



Pathways Weekly Reading & Prayer Guide

Week 13: Prayer Habits for Life

May 7-13 • Pastor Kenny Ellis

Pathways Prayer Gathering

We could not think of a better way to culminate our 90-day Pathways Journey than to unite in PRAYER. Come join us for an all-church time of prayer and reflection on Wednesday, May 10 in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m.

Where Have We Been?

As we enter our final week of the Pathways Prayer Journey, I wanted us to look back and see where God has taken us.

Week 1

The privilege of a relationship with God through prayer is a gift of grace given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Week 2

Although prayer is an act of faith, it requires practical planning as we think about when, where and how we will pray.

Week 3

The key to a life of prayer is acknowledging our dependence on God and learning to come to Him like a child.

Week 4

One of the most satisfying and God-glorifying pathways of prayer is to express our astonishment as we see God for who He is in creation and His Word.

Week 5

The promise of forgiveness and transforming grace enables us to come to God without excuse to confess our sin and receive all that we need to move forward.

Week 6

In the context of a relationship with God sustained by prayer, we can receive wisdom and guidance for everyday life.

Weeks 7-9

Jesus taught about and modeled a life of prayer that is possible for all those who follow Him.

Weeks 10-11

The early church modeled a commitment to unified prayer and demonstrated that God moves in a unique way when Christians pray together.

Week 12

One of the most powerful expressions of love for another person is to ask your Heavenly Father to meet their needs and work in their life.

The First Week of the Rest of Your Life

You may have heard it said that "today is the first day of the rest of your life." Usually, someone says that to emphasize the fact that if you want the rest of your life to be different in some way, you must start making necessary changes today...and every day from here on out. It is rarely the momentous occasions that define our lives. Rather, it is the repetitive, daily, smaller decisions we make that shape us and enable us to be the people God created us to be.

So, yes, this is the final week of the 90-day Pathways Journey, but it is the first week of the rest of your life! Will prayer remain a priority for the rest of your life? Will the FPC family deepen our shared life of prayer as a church going forward?

What's Your Plan?

Let me offer a few suggestions for how we can keep prayer at the center of our life together as a church family.

1. Take a few minutes and **reflect on your journey** over the past 90 days. What are the important discoveries and insights God led you to? What have been the most meaningful prayer experiences? Where have you seen God respond to your prayers?
2. Come up with a weekly **plan for prayer** that factors in your unique personality, relationships and schedule. Obviously, you can and should pray throughout every day. But there should also be times that you set aside for more deliberate, unhurried prayer where you incorporate some of the pathways of prayer we have discovered together. I have never met someone who accidentally achieved a deep and satisfying life of prayer. Instead, people whose prayer life has caught my attention have a balance of discipline and spontaneity and so should we. What's your plan?
3. **Show up and pray.** We will continue to plan church-wide opportunities to gather for prayer. Sometimes, the richness of our personal prayer life compels us to join with others and pray. Other times, we bring our busy, prayer-less hearts to a prayer meeting and find that God uses it to draw us close again and reignite our personal prayer life. Either way, it is only beneficial if you show up. Commit now to make the prayer life of our church a priority.

"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end.
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." -Winston Churchill

Wisdom from Others

Book Suggested Readings

Too Busy Not To Pray (Hybels) - Chapter 10

A Praying Life (Miller) - Chapter 31-32

Prayer (Yancey) - Chapter 22