

Thursdays in September
Prayer Guide

Exalt: *Our Father which are in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.*

Begin your prayer time for our church by worshipping our Lord and exalting Him far above every other name, need, or concern. He is our Father in heaven and His name is holy, above every other name. To do this, you may want to read Psalm 8 to the Lord as a form of praise. I also like to sing one of favorite hymns/choruses during this time. The goal here is to elevate Jesus above our “list” of what we desire from Him. Everything our church needs is secondary. Exaltation is primary because He is holy and set apart. So, set Jesus apart right at the beginning of your time with Him.

Implore: *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven.*

The word “implore” denotes the idea of begging. In the second part of your prayer time for our church, you want to make sure that you have your “implication” in the right place. In other words, you want to beg God for His Kingdom to manifest itself on earth as it is in heaven. To do that, you may want to read Matthew 5:2-12 (the Beatitudes) and then beg the Lord for those qualities to manifest themselves in your life, the people who make up the Genesis Church of Vero Beach, and in our world. I like to end this time by singing the little chorus: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.”

Request: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Now that you have exalted the Lord and begged for His Kingdom to manifest, spend some time asking the Lord for the “daily bread” needs of our church. I like to begin my request time before the Lord by reading/quoting a verse to the Lord that deals with asking/receiving like Matthew 7:7 or James 4:2-3. After you do this, spend some time praying diligently for our church. Our church has grown numerically, and we need our own space. Having our own space will help us with: (a) Sunday School programming (something we haven’t been able to do since we founded); (b) addressing the worship time, sound quality, baptism method and (c) capacity so that people don’t feel suffocated and cramped as we continue to grow. To do that, we need wisdom, doors to open, and unity. Be very specific here praying for those things I underlined. We need the Lord to show us and have the courage to follow wherever He leads.

Confess: *Forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Begin this time reading Psalm 51:1-2. After you do, ask the Lord to forgive you of your trespasses while simultaneously thinking about the people in your life that you harbor bitterness towards and need to forgive. Be contrite in this section during your prayers. Please also pray that people in our church, both in the present and in the future, will deal with interpersonal conflict in a biblical manner (going straight to that person) so that conflicts can be resolved in a constructive manner should they arise; most especially when we deal with potentially contentious issues like property and space.

Protect: *Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.*

Opposing spiritual forces are always at work in our lives, church, and world. That’s why Jesus told us to pray like this: “lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” To do this, begin by reading the promise God gives us about what He will do to weapons that are formed against us. It’s found in Isaiah 54:17. Then pray that promise and believe it for yourself. After you do this, pray God’s protection over our congregation. Conclude with a time of specific prayers of protection for our pastors, deacons, our church secretary, our church treasurer, and their families.

Exalt: *For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Forever. Amen.*

End your time of prayer the same way you began, by exalting Jesus. I like to do this by calling him the following: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. You might like to just use the phrase: “for thine is the Kingdom, power, and glory, forever and ever. Amen.” Whatever your preference, make sure to crown Him in a way that demonstrates that He will answer the prayers of the righteous that availeth much. I usually conclude my time in prayer by singing the same hymn/chorus I sang when I began.

