praise You that You are holy and righteous, and there is no evil in You. You are our safe refuge and our faithful provider. We thank You that, in You, we lack no good thing. We ask that You will remind us of Your goodness as we go throughout this day, and that we will have opportunity to let others know that “God is Good Indeed!”

Day 2 – The Faithfulness of God to keep His Word

2 Samuel 7:21-22, 28

²¹ Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. ²² Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²⁸ And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.

After David became the King of Israel, his heart was moved to build a temple for God, but God told David that his son would be given that task. God made a covenant with David, promising to establish his house and kingdom forever, and in so doing God promised that the Messiah would be one of David's descendants (while also being his Lord). David praises God and reminds us that God always keeps His promises.

PRAYER: Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true. In these days when finding credible sources seems to be impossible it is comforting and encouraging to know that Your Word is true, that You keep all Your promises. What You have promised You are able to perform, and of all of the good words You have spoken, none has failed. Father, teach me to depend upon Your Word and to trust in Your promises.

Day 3 – The Wisdom of God

Proverbs 2:6-8

⁶ *For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*
⁷ *he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,*
⁸ *guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.*

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

It almost seems silly to say that God is wise. Since He is the creator and originator of all things, and rules over all things, it is easy to affirm His wisdom. Too often, though, like young children who think they know better than their parents, we ignore or reject His wisdom and pursue what is right in our own eyes. Today we remember that God is wise. His knowledge is perfect. His understanding is complete. He is the only true source of wisdom.

The great news is that He gives wisdom to us! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10), and God reveals wisdom in His world (Psalm 19:7).

PRAYER: Father, You are the creator, owner, and ruler of all things. You rule with perfect wisdom, *“guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of His [Your] saints.”* Teach us to seek Your wisdom as we go through this day. Help us to trust in You with all our might, not being wise in our own eyes, but depend upon Your strength and provision for our needs. We acknowledge and praise You for Your perfect wisdom.

Day 4 – The Provision of God

Psalm 145:14-18

- ¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.*
- ¹⁵The eyes of all look to You,
and You give them their food in due season.*
- ¹⁶You open Your hand;
You satisfy the desire of every living thing.*
- ¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.*
- ¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.*

Psalm 145 is the last Davidic psalm and the only psalm to be called a praise psalm in the superscription. In today's passage the focus is upon God's provision of grace, strength, food, and Himself. While we are promised struggles and suffering, we are also promised the presence of God who opens His hand to provide for our needs.

PRAYER: Father, when I am falling and bowed down under the circumstances of life, I turn to You. You hold and uphold me, You lift me up. I thank You for the many blessings You have given me, the ways You nurture and protect me. I thank You that You provide a place for us to meet, finances to carry out Your work, and brothers and sisters who walk through life with us. We praise You that You are near to all who call on You in truth.

Day 5 - The Love of God

1 John 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

It is evident that our world is lacking in love. The news is filled with evidence of hatred, harm, and apathy. What joy that this is not true of God and of His people! Listen again to these simple declarations: God is love. Love is from God. God loved us. He sent His Son to pay for our sins. Real love, love that is active, love without conditions, love that never fails.

And we are not only recipients of His love, but we also share His love with others. When we know God, we love. Jesus told His disciples that this would be a distinguishing characteristic of His people, and would be a testimony to the world (John 13:35). Today we praise God for the perfect love He pours out on us.

Father, there are times when we struggle with understanding the things that take place in our lives, and in the world around us. Too often we question Your love for us. Today, Lord, we acknowledge that Your Love abounds to us, declared on the Cross and indwelling us in Your Spirit. As You teach us to love one another today, keep drawing our attention to the love You have for us. Help us to forgive, to be gracious, to honor others above ourselves, and to love You by showing Your love to others. Thank You for loving me!