



While we are focusing on our “Rival Gods” series this month, we are kicking off the year the way we have the past few years by seeking to Remember and Refocus as we begin the new year. Please take time to pray for these things this next month along with us.

Date	Verse	For Whom	Prayer	Interaction Piece
1	2 Cor. 4:1-3	Pastor	"Father, today we pray for our Pastors, those who present the Gospel week in and week out in our church. We pray that they would be encouraged to speak what you have spoken to them and that your people might hear your words. Bless them, give them confidence in you, endurance in the journey, and a growing passion for you in their lives. In your Son's name, Amen." (A prayer for our Pastors)	Who is a Pastor, a Christian Leader, an Elder, a Mentor who has encouraged you in your walk with Jesus?
2	1 Tim. 3:1-2	Elders	"Lord Jesus, the task of leading your church is a high calling. Elders are held to a higher standard, under greater scrutiny, subject to harsher judgment. These men and women you've appointed over our church need our prayers daily. Lord, we lift up our elders to you. Help us to respect and honor them as they direct the affairs of our church. Bless their families, their ministries, their lives. May they lead well as you direct their thoughts and actions. Amen." (A prayer for our Elders)	Who is a leader who makes it easy for you to submit to because they clearly focus their heart, mind and actions on Jesus?

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3	1 Tim 3:8-9	Deacons	"Lord God, be with our deacons, the hands and feet of our church. Help them in their walk with you that they might keep their focus on you to be nourished, fulfilled, encouraged as they seek to extend your love, your provision for those in need. Give them wisdom as they council those who are struggling in our church and in our community. Thank you, Father, for their faithful obedience. In your Son's name, Amen." (A prayer for our Deacons)	Who is someone who has come to be the hands of Christ in a time of need?
4	Eph. 4:1	Congregation	Lord, your Apostle Paul had such a love for the local church! He often prayed for it and sought to challenge and encourage it to faithfulness and resolve in the face of whatever persecution they might face. With this example, we seek to pray for our own congregation of Jesus followers at our church. Encourage us to stay the course, to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Encourage us, bless us, help us to be reminded of you and your faithfulness as we seek to minister to a hurting world. Amen." (A prayer for our Congregation)	Think of someone you sit around at church. Take a risk and introduce yourself to them this week!
5	Matt. 18:3-4	Children	Lord Jesus, children model for us how we are to live as your faithful people in the Kingdom of Heaven. Thank you for the blessing of every child at our church, and appreciate the significant role they play in our body. We pray that they might remain humble examples of what we need to become. Let them fall so deeply in love with you that they never know a moment, not in a relationship with you. Teach them to follow you, to be faithful, to proclaim your good works to the world. In your name, Amen." (A prayer for our Children)	Say hi to one of the kids in the hallway at church this week.
6	2 Tim. 2:22	Youth	Lord, the teenage years are such a difficult time. The pressures are many, and the temptations great. For those navigating these difficult times, the pathway is often unclear, and the repercussions for wrong decisions and actions can be life-altering. With this in mind, we pray for our youth. Help them to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, seeking to honor you in their lives. May our church family surround them and lift them up in prayer, encouragement, and support, however, they may need it during this challenging time of life. We pray this in your name, Amen." (A prayer for Youth)	Look for a youth or young adult who is part of our church family and thank them for being at church!

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7	Prov. 16:31	Seniors	"Lord God, we thank you for the wisdom and knowledge that you have blessed our seniors within our community. We thank you for the years of faithful service and the dedication they give still as they strive to continue ministry right up until you call them home. Their legacy in you is being carried forward through the children, youth, and young families at our church. As time takes its toll and our earthly bodies begin to bear the signs of a life lived for Jesus, I pray that we would be encouraged, supported, and loved well by our church family. Thank you for those older generations at our church who have been and continue to be a vital part of our church body. We pray for them in your name, Amen." (A prayer for our Seniors)	There are many faithful seniors in our church family—seek to meet a new one this week!
8	1 Thes. 1:5	The Lost	"Lord Jesus, we pray for those who don't know you in our communities, in our families, even in our congregation. We pray that we might live lives that proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. Help your Spirit move in us to share how you have worked in our lives and how you transform us into being people in your likeness. May we be bold, kind, and loving as we seek to spread the good news of your Kingdom in our world. Amen." (A prayer for those who don't know Jesus)	Think about who you work around or who you see frequently who doesn't know Jesus. Pray specifically for them.
9	2 Chron. 20:21-22	Worship Leaders	"Lord, in the spiritual battle we find ourselves in, those who lead us in worship are our company commanders, guiding us into battle against the sin within us and the injustice we face daily in our world. Thank you for those who center our minds and hearts on you. Help encourage them as they lead us into lives of worship, not just during our weekly service, but in every moment of every day. Help them to model well a life lived for you that we might follow them into battle. Amen." (A prayer for our Worship Leaders)	Thank one of the worship leaders for their service and consider telling them how they lead you in worship.
10	Proverbs 31:30	Women's Ministry	"Lord, our church is blessed by women who dedicate their whole lives to you. Thank you that we do not have to look far to find women who model well what it means to be a Proverbs 31 woman. There are women, young and old, who are leading significant ministries in our church, and we thank you for their dedication, their gifting, and their passion for you. May we follow their example and support them in their ministries. Bless our sisters, our mothers, our daughters, oh Lord. Amen." (A prayer for our women)	Who has been a woman who has mentored/blessed you? Thank them!

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11	1 Tim. 6:11	Men's Ministry	"Lord Jesus, you call your men to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. When we think of what it means to "be a man" in our culture, these aren't often the attributes we think of, but they are what you call your men to exhibit. We pray for the men of our church that they might not get caught up in the expectations of the world but that they might pursue you with all that they are. Bless our brothers, our fathers, our sons. Help enable them to be bold leaders in your Kingdom who seek to submit themselves to you and give themselves for others in love. In your name, Amen." (A prayer for our Men)	Who has been a man who has mentored/blessed you? Thank them!
12	1 Tim. 4:12	Youth Workers	"Lord, our church is blessed with so many youth workers who work in youth ministry. They are dedicated people passionate about teens growing in their relationship with Jesus. Lord, we pray for their efforts, for their stamina, for wisdom, and for their personal walks with you. We lift them up to you and ask you to bless them and grant them the ability to do that you've called them. In your Son's name, Amen." (A prayer for Youth Workers)	Seek out a Youth leader and pray for them as they minister to the youth of our church family.
13	1 Cor. 16:15	Behind-the-Scenes workers	"Holy Spirit, there are so many people in our church that work behind the scenes doing ministries that often no one even knows about. Thank you for those called to do the ministries that bless so many, but that often gets overlooked. Bless our brothers and sisters who serve in this capacity and help them to know in their hearts that their service is as valuable to the body of Christ as any other service. Thank you that we all are given different gifts and that all of these gifts are for the entire body to flourish and bring glory to you. Amen."	Keep your eyes peeled for those who are behind the scenes helping in all the different ways needed at our church and make sure they know that you appreciate them and see them and the work they do for our church family.
14	Mk 10:14	Children's Ministry workers	"Jesus, you say that the Kingdom of God belongs to the little children. You tell your disciples to allow them to come to you. To work in children's ministry is a difficult and yet rewarding task and we thank you for those you've gifted to serve in this capacity. From those holding babies in the nursery to those praying with the 3-5 year olds, we thank you for them all. May you bless our brothers and sisters who till the soil in the hearts of those who will bring about the next generation of the church. Amen." (A prayer for our Children's Ministry Workers)	Find a children's ministry person and thank them for pastoring our children well!

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15	Mk 11:17	Prayer Ministry	"Lord, in prayer, we get to be in communion with you individually and corporately as we gather to pray. Today, we pray for our various prayer ministries at our church; the prayer chain, prayer night, prayer ministry on Sunday mornings, Outreach prayer team, and all the other various prayer ministries at our church. Charles Spurgeon used to say that the prayer ministry that occurred every Sunday in the church's basement was the engine room of the whole church. This is still the case. Our church's prayer ministry and the individual prayers of our church family drive our church, and it's impact for the Kingdom. Thank you, Father, for this blessed ministry, and bless those who participate in it. Amen." (A prayer for our Prayer Ministry)	Visit Prayer Night or come up after service on Sunday and pray with the Prayer team this week.
16	Rev. 3:14-18	Spiritual-Level	"Lord, we pray today for the spiritual growth of our congregation. It is very easy to slip into complacency and to be stagnant in our faith. Challenge us, O Lord, that we may press in on you. Devote our hearts to your Word and your minds to meditating on your teaching. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and transform us into your likeness. Amen." (A prayer for our Spiritual Growth)	Reflect on the last year and journal about how God has been growing you Spiritually this year.
17	Eph. 4:30	Spirit-Led	"Father God, as we seek to know your will for our church, for our families, for our ministries in 2021, we pray that your Spirit might lead us in the direction you desire us to go. Help us be obedient, faithful, and devoted to the direction you would lead us. We ask all of this in your name, Amen." (A prayer for the Spirit's Leadership)	Ask the Lord where He might be leading you in this next year. Choose to be obedient to whatever He calls you to do.
18	1 Cor. 14:1	Spiritual Gifts	"Lord, may we pursue you passionately, seeking the filling of your Spirit that we might experience the gifts of joy, peace, and love. We desire to focus our hearts and minds on you that we might be transformed increasingly into your likeness. Thank you for the Spiritual gifts you've blessed our church family with; help us use them for the good of our church body. Amen." (A prayer for Spiritual Gifts)	Consider what gifts God has given you. Consider the gifts He's given others in your community. Let someone know that you see their giftedness being used by God in our church family.
19	1 Peter 1:22	Love/Unity	"King Jesus, thank you for your immeasurable love. Help us to reflect that love to one another from pure hearts. Through love, you give us the unity of Spirit and action in the church. May we be people known for their lovingkindness both with one another and with the surrounding world. Amen." (A prayer for Love and Unity)	Who is someone you need to reach out to in love and share how much you appreciate them?

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20	2 Cor. 9:6-11	Finances	"Lord, you've blessed us with everything we have. We confess that at times we can think that you operate out of scarcity instead of abundance, assuming that you will somehow run out of blessings, so we hold tightly to that which you've given. You bless us that we might be a blessing. May we be cheerful givers, giving glory to the giver of all things. Thank you, Father, for your incredible blessings. Amen." (A prayer for our Finances)	Take a moment and offer up all of your finances to the Lord for Him to use as He sees fit and be obedient to how He calls you to use these blessings He gives.
21	Heb. 13:16	Outreach/ Missions Projects	"Lord Jesus, the work we do for your Kingdom, we are blessed to be able to do in our local community and all over the world. You have been generous with us, and we have been able to be generous in the resources we've been able to use in global and local outreach. Guide us as we do this work, O Lord. May we do that which you have called us to and prayerfully continue to support your ministries here and abroad. Amen." (A prayer for Outreach Ministries)	Go by the Outreach Wall and pray for one of our partners overseas.
22	2 Cor. 12:9	Single Parents	"Jesus, you are perfect and yet came into an imperfect world. The world we navigate is rife with issues, difficulties, situations that are not ideal, and yet, this is where you work. This morning we recognize that there are many single parents in our community who are raising children independently. It is arduous work, and yet it is good work. You have not abandoned the single mother or father; you are present with them. Encourage them, draw them near to you that they may draw their children near to you. May our church family embrace and support these families in the effort of raising godly children who will grow to glorify you. Amen." (A prayer for Single Parents)	Find a single parent in our church and let them know that they are doing a great job raising their children. Offer to help if you are able.
23	Gen. 16:13	Those Hurting	"Father, you are present with us even when we find it hard to see you. Remind those of us who are hurting in this season that you are here, you have blessed us with the body of Christ, and that you are working in the midst of whatever trial we are going through. Draw near to those who are hurting and comfort the hearts of those dealing with loss. We lift these people up to you. In your Son's name, Amen." (A prayer for those Hurting)	Ask God who in our church family could use some extra love and support and be obedient to go where He calls you.
24	Rom. 8:1	Freedom from Sin	"Jesus, our Savior, we praise your name! Through your sacrifice, we are freed from sin! May we not take your sacrifice lightly, and may we be quick to confess and repent of our sins. In you, we are free and can overcome any sin through your Holy Spirit. Let us not get mired in the struggle, but celebrate in our newfound identity in Christ! Glory be to God! Amen!" (A prayer for Freedom from Sin)	Ask God to reveal any unrepentant sin in your life and seek to repent of it, embracing the forgiveness He gives.

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25	Rev. 3:22	Kingdom-Focus	"Father, fix our eyes on you. Let us hear your words. This world seeks to distract us from your Kingdom. It aims to present other things as our focus. It builds idols out of business, wealth, leisure, comfort, or even the American dream. All that matters in the life of those born again is the Kingdom of Heaven and living in light of its truth. Keep our focus on you. May we repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. In your Son's name and through His sacrifice, Amen." (A prayer for Kingdom-focus)	Consider your calendar/schedule this next year. How can you orchestrate your life to be more Kingdom-minded this next year?
26	Acts 2:47	Evangelistic Efforts	"Lord, you are the one who grows ministries and churches. Our devotion is to your teachings, to fellowship, to prayer, to breaking bread, and through our obedience and your Spirit's movement in people, you bring people into your truth. Please help us to take our role as witnesses to the Kingdom seriously and to speak boldly about what we've seen and heard of you in our own lives. Amen." (A prayer for Evangelism)	Ask the Lord to show you one person you can share your God story with this next year.
27	Gal. 5:14	Neighborhood	"Lord, you have placed this church in this community at this time for a reason. Help us see our neighbors, love them as you love them, and spread the good news of the Kingdom in our community. Bless our neighbors, keep them healthy, and fed. May we be your hands and feet demonstrating your love and provision to them. Draw them close to you, O God. Amen." (A prayer for our Neighbors)	Walk through your neighborhood and pray for those who live near you. Seek to be a blessing where God has placed you.
28	Jeremiah 29:7	Our City	"Lord, we pray for our city. There is a mission field in our city, a large number of people who don't know it, but who need you. We see them every day, interact with them, do life with them. As we live alongside them, I pray that we might take time to pray for them to reflect your love to them. We desire that they would grow to know you and to live their lives for you so that they may experience the joy, peace, and love that life with you brings." (A prayer for our City)	Pray about the needs of our city and what God might have you do to meet those needs.
29	2 Chron. 7:14	Our Nation	"Father, we pray for our nation. We desire that the church would be a catalyst in bringing about a nation that honors you. Help us to think nationally, but act locally. May we be kind, loving, united, compassionate, and dedicated to honoring you in all that we do. Bless our nation and all nations. Amen." (A prayer for our Nation)	Pray for our nation, regardless of political affiliation, asking God to bless those who He chooses to govern us.

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30	John 17:11-23	Our World	"Father, though we are not of this world, we are in this world. We are not to be so focused on heaven that we neglect the beautiful, good world that you created. Lord, we pray for our world and for all those who have yet to give their lives to you. We pray that we might be your hands and feet to all people of all nations. Help us see others as you see them and to bless them as you've blessed us. In your Son's name, Amen." (A prayer for our World)	Pray for the world, especially those who don't know Jesus. Seek to support Global Missions in any way you are able.
31	1 John 4:1; 2 Cor. 2:11	Protection from the Enemy	"Lord, it is so easy to be led astray. Just as you taught us to pray, we pray that you would protect us from the evil one. Give us wisdom, discernment, and absolute reliance on you. Humble us that we might submit to your leading and not seek to lead on our own. Protect us from the spiritual attacks that will certainly come as we seek to live as your people in this world. Amen." (A prayer against Spiritual Attack)	Seek to know the voice of the Lord and listen to His voice instead of the tempting voice of the enemy.

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1	Col. 3:5	<i>Lord, we know that you partner with us to put to death the idolatry in our lives, but it is you who do all the work. Our task is merely to be open to your transforming Spirit, to be willing to be changed by you. Reveal what is idolatrous in us and soften our hearts that we might be willing to receive your forgiveness and your freedom from whatever idol we face. Amen.</i>	Which one of these idols is raising its head in your life right now? Take it to the Lord, trusting that He will forgive you and His Spirit will enable you to overcome this evil.
2	1 John 5:21	<i>Father God, so often we are like children in that the shiny, the temporary pleasures of this world we find too attractive and they distract us from you. May we turn from these fleeting joys and receive true, lasting joy in You. Amen."</i>	How are we preparing our children to combat idols in their own lives? Talk to your children/grandchildren about idolatry and the dangers inherent therein.
3	Lev. 19:4	<i>Lord, when we stop to think about it, it is so silly that we would pursue anything but you! You are faithful, gracious, loving, kind, and to experience you is to experience joy, peace, and lasting comfort in You! Reorient our eyes on you today. In your name we pray, Amen.</i>	Spend a moment considering who your God is. Make a list of His attributes.
4	1 Cor. 10:14	<i>Father, you call us not to just avoid our idols but to FLEE from them, run from them, head in the opposite direction of them. Sometimes we value looking strong instead of being wise and running from that which might tempt us from living as you've designed us to. Help us to prioritize glorifying you in our lives and not looking strong to the world. Amen.</i>	What form of idolatry do you need to flee from, not just walk away from or avoid but FLEE from? How will you go about running from this idol and into the arms of your loving Father?

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5	Psalm 135:15-18	<i>Lord, in this world we are inundated with different forms of idolatry from all sides. Some idols we just receive as a necessity in our messed up world, but Your Kingdom, Your world is breaking into this world and we are citizens of that world as your adopted children. Remind us of the reality of Your Kingship, Your Kingdom, and our citizenship in that world. Amen.</i>	We are who we run with, what we follow on social media and what we allow influence on our lives. What are you being influenced by?
6	Jer. 11:12	<i>Father, time and time again we go to the things of this world to rescue us when we come to the end of ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting where our hope comes from. Remind us of your faithfulness, of your plan, of your promise to care for your children. We are your people, You are our God. Amen.</i>	Where are you looking for hope in your time of trouble? Will it satisfy? Has it ever?
7	Gal. 4:8	<i>Lord, all of us, before we knew you, ran to gods that were not gods at all. We were in chains but in our minds we were free. Thank you for destroying that which binds us and giving us true freedom in You. Amen.</i>	Our idols today do not enslave us with visible shackles and chains, but the slavery is just as real as if it were. What idols are attempting to put you in chains?
8	Rev. 9:20	<i>King Jesus, how patient you are with all of us! We sin against you again and again and you forgive us again and again and again. We do not deserve your mercy, your forgiveness, or your love and yet you give all of it so bountifully. May we receive it and extend it to all that we encounter today. Amen.</i>	Our world knows that the idols it worships do not satisfy and yet it continues to pursue these false hope in false gods. Take a moment and pray for our world that does not realize they are choosing the chains that bind them in slavery.
9	Micah 5:13	<i>Lord, we thank you that you are faithful even when we are continually faithless. Forgive us for our idolatry and fill us with your Spirit that we might not succumb to the temptations of the evil one. You are faithful to forgive us, you have cut us off from our idols and freed us to be able to fully be able to worship you. Amen.</i>	In Christ we are NOT shackled to our idols, we are FREE in Him. How can we embrace this reality today?
10	1 Cor. 10:19	<i>Lord you do not compete with rival gods for they are not gods at all. You are the Only God. Remind us of your Lordship, of your Kingship, of who you are. You are "I Am." Praise your name! Amen.</i>	Sometimes we give too much power to the idols of this world. They are not gods, there is but one God. How can you praise Him today?
11	Eph. 5:5	<i>Lord, sometimes we forget that while you are patient you are also a jealous God. You desire our whole hearts and you have said that we cannot serve two masters. Thank you for your patience but help us not to try it. Thank you for your mercy and your grace but help us not to seek to be constant recipients of it. May our hearts be completely given to you. Amen.</i>	How we live reflects our Heavenly Father and His Kingdom... except when it doesn't. What practices do we need to cease in order to better reflect Jesus in our lives?

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12	Matt. 6:24	<i>Lord, often we want you and the things of this world but you make it clear that we cannot serve two masters. Clear that which is not of you out of our hearts and minds that our lives might pursue only you. Amen.</i>	Consider the things of this world that if you lost you would feel lost without. How can you give even those things to the Lord?
13	Isaiah 42:8	<i>Lord, you alone must be glorified, you alone must be praised. May our lives be that of worship of you. May our lives bring glory to your name. May our words and actions bring praise to you and your name. Amen.</i>	Often times we try to tax God's glory for ourselves by taking credit for what He has done or is doing in our lives- what can you give glory to God for today?
14	Ezek. 20:31	<i>Lord, it may seem like the days of sacrificing our children and future generations to idols are long gone, but, figuratively, this practice still exists in this world. We sacrifice our children to the idols we pursue today- through our worship, through the example we set for them. Forgive us, Father, for not giving our lives completely to you. Transform us that we might be humble reflections of you and your love in this world. Amen.</i>	The lasting impact of our idol worship is often lost on us. Our children are watching our lives of worship. What are they seeing?
15	Exod. 20:5	<i>Lord, you have made us for worship. Often we choose to worship the wrong things. Focus our hearts and minds on you that they may be transformed and the work of our hands might be an act of worship to you. Amen.</i>	Our God desires our worship. How will you worship Him today?
16	Ezek. 16:17	<i>Lord, we have committed adultery against you. We have pursued after gods that do not love us in return. We have taken you and your faithful love for granted. Forgive us, Father. Thank you for loving us regardless of our wayward ways. Amen.</i>	When we worship that which is not God we commit adultery on Him, let's call it what it is. We have cheated on our God with gods of silver and gold. Let the weight of this weigh on you and go to the Lord in confidence that in Him you are forgiven.
17	Jer. 16:20	<i>Father, we have elevated the things of this world to things that we pursue with all that we are. They are not gods. They are not your rivals. You have no rivals. Help us to see these idols as that which they truly are in light of You. Only You are worthy of our worship. Amen.</i>	Consider the Lord your God... how great is He?
18	Jonah 2:8	<i>Lord, we cannot fathom the love you have for us. Sometimes we take it for granted because we cannot grasp its depth, its height, its width, or length. Show us daily how far your love for us goes that we might both receive it and extend it to others. Amen.</i>	Do you realize how much your God loves you? How do you respond to such love?
19	Psalms 115:1-18	<i>Father, you are like no other god. You are to be glorified in our world, in our lives, in our hearts. Help us to live as you have designed us to live, bearing your name in the world you have created. Amen.</i>	Meditate on this longer passage of Scripture.

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20	Deut. 7:25	<i>Lord Jesus, you taught us to pray saying "lead us not to temptation." Today we pray this prayer. It is our desire that we walk in your ways in every area of our lives so we ask that you keep us from the paths that may snare us. Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil. Amen.</i>	Sometimes distancing ourselves from things we could do but may cause us to stumble is a good idea. What do you need to distance yourself from?
21	Habakkuk 2:18	<i>Lord, Often we think we've earned what we possess when in fact all we have is a gift from You. When we pretend to have earned that which we have, often, what we have becomes an idol. Forgive us for not appreciating what you've done and trying to take credit for it for ourselves. All we have is from you. Amen.</i>	What do you need to thank God for today?