

A photograph of a church service, overlaid with a blue gradient. A man in a blue jacket is speaking on a stage to the left, gesturing towards a large, diverse audience seated in the foreground. The background shows stage lighting and a screen with the text "WOODS CHURCH JASPER".

40 DAYS TO WHAT'S NEXT...

PRAYER GUIDE

PRAYER GUIDE INTRO

Over the last 13 years, we have asked the Lord to do what only He can do at Woodstock Church Jasper. He has been faithful to answer that prayer and has done far above what we could've ever even asked for. We have seen the Lord provide building space, land, volunteers, small groups, finances, more personnel, and a consistently growing church body. More importantly, we've seen the Lord save souls and change lives.

As of now, our church is at a pivotal moment. Many have asked and we are also asking the Lord "What's next?" We are under a strong conviction that the answers to that question can only be found by seeking the Lord in a time of prayer and fasting collectively. 1 John 5:14 says, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."

We are calling our church family to pray together for God's will to be done in the life of Woodstock Church Jasper. There is great power in prayer and if we pray in accordance with God's Word for His will to be done, we know that the Lord will be faithful to lead and guide us. Therefore, would you join us as we seek the Lord together?

We are in need of more space, but a new building is simply a tool to help more people come to know Jesus and follow Him. WCJ exists to Worship God, Love Others, Serve Jesus, and Influence People. This is our DNA. For 40 days, we're going to seek God and pray for His direction in how to better do that in the years to come.

PRAYER

Why do we pray? God commands us to and it's is our communication with Him. The more you talk to Him, the more you get to know Him! It's one way that we *seek* Him.

James 4:2 says, "you do not have, because you do not ask." Therefore, we need wisdom and direction and are seeking the Lord and asking for that.

When do we pray? 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "pray without ceasing." To "pray without ceasing" means that we have an attitude of prayerfulness at all times.

Our desire is that our church family would have an attitude of prayerfulness for these 40 days. We're praying the Lord would keep the future of our church and our dependence on Him at the forefront of our minds.

How do we pray? Philippians 4:6 says, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." We are called to pray with thanksgiving for what the Lord has done and will continue to do and we're called to come to Him *asking*.

One practical way to do that is to pray with this plan. It's remembered by the acrostic **ACTS**

Adoration – praise God for how awesome He is and tell Him what makes Him so great to you. (Ex. "Lord you are my Savior, you are holy, you are mighty, and you are in control!") Adore Him!

Confession – Confess your sin to God and ask for forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Seeing ourselves in light of who He is should lead us to confession and repentance.

Thanksgiving – Thank God for everything He has done for you. Thank Him for practical things as well! (Ex. Family, friends, salvation, provision, etc.)

Supplication – the definition of **supplication** is, "the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly." Ask God for what you need. Need direction? Wisdom? Forgiveness? Self-control? ASK.

FASTING

What is fasting?

Fasting is voluntarily going without something (a type of food, a favorite drink, a regularly enjoyed item) for a spiritual purpose. The premise is that when you begin to desire that which you have chosen to go without, you are reminded of the greater desire we have for a word from the Lord. This is a practice that is *expected* of believers. Matthew 6:16 and Matthew 9:15 speak of fasting not as an “if,” but a “when.”

This will look different for everyone. You may certainly want to fast from food (as is more common) or you could choose to fast from TV, social media, or some other regular enjoyment. Ultimately, the goal is that you turn your attention to Jesus and we collectively show Him our desire to hear from Him.

SEEKING

Jeremiah 29:13 says, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

To seek the Lord means that you are making a sincere effort to build a relationship with Him rather than just knowing about Him. In accordance with the truth of God’s Word, we are seeking the Lord together. We seek the Lord through prayer and fasting. We also seek Him through the study of His Word. Our goal is for this prayer guide to be an addition to your time with Him. It has often been said, “if you want to talk to the Lord, pray. If you want to hear from the Lord, read His Word.”

HOW TO USE

In this guide, you will see a quick prayer point for each day. We would love for you to add this point into your prayer time. Feel free to expound on that prayer however the Lord leads you.

Here is an example:

On Day 1, we're praying along with the prayer point: "Pray that God would be the center of every decision our church makes." Your prayer could look something like this:

"Lord, I know that there are so many decisions that need to be made to move forward and grow as a church. I pray that you would be the center of every single one of them. Please grant wisdom and discernment where it is needed. Please lead, guide, and direct, like only you can. Help us to keep you at the center of everything we do as a church!"

On the last page of this Prayer Guide, jot down anything the Lord lays on your heart during this time.

This is a tool to help all of us seek the Lord individually and collectively.

DAYS 1-10: WORSHIP GOD

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Matthew 22:37

Worship God is one component of our DNA. We want to be devoted to worshipping Him in all that we do. Many view worship as just singing praise to Him. However, as believers, we worship God with our time, talents, and treasures. Whether you are making decisions, serving, or giving to the Lord, it's an act of worship and it's one reason we exist as a church. Let's pray together that we would continue to Worship God in all we do as a church.

Day 1: Pray that God would be the center of every decision our church makes.

Day 2: Pray for wisdom, discernment, and unity for our pastors, staff, and leadership team.

Day 3: Pray that we would seek God's will above our own preferences.

Day 4: Pray that this season would deepen our dependence on the Lord.

Day 5: Pray that God would protect our church from distraction and division.

Day 6: Pray for greater faith as we step into what God is calling us to do.

Day 7: Pray that every dollar, plan, and conversation would honor God.

Day 8: Pray that worship would remain our priority, not buildings, programs, or numbers.

Day 9: Pray for a fresh movement of God's Spirit in our church.

Day 10: Pray that everything we do would bring glory to God alone.

DAYS 11-20: LOVE OTHERS

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:35

Our desire to **Love Others** is purely motivated out of Christ's love for us. True love for one's neighbor mirrors true love for God. It is a deliberate and active choice, marked by purpose and intention, rather than being based solely on feelings or emotions.

Day 11: Pray for greater unity throughout our church family.

Day 12: Pray that our church would become known for genuine love and hospitality.

Day 13: Pray for stronger marriages and families within our church.

Day 14: Pray for healing where there is hurt, conflict, or broken relationships.

Day 15: Pray that new people would quickly find community and belonging.

Day 16: Pray for those who have drifted from church to return and reconnect.

Day 17: Pray for our children, students, and the next generation.

Day 18: Pray for widows, grieving spouses, single parents, and those carrying heavy burdens.

Day 19: Pray that every person who walks through our doors would know that they are loved and valued by the Lord and the WCJ family.

Day 20: Pray that God would increase our compassion for the people of our community.

DAYS 21-30: SERVE JESUS

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men..." Colossians 3:23

There is no greater joy than **Serving Jesus**. It is immensely humbling to realize that Jesus doesn't *need* us, but *desires* to use us. He equips us with all we need to do His will. "Lord, press on our hearts how we can better serve you individually, and collectively."

Day 21: Pray for willing hearts ready to serve wherever needed.

Day 22: Pray that more people would discover and use their spiritual gifts.

Day 23: Pray for every volunteer currently serving in our church.

Day 24: Pray that God would raise up new leaders for future ministry opportunities.

Day 25: Pray for strength, endurance, and joy for those carrying significant ministry responsibilities.

Day 26: Pray for our staff and ministry leaders as they shepherd people.

Day 27: Pray that God would prepare us for the growth He desires to bring.

Day 28: Pray for future ministries, opportunities, and open doors we cannot yet see.

Day 29: Pray that our church would never outgrow a servant's heart.

Day 30: Pray that every ministry would effectively help people take their next step with Jesus.

DAYS 31-40: INFLUENCE PEOPLE

"Go and make disciples of all nations." - Matthew 28:19

An influencer is a person that inspires or guides the actions of others. Most of us have had significant influences in our lives that the Lord has used to shape us into who He is calling us to be. Our desire is that we would **Influence People** for the cause of Christ.

Day 31: Pray for people in our community who do not yet know Christ.

Day 32: Pray for friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members who need Jesus.

Day 33: Pray for boldness to share the Gospel.

Day 34: Pray for salvations and baptisms throughout this next season.

Day 35: Pray that God would use our church to make a significant impact here in Pickens County and in surrounding areas.

Day 36: Pray that the new building would be a tool for ministry, not only a structure.

Day 37: Pray that God would expand our influence so more people can hear the Gospel.

Day 38: Pray that future generations would be disciplined because of decisions made today.

Day 39: Pray for spiritual awakening in our community, our nation, and our world.

Day 40: Pray that God would do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine through Woodstock Church Jasper.

