

PAULANN CHURCH

BELIEVING

FOR

MORE

INITIATIVE



Prayer Guide

We have created this prayer guide to help unify our church in prayer as we prepare to tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord. The daily readings are ESV (English Standard Version) and divided into four parts:

READ the selected Bible verse(s) several times. All Bible verses are printed in this booklet.

REFLECT on the truths that relate to each day's Bible verse. Take time to meditate on the meaning and implications of these truths for yourself, your family, and our church.

PRAY the prayer provided each day. Then, using this as a guide, continue to pray what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart and mind.

RESPOND to the self-reflection questions in the lines provided. Use these lines to write out specific ways you will respond to the truths. Each day seek to both apply the truth in specific ways throughout that day and talk with someone else about what the Lord is doing in your life. Let us humbly join together in earnest supplication and expectation believing that God is able and willing to do far more through us than we could ever imagine!

Week 1 Prepare our Hearts

*Lord, prepare
our hearts for
what You are
going to do.*

“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21

The focus of our prayer for week one is to prepare our hearts for all that God wants to do in us and through us. We want to be vessels useful to God, prepared for every good work. Keep this prayer in your mind throughout the week, “Lord, do whatever You need to do in us so that You can do whatever You want to do through us.”

READ *Psalm 24:3-5*

“Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

REFLECT The basis of our relationship with God is His grace demonstrated through Jesus Christ. However, our intimacy with God and His blessing toward us is directly related to the purity of our hearts.

PRAY Father, by Your grace reveal to me the state of my heart. Expose areas of impurity. Give me the grace of genuine repentance. Forgive me of worldliness. Create in me a clean heart that I may know You more and be used by You according to Your will...

RESPOND As you are praying and meditating, what areas of impurity is God bringing to your mind? What changes in life is He prompting you to make? Talk with someone else about them. Make these changes by His grace.

notes:

READ *Matthew 5:6*

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

REFLECT Genuine satisfaction in life is not dependent upon circumstance, possession, or worldly position. It depends upon a heart that yearns for God and His purposes because God is the only one who cannot fail.

PRAY Father, guard my heart from desiring this world and the things of this world more than I desire You. Give me a heart that hungers and thirsts for You and Your purposes. Reveal areas in my heart that are more passionate about my own purposes than Yours...

RESPOND A good way to know what is most important to us in life is to look at how we spend our time and money. Considering these things, what do you hunger for the most each day? What needs to change?

notes:

READ *James 4:6*

“But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

REFLECT It is not that God merely removes His hand of favor from the proud, He directly opposes the proud. God’s ultimate goal is to magnify His own name. Therefore, the one who seeks His own glory stands against everything God is doing in this world. Humility is a prerequisite to being used by God.

PRAY Father, I must decrease; You must increase. Guard me from the pride of selfish ambition, prayerlessness, and an attitude of self-sufficiency. I am completely dependent upon You. Demonstrate Your power through my weakness...

RESPOND Whose name are you more concerned with—your own or God’s? Are you aware of your utter dependence upon Him for everything? Are you living your life your own way, or do you truly believe His way is better? Be humble today and allow Christ to shine through.

notes:

READ *2 Chronicles 16:9*

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

REFLECT God is looking for people whose hearts are wholly devoted unto Him— these are the people to whom God gives strong support. God does not need the powerful; He has plenty of power. God wants the surrendered, so that His power may be demonstrated.

PRAY Father, reveal areas of my life that I have not given completely over to You. Give me the grace to surrender all. Help me to completely die to myself...

RESPOND What aspects of your life lack total surrender unto God? Are you completely devoted to Him? What do you need to surrender now?

notes:

READ *Mark 9:24*

“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’”

REFLECT A Christian is by definition one who believes in Jesus Christ. However, we must admit that unbelief reigns in our hearts far too often. This is a serious situation because the degree to which God chooses to use us is often dependent upon our level of belief. Without faith it is impossible to please Him.

PRAY Father, help my unbelief. I do not want my unbelief to be a hindrance to what You want to do through me; expose and destroy any unbelief that exists in my heart...

RESPOND In what specific areas of life do you struggle with unbelief? Are you making decisions in life that flow out of a strong confidence in God? What unbelief can you defeat with God’s promises today?

notes:

Week 2 Believe for More

Lord, help us to believe

that You have more

things in store for us.

"But My righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him." Hebrews 10:38

The focus of our prayer for week two is the belief that God has greater things in store for PaulAnn. There are more people to be saved in this community, more people to be sent overseas, more lives to be transformed. If the Lord is going to use us to accomplish these greater things, we must believe He is able and willing. The righteous shall live by faith.

READ *Psalm 67*

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!"

REFLECT "Blessing" can be defined as words or actions that empower others to be all God wants them to be. God's plan has always been to bless His people so that they may be a blessing to the world. We are dependent upon God's blessing in order to be a blessing to this community, and therefore believe that God is able and willing to give us greater blessing.

PRAY Father, be gracious to us and bless us and make Your face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known in San Angelo, Your saving power among all nations. Help us to believe You are able and willing to provide greater blessing for us so that we can be a blessing to this community...

RESPOND Considering the definition of blessing given above, how has God blessed you? How are you currently using those blessings to bless others? Take time to bless someone today!

notes:

READ *John 15:7-8*

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

REFLECT Those who abide in Christ will be passionate about the things He is passionate about and therefore pray according to His will. God will answer these prayers. Since God is passionate about glorifying His name, we have to believe He desires to glorify His name in this community. San Angelo is a lost community and therefore we must believe that there is greater ministry to be done here—ministry that will result in glorifying God’s name.

PRAY Father, help me to abide in Christ and desire the things You desire. Help me to be more passionate about Your name in San Angelo. Give our church and me more opportunities to do ministry here that will bring You glory. Help me to believe that greater ministry is possible and available to those who abide in Christ...

RESPOND Do you recognize that God desires to magnify His name in this community and to do so through the local church? Do you believe that there is greater ministry to be done here? Are you abiding in Christ and desiring the things He desires? Abide in Christ, pray for more ministry opportunities, and believe that God answers your prayers. Take time to bless someone today!

notes:

Week 2
April 11

Help us to **believe** there is more growth for us.

READ *Romans 8:29*

"For those whom He foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers."

REFLECT Every Christian has been predestined to be completely conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Christ-likeness is our destiny according to the sovereign plan of God. If you lack maturity, faith, love, or any other spiritual quality, your growth in these areas is guaranteed if you know Jesus Christ.

PRAY Father, I am very aware of my own weaknesses and inadequacies, but I believe You are able to work through my deficiencies. I believe You have saved me from the power of sin. By Your grace, help me to grow in Christ-likeness in every aspect of my life today and every day...

RESPOND What are some specific areas in your life where you especially need spiritual growth? What changes do you need to make in your life to grow in these areas? Do you believe God is able to provide the growth you need in these areas? Begin making those changes today.

notes:

Week 2
April 12

Help us to **believe** there is more provision for us.

READ *Philippians 4:19*

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

REFLECT God will provide everything we need to do all He has called us to do. Whatever need we have—spiritual or material—to reach this community, God will provide. The promise of God’s provision applies to the church corporately and every Christian individually.

PRAY Father, help me to believe that wherever there is greater need for me or for my church, that there is also greater provision from You. Help us to know what You have called us to do, to discern what we need to do, and to believe You will provide for that need...

RESPOND Do you genuinely trust in God’s provision? Are you living obediently to all God has commanded you, trusting He will provide for your every need? Trust Him today.

notes:

Week 2

April 13

Help us to **believe** there is more impact to be made through us.

READ *Acts 1:8*

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

REFLECT Jesus said with absolute certainty that His followers would be His witnesses to the end of the earth. What gave Jesus this confidence? Not the ability of the disciples but the power of the Holy Spirit. The degree to which a church is able to impact a community is directly related to the amount of power that church possesses. A church full of people who are filled with the Spirit of Christ has enough power necessary to change the world, let alone a community. We believe we can make a greater impact in this community because we believe the Spirit of Christ is able; this is the Spirit who abides in us!

PRAY Father, help me to recognize the power available to those who are in Christ. Help me to trust not in my own abilities or resources but to utilize the power of the Holy Spirit who has been given to me. Help me to believe that PaulAnn can make a greater impact in this community by the power of the Spirit of Christ...

RESPOND Do you believe the Holy Spirit provides our church sufficient power to transform this community? Do you believe there is greater impact to be made in San Angelo through us? Are you drawing upon the power of the Holy Spirit, walking in the Spirit, and being careful not to quench the Spirit? Believe there is more to be done here and trust that by the power of the Spirit we can make a greater impact.

notes:

Week 3 Resolve to Act

*Lord, give us the resolve
to be faithful with this
opportunity.*

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

The focus of our prayer for this third week is for resolve. We have prayed for prepared hearts and for steadfast faith. However, there always comes a time in which God’s people must resolve to obey the Lord. Each day this week, we will resolve to be faithful with the opportunity that lies before us.

Week 3

April 16 Give us the **resolve** to participate.

READ *Matthew 16:18*

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

REFLECT Jesus will build His church and nothing will stop Him. He has a plan and will bring that plan to pass. The question is not—will He do it? The question is—will you resolve to participate in what He is doing?

PRAY Father, I want to be a part of the work You are doing through PaulAnn. I do not want to just hear about others being used by You; I want to be used by You. Show me my role and give me the resolve to participate in what You are doing here...

RESPOND Do you know your role and are you determined to participate? Today, respond with a genuine resolve to participate in the Believing For More Initiative. Write down specific ways you are resolved to participate and commit these actions to the Lord.

notes:

READ *Matthew 25:14-30*

Read in your Bible.

REFLECT Everything God has entrusted to us must be stewarded faithfully. This includes our time, energy, gifts, and financial resources. The principle here applies to every area. All we have, including our money, is a gift from God and must be stewarded faithfully. Our money, time, and talents are not ours to do with whatever we desire; all of it belongs to God and we must use 100% of it according to His will. We will give an account for how we manage all that He has entrusted to us.

PRAY Father, guard my heart from an unwillingness to use my talents for You. Guard me from the love of money. Guard me from unwillingness to give my time. Prevent material possessions from becoming an idol in my life. Give me wisdom to steward everything faithfully...

RESPOND The Believing For More Initiative is more than a fundraising campaign. It demands that each of us steward all we have faithfully. Are you stewarding your time, talents, and money faithfully? Do you have a spending plan? Are you disciplined in your spending? Are you avoiding unnecessary debt? Do you think carefully about how to manage all of your earthly wealth for kingdom purposes? What changes do you need to make in order to be a more faithful steward of God's resources? Today, resolve to be a faithful steward of all God has given you.

notes:

READ *2 Corinthians 8:3 & 9*

“For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord... For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.”

REFLECT Giving that honors God is sacrificial giving. For some, giving 10% is a sacrifice; for many, giving only 10% is not. God does not need our money but He wants our heart. Giving an amount of money that is not a genuine sacrifice for your family does not guard your heart from loving money more than God. As Christians, we are compelled to follow the example of Jesus who sacrificed everything for our sake to the glory of the Father. Christian giving is sacrificial giving.

PRAY Father, help me to be a sacrificial giver. Help me to live for the eternal and not the temporal; help me to be more devoted to You than to wealth. Show me what sacrificial giving looks like for me. Show me how You want me to contribute in the Believing For More Initiative...

RESPOND What does sacrificial giving mean for you? Have you been giving sacrificially? What is the state of your heart based upon your habit of giving? How does God want you to give to this campaign? Today, resolve to give sacrificially.

notes:

READ *2 Corinthians 9:7*

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

REFLECT God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is worship. Joyless singing is not genuine worship nor is joyless giving. Remember, God wants your heart more than anything else. Christians give not primarily out of duty, or because they feel guilty or pressured; they give out of a love for Jesus Christ recognizing they owe everything to Him. If your greatest ambition is for Christ and His kingdom, then giving toward that end ought to bring you great joy.

PRAY Father, make my heart joyful when giving to Your work. Help my joy to be found in Christ rather than earthly possessions. Help me to give with the right heart...

RESPOND Why do you give? When you give, is your heart full of joy or reluctance? What does this say about your heart? Today, resolve to give cheerfully.

notes:

READ *2 Corinthians 9:6*

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

REFLECT The amount that we give to the work of God will determine the return we receive from that gift. This does not mean you are guaranteed \$2 back from every \$1 you give; God’s “return” may come in different forms. However, this is an absolute promise that those who give bountifully to the work of the Lord will not be disappointed. We must give with the expectation that God rewards a faithful giver. Giving to the work of the Lord is the only sure investment.

PRAY Father, help me to trust this promise. Give me the faith when I give to trust that You will reward me and provide for my needs...

RESPOND Do you give with the confidence that God will bless you? Do you expect God to provide for your needs, to reward your giving, and to use your giving in mighty ways for His work? Today, resolve to give with great expectation.

notes:

Week 4 See God Work

Lord, help us to see with Your eyes.

Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." 2 Kings 6:17

The focus of our prayer for this final week is that we may see the world through the eyes of Christ. Elisha's servant did not initially see the reality of the situation because he was not looking with spiritual eyes. The enemy wants us to see a version of the world that is only a mirage, for this leads to apathy and fear. We must look at the world with the eyes of our Lord.

READ *Matthew 9:36-37*

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...’”

REFLECT Jesus saw the world in light of the reality of depravity.

He saw the lostness of people, the destiny of the unredeemed, and understood the human situation. This reality stirred His emotions and propelled His labor.

PRAY Father, help me to be more aware of the plight of man.

Help me to see the people of San Angelo in light of the reality of depravity. Help me to see the multitude of lost individuals around our church who each day wander ever closer to eternal destruction. Guard my eyes from distraction, and help me to see the great need for the Gospel that surrounds us...

RESPOND How often do you consider the great spiritual need of

the vast multitude that surrounds us here in the Concho Valley? Do you see people in light of the reality of human depravity and the consequences sin brings?

notes:

READ *Luke 15:4-7*

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

REFLECT God passionately pursues sinners. God’s love for the world fuels a continual search and rescue mission. He rejoices over every sinner who repents because of His great compassion for men, women, and children who are a mere breath away from eternal ruin.

PRAY Father, create in me a heart that is as compassionate about lost people and as passionate about pursuing them as You are. Help me to be as emotionally stirred by the lost sheep of this community as You are. Help me to set my eyes on the eternal rather than the temporal...

RESPOND Do you have genuine, daily compassion for the lost people of this community? Does a community of sheep on the path of destruction burden your heart and stir your emotions? Are you passionately pursuing sinners? How will you do this today?

notes:

READ *Ephesians 3:8-10*

"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

REFLECT The eternal plan of God is to make His purposes known and to bring His name glory, not just through redeemed individuals, but through the church. God could have accomplished His plan in an infinite number of ways, but has chosen to accomplish His plan through the church.

PRAY Father, help me to see the centrality of the church to Your plan. Help me to give the church her proper priority in my life. Help me to love the church as You do...

RESPOND Do you recognize how central the church is to the plan of God? How central is your local church in your life? How active are you in your church to fulfill the mission of God? How can you make it more of a priority?

notes:

Week 4
April 26

Help us to **see** our role.

READ *Ephesians 4:15-16*

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

REFLECT Every individual part of the body plays a unique role.

It is only when every individual within the body of Christ fulfills their role that the body functions properly and fulfills her mission. If you are a member of PaulAnn, you play an essential role in the mission God has given us.

PRAY Father, help me to discern what role I play in the mission of PaulAnn. Based upon the gifts You have provided me, the opportunities You have entrusted unto me, and the experiences You have given me, show me specifically how You want to use me within this body.

RESPOND What role do you play within the body of PaulAnn? How has God gifted you? What opportunities and resources has He entrusted unto you? Are you faithfully stewarding all God has given you? How will you begin to fulfill your role?

notes:

READ *Ephesians 3:20-21*

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

REFLECT God has the power and ability to do far more abundantly than we can even imagine, and it is this power that abides in all who are in Christ. Not only does God have the ability to do more in this community than we can even conceive of, but He wants to do it through us.

PRAY Father, help me to see the potential that abides within a congregation armed with Your Spirit and Word. Do far more abundantly in this community than we can even ask or think, and do it through us. Do such a mighty work in our midst that it is undeniable whose power was at work so that You may receive all the glory.

RESPOND Are you aware of the potential that exists within a church filled with the Spirit of God? Do you believe God is able? Do you believe that He wants to do the unimaginable through you? Are you drawing upon the power that abides within you? Draw from it today in the areas you need it!

notes:

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