

PRAYER AND FASTING

Prayer Guide

As we are praying and fasting, remember these five things:

FIRST God has given us a pattern for prayer
(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4):

- Relationship: Our Father in Heaven
- Worship: Hallowed be Your Name
- Lordship: Your Kingdom come, Your will be done
- Sonship: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts
- Fellowship: As we forgive our debtors
- Leadership: And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil
- Ownership: For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever

SECOND we fast so that we might feast on God and His word. When you are fasting, consume more of God's word than you normally do. Don't just use that time to pray, use it to hear from God's word. This is what will sustain you.

THIRD as you are reading, pray the Scriptures. Allow the Word of God to guide your prayers. Stop while you are reading and pray the Word of God.

FOURTH listen to what the Spirit of God is saying. Fasting clears our senses so that we might hear more clearly from God.

FIFTH pray with anticipation, expectation, and persistence. Great movements of God have always been preceded by great times of prayer (Acts 1-2). We have a big God who wants His people to pray big prayers. Pray with confidence. Ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7-12).

Tap here to listen to three of Josh Smith's sermons on the Lord's Prayer:



Areas of Prayer: For the Church

Life of Worship

- For God to manifest His presence among us (Isaiah 64)
- God would bless the preaching of His word (Ezra 7)
- God would give us a heart of praise (Psalm 138)
- That God's blessing would be on us and our work (Psalm 67)
- God would receive the glory from everything we do (Psalm 115:1)
- That our lives would be a sacrifice of worship (Romans 12)
- God would give us clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24)
- Our Sunday services would be marked by joy and gladness (Ps 122:1; 149)
- The Holy Spirit would fill us with His fullness (Eph 3:19)
- God would bless The River on Wednesday evenings and that we would see specific answers to prayer (Ps 61:1)
- For God to provide the resources we need through the sacrificial giving of our people (2 Cor. 9:10-11)

Life in Community

- God would unite us to each other (John 17)
- That we would love one another deeply (John 13:34)
- That we would be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)
- That we would serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- We would extend grace, compassion, and kindness toward one another (Eph 4:32)
- Each member would be actively engaged in the life and ministry of the church (Hebrews 10:25)
- Pray for those who have wandered away from church and the faith (Matthew 18:15-20)
- We would bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Community Groups would develop authentic community (Acts 2:42-47)

Life on Mission

- God would manifest His kingdom through seeing people saved (Luke 4:18)
- God would give us His power and authority (Luke 9:1)
- God would give us a heart for the lost (Matthew 9:36)
- God would add to our number daily those who are being saved (Acts 2:47)
- God would give us open doors to share the Gospel (Colossians 4:1-4)
- Pray that we would see people saved through our Beautiful Feet Ministry
- Pray that every member would be making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Pray for the children in our church to come to know Christ (Luke 18:16)

Pray for Protection:

- God's protection over our families, our church, and our nation (John 17:15)
- God would protect us from sin (Psalm 19:13)
- God would protect us from the enemy (Eph. 6:10-20; James 4:7)
- God would protect us from disunity (John 17; Acts 6)

Pray for Revelation:

- A spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17)
- Open our eyes to see the truth of His word (Psalm 119:18)
- God would reveal to us His plans and strategies for our church (Ps 25:4)
- For the Lord to reveal His power and glory to us (Ps 77:14)
- God would reveal himself to the lost (Ez 38:23)

Pray for Direction:

- Clear direction on what God is calling us to do (Prov 3:5-6)
- Lead us in the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3)
- Wisdom and direction for every area of ministry (James 1:5)
- The Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth (John 16:13)

Areas of Prayer: For the Lead Pastor Search Process

GOD'S MAN

(our next pastor)

- God would increase his passion for preaching the Word (1 Cor. 9:16, Rom. 1:14-15)
- God would give him a love for MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church (Acts 20:28, Gal. 6:10)
- God would give him clarity that MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church is God's direction for him and, if that is the case, strength to leave his current position (Phil. 1:9-11)
- For his family and the strength and perfect guidance to leave their current church (Phil. 4:7)

GOD'S TIME

(our search committee)

- For patience in waiting for God's timing (Ps. 37:7, Rom. 8:25)
- Each member will be a clean vessel for His use (Psalm 139:23-24, Ps. 19:14)
- For growth in discernment and wisdom in making decisions (James 1:5-6, Prov. 2:6)
- Hear God's voice with clarity (John 10:14)
- For humility (Phil. 2:3-4, Mark 9:33-35)
- For trust, community and fellowship amongst the committee members (Ps. 133:1)
- Have the mind of Christ and not their own agenda (Phil. 2:5, Isa. 55:9)
- For Word-centered wisdom (Rom. 12:1-2)
- For perseverance in all their tasks and that they would spur each other on (Heb. 10:19-25)
- Be at peace and teach, admonish, and love one another (Col. 3:15-17)
- For unity and agreement (1 Cor. 1:10, Col. 3:14, Rom. 16:17)
- Represent Christ and MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church accurately and attractively (Matt. 5:16)
- Use their gifts well (Rom. 12:1-9)

GOD'S CHURCH

(MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church)

- For patience in waiting for God's timing (Ps. 37:7, Rom. 8:25)
- For continued trust in the leadership of the church and committee (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17)
- Our people continue to place a high priority on text-driven preaching as opposed to personality or "style" (2 Tim. 4:2, Acts 13:5)
- For our people to want "a new wine in a new wineskin" and not want a new pastor just like the old one or a new pastor opposite of our old one (Mark 2:22)
- For unity, confirmation and affirmation within our people for the new pastor (Eph. 4:11-16, 1 Cor. 1:10)
- Our church will remember who they are (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- Our church will be devoted to one another and to prayer (Acts 2:42-47)
- Our church will continue to love and serve one another (1 Cor. 13:4-7)