



21 Day Prayer Guide

From January 23rd - February 12th, the Valley Vineyard invites you to follow this 21-day prayer guide to focus on the presence of God and ask him to do amazing things in and through us, the Valley Vineyard church.

We know God is doing a new thing but in times of change we may lose our footing because of the shifting ground. Let's turn our attention to God's goodness, be thankful for what He's doing while lifting our requests to God for the needs we have. Let us pray as a congregation in this exciting and challenging time for God's will here at the Valley Vineyard.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7

For the next three weeks we will pray through scripture with the following themes: Communion, Community and Commission. Find a comfortable spot as you read through each scripture and pray accordingly.

Pro tip: Read the scripture out loud to let the words sink in deeper.

WEEK 1 – COMMUNION 1/23-29

January 23, 2023

Main thoughts:

One definition of prayer is to simply bring to mind God, as He is revealed in scripture, creation and personal experience. Holy, good and beautiful, this God creates and shares His life, even providing eternal life through his sacrificial death. He is the most joyful, most loving, and most intelligent being in the universe. And He is calling us to join his community of loving persons in eternal friendship and reign.

Psalm 145:5-7

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness.

Psalm 107:8-9

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Psalm 63:5

My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Reflect on the beauty in nature, (maybe even get outside to observe it) and ask what kind of God would create a world like ours. Where do you see God today? Take some time to thank him and praise him for what comes to mind. Pray for your heart to be open to his love and eyes to see more of his glory. Pray for the grace to seek him and glorify him in everything you do. Pray that God reveals the places in your heart where you have yet to believe his goodness.

January 24, 2023

Main thoughts:

Read through Psalm 23 slowly, imagining yourself as the sheep who lacks nothing, worrying about nothing, following the lead of its good shepherd. Note how the shepherd provides food, water, rest, direction, purpose, shelter and protection.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]*

*I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

The safest place for sheep is in the shadow of their Shepherd. There we find all we need. Ask God to show you where He is in the midst of your current challenge. Pray to trust him for your life and the life of our church, the Valley Vineyard. Pray to be aware of his comforting presence while in the valley or in the face of an enemy.

January 25, 2023

Main thoughts:

As we pray for God to move in our midst, we will need a new mindset to be flexible to accommodate what He's doing. Notice God's part in imparting the new wine and our part in ensuring the wine isn't ruined by using a new wineskin. We play a vital part in getting ready for the new wine.

Mark 2:21-22

²¹ "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. ²² And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Oh God, we thank you for doing a new thing in our church. God, help us to be flexible both literally and figuratively to place ourselves in places where we normally wouldn't be. Help us adjust ourselves to be part of the vessel that will hold your presence, the new wine. Help us not be too attached to the comfort of routine and habit but instead help us develop new holy habits to adapt to your purposes.

January 26, 2023

Main thoughts:

Having life in Jesus naturally results in fruitfulness. Conversely, we cannot bear fruit if we stray from Jesus. Individually and corporately, let us live a life rooted in Jesus so that we everything we do comes from the heart of him. When we ask according to the Father's will, our prayers are answered and God is glorified.

John 15:

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Reflection and Prayer Focus: Thank you Father for life in your son Jesus. Show us how to remain in Jesus and be connected to you. Show us where we may have connected to others instead of you. We want to abide in Jesus, to be caught up in his life, glory and work. Show us that that there is no other way to bear fruit than to abide in Jesus. Help us trust in you as you do the inevitable work of pruning both in us and in the church. Keep us focused and attached to Jesus.

January 27, 2023

Main thoughts:

Prayer is not so much about asking God to fulfill our will but asking that we conform to his. Jesus taught on prayer beginning with what it is NOT; it isn't occultic formulas and chants to get what we want. We pray to our Father God who knows what we need. Taking this heart posture is one of the most important things about prayer.

Matthew 5:9-13:

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,*

*¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,*

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

*¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]’*

Reflection and Prayer Focus: Pray through the Lord's Prayer today for your prayer, slowly and carefully. Keep in mind that we are praying this together as the body of Christ at the Valley Vineyard. When you pray, “may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” pray for his will to be done through you and your own areas of living and influence. Add on to the prayer as you feel led.

January 28, 2023

Main thoughts:

When faced with a threat we naturally try to assess whether people are friend or foe. But God tells us that's the wrong question. Since the battle belongs to the Lord (and we want to be on the right side of the battle), the bigger concern is to discern whether WE are GOD'S friend or foe.

Joshua 5:13-15

¹³ Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

¹⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord^[c] have for his servant?"

¹⁵ The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

When threatened Be aware of our tendency to categorize people as friend or enemy. Instead, ask God what His purposes are in a challenging situation. Pray that we would choose Him and recognize what He is calling us into.

January 29, 2023

Main thoughts:

On this Sunday, lean into communion with God through thanksgiving and praise. Listen for what God would say to you personally through the sermon and the Word. Pay attention to the ministry opportunities through the announcements. And give cheerfully from what God has given you.

Sabbath Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me, to connect with you this Sabbath day. Please quiet my heart that I may refocus on you. Help me lean into your word and worship you truthfully today. May my soul be filled with your Holy Spirit like my lungs are filled with your air.

WEEK 2 - COMMUNITY 1/30-2/5

January 30, 2023

Main thoughts:

Humility in our relationship with one another is the norm we seek at the Valley Vineyard. Humility is defined as having the same mindset of Jesus who submitted himself to the Father to serve the very ones he created. Humility is defined as valuing others above yourself such that you serve them with your time and resources rather than looking to your own interests.

Philippians 2:1-8

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Reflection and Prayer Focus: What does it look to value and serve someone at the Valley Vineyard above yourself? Pray for the grace to walk in the humility of Christ, having the same love and being one in spirit. Pray for the grace to put aside our own agendas and serve one another instead. Pray that this attitude would be manifested in our speech and actions as we encourage another in word and deed.

January 31, 2023

Main thoughts:

We are a church family that called to be united. Together as one body we have been given the purpose to carry out God's emerging vision. This creates tension and it is not easy since we all have different mental models. How can we discern God's will together? What will it take for us to hear His voice and obey his calling?

Revelation 2:1-5 (NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

What do you think God would speak into our church? Thank Him for the all the good that He has done and continues to do. Ask Him, what is He calling us to repent from? What is his emerging vision for us? Pray that we would obey as individuals and as a church family.

February 1, 2023

Main thoughts:

A temple is the place where God lives, is worshipped, and honored. Scripture speaks of our bodies as a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. It also speaks of the church, the body of Christ, as a temple as well because dwells in its midst. When we think we know better than others, we act and speak from that heart in ways that destroy that person. Let us focus instead having a heart that builds up the temple of God

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"^[a]; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."^[b] ²¹ So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas^[c] or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

What can I do to create space in my heart for those who are currently at the Valley Vineyard? Are there certain people I have offended in word and deed? Pray to the Father for the grace to make room in our hearts to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that as my heart is moved towards another that my actions would reflect a new attitude. Ask the Lord for how to take one concrete step forward in encouragement or reconciliation and the grace to do it.

February 2, 2023

Main thoughts:

As we look around at the Valley Vineyard we can feel out of place because we're not expressive or creative like so and so. We may be tempted to think that the most important folks are the ones on stage. What scripture reminds us is that a body functions properly through many DIFFERENT parts.

1 Corinthians 12:13-18

¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Pray for the different parts of the Valley Vineyard, for example, the Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Second Wind, Worship Ministry, Hospitality, etc. Pray that these ministries would thrive, connect, and make a great impact in the care and discipleship of our congregation. Ask God about your part in any of these ministries and the courage to take a step towards that calling.

February 3, 2023

Main Thoughts:

It is God who establishes the leadership of our church at the Valley Vineyard for the purpose of equipping the people to service. For leaders, faithfulness involves leadership. For the people, faithfulness involves submission in service.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ... speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Reflection and Prayer Focus: Pray and support Valley Vineyard's leadership team, especially Pastors Jimmy Reyes and Mike Brown. May God give them wisdom, insight and courage to lead our church in this challenging time. Pray for the protection of their homes and families. Pray that the people would reach unity and faith in the knowledge of Jesus to become mature.

Prayer Focus: What can I do to create space in my heart for those called my brothers and sisters at the Valley Vineyard? Wait on God to hear what He would say. Pray to be faithful in following through with one step, big or small.

February 4, 2023

Main Thoughts:

Scripture shows that God's commandments are taught from one generation to another. The Valley Vineyard is a church that values intergenerational ministry where young and old learn and minister different things to one another.

Acts 2:17

*“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

2 Timothy 1:5-6

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Look around at the Valley Vineyard for opportunities to make relationships with someone older or younger than you. Pray that we would offer our vigor, wisdom, energy, or experience to this other group. Ask the Lord about what unique gifts you could bring. Pray that the Lord would create strong intergenerational ties at the Valley Vineyard.

February 5, 2023

Main thoughts:

On this Sunday, lean into communion with God through thanksgiving and praise. Listen for what God would say to you personally through the sermon and the Word. Pay attention to the ministry opportunities through the announcements. And give cheerfully from what God has given you.

Sabbath Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me, to connect with you this Sabbath day. Please quiet my heart that I may refocus on you. Help me lean into your word and worship you truthfully today. May my soul be filled with your Holy Spirit like my lungs are filled with your air.

WEEK 3 – COMMISSION 2/6-12

February 6, 2023

Main thoughts:

“Come Holy Spirit” has been the heart cry of the Vineyard churches. We know that we cannot accomplish the work of God without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Note that the Holy Spirit is poured on His people not just for ourselves but for the preaching of the good news to the poor, freedom for those in bondage and healing for the sick.

Isaiah 61:1-3a

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion*

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Pray: Glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, please give us spiritual wisdom to understand the incredible greatness of your Holy Spirit's power. As we make ourselves living sacrifices, pour out the power of Your Holy Spirit on us and enable us to do Your works on earth. Holy Spirit, let your power fall on us and change our hearts. Change us, renew us, empower us. Holy Spirit, we long for to be overcome by Your presence. Baptize us with your fire. Guide us into truth as and give us power in our weakness to preach the Kingdom and do the works of the Kingdom.

February 7, 2023

Main thoughts:

Jesus speaks of being the light of world. He also speaks of us as being light of the world. As a lamp brightens a house, we let our light shine in a dark world to reveal the goodness of God to his glory. This is quite different from the world's encouragement to shine to get noticed. Look to see how this can be specific to the Valley Vineyard and our neighborhood rather than just general prayer.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Ask God to restore the church as a beacon of hope and blessing in the city. Reflect on where some of the dark places are and how the Valley Vineyard is called to be a light. Thank God that he has made us light and ask him to show us how we may be a light in the darkness. Father God, we pray that we would illuminate your goodness that is all around and give you glory. We pray that the Valley Vineyard would be a source of light in the neighborhood of Reseda as we preach the gospel, make disciples and pursue righteousness.

February 8, 2023

Main thoughts:

Carefully read the actual call of Jesus to his disciples to make (more) disciples of all nations and baptizing them. Notice that the call is not simply to make converts of Jesus but teachable followers. We make disciples as we ourselves are discipled. Imagine how this call changes our focus in outreach ministries from Christians doing nice things to opportunities to bring people into a life in Christ. The promise of Christ is that he is with us as we disciple others.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Ask God for opportunities to be discipled and to disciple (they can be at the same time!) Ask God to help our church fulfill this great Commission in our very own neighborhood of Reseda. Pray: O, God! Help me to make connections with people to disciple and be discipled that we may fulfill your call to make disciples of all nations. Help me be generous of what is mine; my time and space, to welcome others, encourage them and to teach them how to follow you as I follow you.

February 9, 2023

Main thoughts:

The Psalms speaks of God of God's heart for the oppressed and poor as part of his faithfulness to his creation. He is the maker of heaven and earth and continues to care and nourish his creation. Who are the oppressed and hungry among us? Where are they and how would we serve them? What are the ministries that currently serve them here at the Valley Vineyard?

Psalm 146:6-10

*He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.*

*⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.*

*The LORD sets prisoners free,
⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.*

*⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*

Proverbs 31:8-9

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.*

*⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

Reflection and Prayer Focus: Ask God to identify those in our community that cannot speak for themselves and the courage to speak up for them. Ask for small tangible ways that you can do this today.

Pray: O God! Give us your heart of compassion and send us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to speak up for those without a voice and stand up for those without rights. You, O God, are able to do all this and immeasurably more than all we ask or think, according to your power which mightily works within us, to you be the glory

February 10, 2023

Main thoughts:

When Jesus looks into the crowd he sees the harassed ones, the helpless ones, the ones that need a shepherd to provide them with what they need. The Valley Vineyard seeks to send workers into the harvest field through some outreach initiatives like the Jubilee Mentoring Program, Food Pantry, Children's Hunger Fund, partnerships with Reseda Councilmembers. Let us pray for protection over these ministries and the Lord would send more workers to join them.

Matthew 9: 36-38

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Reflection and Prayer Focus:

Pray: Heavenly Father, the Lord of the Harvest it is true that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers few. We are surrounded by the lost, people who are harassed and helpless. We see people who need to know the Lord Jesus. We pray that you would send out more workers into your harvest. We pray for the existing ministries that you would protect them, give them vision and hope for the future and supply all their needs.

You, O Lord, are able to do all this and immeasurably more than all we ask or think, according to your power which mightily works within us, to you be the glory

February 11, 2023

Main thoughts:

We are urged to pray for those in positions of authority that we may live peaceful lives. We are urged to pray for them regardless of whether we agree with their politics or not. Doing so pleases God, who wants all people to come to the knowledge of Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Jeremiah 29:7

⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Reflection and Prayer:

Pray: O God, thank you God for those that govern Reseda and try to make it a better place. We thank you for the good we have received through their work and decisions. We pray for their families and ask you to bless them. council members. We pray that you would turn their hearts towards you that they would enact and administer policies in keeping with righteousness. Help us, the Valley Vineyard work with them for your glory.

February 12, 2023

Main thoughts:

On this Sunday, lean into communion with God through thanksgiving and praise. Listen for what God would say to you personally through the sermon and the Word. Pay attention to the ministry opportunities through the announcements. And give cheerfully from what God has given you.

Reflection and Prayer: What can I do to create space in my heart for those that God has yet called to the Valley Vineyard? Wait on God to hear what He would say. Pray to be faithful in following through with one step, big or small.

Dear Lord, help me, to connect with you this Sabbath day. Please quiet my heart that I may refocus on you. Help me lean into your word and worship you truthfully today. May my soul be filled with your Holy Spirit like my lungs are filled with your air.