

## Preparing to pray

Throughout the ages people have approached God in many different ways (Acts 17:23). As Christ followers we approach God our Father through Jesus Christ His Son, and God's Word in Matthew 6 gives guidance and instruction. Prayer is about spending time with our Father, trusting Him, and acknowledging His greatness and our need of Him; focusing our thoughts and glorifying our Father as we pray before going through specific, targeted prayer requests.

### CONFESSION

Means admit – and agree with God about the sin in our lives; admitting it, confessing it, and turning away from any and all things that dishonor and displease God.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7 ESV)*

### ADORATION

Means worship – recognizing and acknowledging God for who He is.

*Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! (Psalm 99:5 ESV)*

### THANKSGIVING

Means thankful – spending time with God and thanking Him for the forgiveness of sins, and the blessing of being His child, and the privilege of serving Him; thanking Him and naming the blessings one by one.

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV)*

### SUPPLICATION

Means request – making requests to God on behalf of others, praying for God's will in the lives of family, extended family and friends, people in your sphere of influence: school, workplace and neighborhood, as well as people around the world.

*Then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause. (1 Kings 8:49 ESV)*

### Prayer for Anxious Times:

Sovereign God, I rejoice today that You are good, and You are great. You care and You can. Help me to walk by faith and not by fear. For the glory of my Savior and King. In Jesus' Name. Amen

## REACH UP

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceeding with great joy.  
(Matthew 1:10 ESV)

### Pastor Bruce as he teaches

- Pray for boldness, wisdom, and clarity as he preaches and proclaims the truth of God's word.
- Pray for Pastor Bruce and the Task Force he is leading with the Southern Baptist Convention.
- Pray for Pastor Bruce and staff as they lead during the Christmas season.

### 2021 Christmas Eve services

- Pray for wisdom in planning the services.
- Pray that our people will be inviting those needing to hear the gospel.
- Pray that many will be saved.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will move in the lives of those attending, and this Christmas season will be different than any other before.

## REACH IN

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift. (2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV)

### Connect Groups

- Pray for wisdom for teachers.
- Pray for a fresh, strong commitment for those already in a Connect Group.
- Pray for new groups to form, and new members that join these groups to see a deepened walk with the Lord.

### Students, Kids, Families

- Pray for leaders, students, and kids as they gather on every campus during the Christmas season to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Pray for families as they travel and gather in homes.
- Pray for the spiritual and physical health of our members and guests during this Christmas season.

## **REACH OUT**

**For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6 ESV)**

### **Christmas Mission/Ministry Opportunities**

- Pray for The BIG GIVE in December and the families we will reach.
- Pray for over 3000 families that will receive food boxes.
- Pray for the volunteers on each campus that will be delivering the food boxes on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for the many families in Haywood County that are displaced following the floods, and ways we can serve them.
- Pray for this Christmas season to be the beginning of a deep, rich walk with the Lord.
- Pray for our Domestic Church Plants:
  - Mission City Church, Jacksonville, FL
  - Coastway Church, Myrtle Beach
  - Redeemer Queens Park Church, London
  - Park Slope Community Church, Brooklyn
- Pray for the kids in the Boxing Ministry to experience a Christmas like never before.
- Pray for ministry opportunities to open up in South Asia with our Baniya people; an unreached people group.
- Pray for continued growth and support for our Foster Care Ministry.
- Pray for over 3000 Compassion International children sponsored by our Biltmore Church families.
- Pray for our 5 Child Development Centers in Ecuador.

**Thank you** for continuing to pray for the health and safety of our members and staff each month, but especially during this Christmas season. Your fervent prayers are a source of great encouragement.

### **THANKSGIVING FOR AND CLAIMING ANSWERED PRAYERS**

Take the time to go back through each of these requests, declaring by faith, asking God to answer our prayers according to His divine will and purpose. Thank Him for hearing and answering our prayers, and for the continued blessings over Biltmore Church.

# **PRAYER GUIDE**

**December 2021**

