



## Pathways Weekly Reading & Prayer Guide

### Week 11: Praying with Others

### April 23-29 • Pastor Zac McGowen

#### Introduction:

Quite often we think of praying as a personal task, and while the act of praying is up to the heart and mind of an individual, the witness of Scripture points to the power of praying individuals coming together to become a “praying people.” This week we will explore the way this premise has worked out in three Old Testament eras: The Exodus, The Conquest, and The Exile and then connect that to prayers of the early Church.

#### Day 1: The Exodus

- **Explore:** Exodus 33:1-11
- **Meditate:** What do the Lord's words to the people indicate about their preparation to worship and pray? What was their posture before God? How did Moses' example inspire them?
- **Pray:** What sins do we need to confess as North American Christians? How do we individually contribute to those sins? In prayer, formulate a confession for those sins and pray for God to empower you to be part of the repentance process.

#### Day 2: The Exodus and Intercession

- **Explore:** Exodus 33:12-23
- **Meditate:** What is Moses praying for? How does God's presence matter to the success of the people?
- **Pray:** In what ways have you seen God's unique presence at FPC? In what ways could we use more of God's creative and redemptive power? Use answers to those questions to formulate prayers of praise and supplication (request), thanking Him for how He has been among us and asking for Him to show up in the areas you sense a gap.

#### Day 3: The Conquest

- **Explore:** Joshua 4
- **Meditate:** In what way does the situation with the memorial pillars reflect a collective heart of prayer? What part does remembrance play in the collective prayers of God's people?
- **Pray:** Think of the history of your faith life and the communities that were part of your development. What were the “memorial stones” of those periods in your life? Pray to God with thanksgiving for those particular moments and the people who have walked with you on this journey.

#### **Day 4: The Conquest and Shouts of Victory**

- **Explore:** Joshua 6:1-21
- **Meditate:** What do you imagine would have been the collective feeling of the people as they faced Jericho? In what way were God's instructions a call to prayer and praise?
- **Pray:** The current people of God (the Church) faces Jericho like walls. What are they? Pray for God to empower the Church (both locally and globally) to face them with confidence in his strength. Pray for Church to be bold in its witness to the world.

#### **Day 5: Return from Exile**

- **Explore:** Nehemiah 9
- **Meditate:** What are the prominent features of this prayer?
- **Pray:** Just as in day 1, consider the ways the Church has failed to be the proper witness we were called to be. Pray not only a continued confession on behalf of the Church, but pray for deliverance from the captivity we experience as a result.

#### **Day 6: Return from Exile and Protection**

- **Explore:** Ezra 8:21-23
- **Meditate:** Why would Ezra be ashamed to ask from the king? What do you notice about the brief prayer?
- **Pray:** Where do you feel the Church needs protection today? What about FPC specifically? Pray for God's protection and guidance as we seek to do His will as His people.

#### **Day 7: The Church on Mission**

- **Explore:** Acts 13:1-3
- **Meditate:** What are the most prominent features of this scene? How does this scene relate to those from the Old Testament narrative?
- **Pray:** What is the mission of the global Church? What is the mission of FPC Lakeland specifically? Pray for God's Holy Spirit to empower the leaders, teachers, prophets and all those associated with the Church to fulfill that mission in the world.

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### **Wisdom from Others**

#### **Book Suggested Readings**

Too Busy Not To Pray (Hybels) - Chapter 7

A Praying Life (Miller) - Chapters 28-29

Prayer (Yancey) - Chapter 21