

Start Here

Introduction

Welcome to MCC's Prayer Prompts. The purpose of this spiritual exercise is for the church to engage in prayer and worship. Prayer should never be just a thing we do when we are desperate or when the world is caving in around us. Prayer should be an active discipline in all seasons of our lives. Let this exercise be either a continuation of your prayer life or a catalyst to launch you into a continual conversation with our Creator.

Instructions

There are eight days of prayer prompts in this document. You are on day one now. This exercise can proceed as fast or as slow as you decide. Allow yourself to be immersed in the moment, to be authentic and raw in prayer. Our hope is that this will provide an opportunity for you to practice the ways of Jesus, so the Holy Spirit can produce spiritual fruit in you. Approach this exercise with humility. The attitude of the heart can make or break this experience for you. If this spiritual exercise spurs something inside of you, share it with your family and your church. We would love to hear how the Holy Spirit is working in you and through you.

Day 1

Prayer for Experience

As we begin this spiritual exercise, let's come before the Lord Almighty in prayer over this experience. This is a time for each one of us to be spiritually formed by the Holy Spirit. Prayer should never be stale or transactional. It should not be just a last call of desperation. It needs to be intentional moments spent in the presence of the Creator. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be present and reveal Himself. Pray that you will grow 1% closer to Jesus.

Psalm 85:8-13, "I will listen to what God the Lord says; He promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps."

Day 2

Prayer for Next Generation

While the next generation starts as babies in nurseries, they don't stay that way for long. We often look at them as the future of the church, but in reality, they are not the church of tomorrow but the church of today.

Pray for our kids and teens - that they will be discipled in the ways of the Lord and given opportunities to actively participate in the ministry of the local church. Pray for the families, that they will shape one another toward holiness and godliness. The family unit is the most important and influential aspect of a young person's spiritual life. It needs to be protected and trained. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead families to MCC and be spiritually formed by the community.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 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."

Day 3

Prayer for Community.

God has placed you and MCC in the exact place he wants you to be - this community. Many people in Minier are hurting from the storms and floods. Pray that they will experience peace and joy during this time. Joy and happiness are two different things. Happiness is completely dependent on one's present situation, but joy is dependent on our loving Savior.

Pray that God can use MCC to meet this community's spiritual and physical needs. Pray that this body of believers can be positive representations of Christ to our local communities. We are a church on mission to serve the many small communities of Central Illinois. As you pray, extend a hand towards your local town.

MCC's Vision Statement - LOVE20: sharing the love of Christ with the 20,000 people in the 20 communities in a 20-mile radius.

John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Day 4

Prayer Postures

Fold your hands, close your eyes, and bow your head. This is what we are told from a young age about how to posture ourselves during prayer, but there are so many other examples in Scripture of prayer postures.

The posture of our prayer can bring different intimate connections to our Father. We can express emotions and attitudes through prayer postures like reverence, openness, surrender, repentance, humility, etc. Our prayer life should not be the same five sentences before a meal or before bed. Open up your heart and posture in prayer to our Almighty God. This can be an intimate connection in our growing relationship with Jesus. At this station, we encourage you to try a new prayer posture from the list.

Luke 5:12-13, "While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' And immediately the leprosy left him."

Day 4

Prayer Postures

- ***Lying Prostrate*** - symbolizes complete humility, recognizing the need for God's mercy. (Luke 5:12).
- ***Kneeling*** - often done when asking for the Lord's forgiveness or earnestly appealing (1 Kings 8:54).
- ***Bowing*** - is a posture of worship, honor, and reverence for our Creator (Genesis 24:52).
- ***Arms Raised*** - a posture of seeking blessings from God, appealing to His sovereignty (1 Timothy 2:8).
- ***Palms Open*** - a posture of receiving what God is saying to us. Open palms = open heart (Psalm 145:16)
- ***Looking to Heaven*** - a posture of honesty and trust, having confidence in our Savior (Psalm 121:1-2)

Psalm 121:1-2, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

Day 5

Prayer of Worship

Prayer goes beyond a one-dimensional mode of communication of asking God for XYZ. He is not Santa Claus, but the Creator of the universe. Having a relationship with him transforms us. At this station, acknowledge God for who he is and worship him alone.

Also at this station, take a few moments to pray over the people who sit near you on Sunday morning. Pray for whoever sits in your row or section that they will intentionally take their next step of faith, whether it be knowing Him for the first time through baptism or making Him known through the way they allow God to change their words, actions, and thoughts.

Psalm 95:3-7, "For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

Day 6

Prayer of Celebration

A spiritual discipline that often gets overlooked is celebration. It is an act of worship that expresses joy and gratitude to God for what he has done in your life. Take some time to thank the Lord for what he has done. Be specific about the ways he has worked and provided.

As a responsive action, grab a pen and sticky note or note card and answer this question, "What has God done in your life recently that you can celebrate?" After writing on the note, stick it on your mirror or fridge. Let it be a reminder to you daily that God loves his children. The Lord is working and moving. That should never be something that we overlook.

Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Psalms 16:11, "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Day 7

Prayer for D-Groups

Discipleship Groups are a big emphasis of this church and its discipleship pathway because growth happens in community. While these disciplines we practice are good on their own, they are significantly more formative when done in community.

On Day 8, pray over the many discipleship groups of MCC. Pray for guidance and growth. Ask God to open doors that need to be open, and close doors that need to be closed.

On the next page, there is a list of the many groups of MCC. Choose one of them and write a note of encouragement to them as they pursue after the heart of Jesus. If you are part of a group, choose one that you are not part of. Let's lift each other as we continue to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-23, "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

JOIN A NEW OR EXISTING DISCIPLESHIP GROUP.



RIBLETS

Sunday
morning



HUMPHRIES

Tuesday
evening



CANDICE

Monday
afternoon



YOUNG ADULTS

Thursday
evening



SUNDAYS

- **Standard Quarterly** — John Nafziger
- **Old Testament Chronological** — Jim Webster
- **Adult Bible Study** — Bruce Otto, Bruce Miller, and Jon Sisson
- **TMNT Teen Study** — Craig Petermen
- **High School Radius** — 5:30 PM
- **Webster's D-Group** — 6:30 PM



WEDNESDAYS

- **Women's Bible Study** — 1:00 PM
Joanne Nafziger and Cindy Nafziger
- **Sermon Review** — 6:00 PM
Bruce Otto
- **Women's Bible Study** — 6:00 PM
Sheri Young
- **Treehouse** — 6:00 PM
- **Junior High Radius** — 6:00 PM



THURSDAYS

- **Blessing's D-Group** — 6:00 PM
Jeff Blessing
- **TNF** — 7:00 PM
Jim Webster

Day 8

Prayer for “the one”

Day 8 ends the prayer prompts with conviction. During these last few moments, take an opportunity to pray for people that you know are in need right now.

After that, grab a tag from the church prayer wall and write down (or type in your phone notes) “the one.” The one person that God has been putting on your heart and mind. It could be someone in need or going through a difficult situation. It could be someone who needs to give their life to Jesus or turn back to him and repent. It could be a missionary, boss, or leader that God wants you to pray for. Write their name down (and situation if you so discern), and pray an intercessory prayer on behalf of that person. Boldly advocate to the Lord Almighty to powerfully move in this person’s life.

Luke 15:4-7, “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”