



A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE

PRAYER & STUDY JOURNAL

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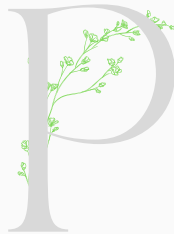
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INTRODUCTION



Dear New Community,

Welcome to a new year. In many ways, this feels like a season where our calling is to chase some dreams. To rediscover some things that maybe we've put on hold for too long or avoided because we tried a while ago but failed miserably. Whatever "it" is for you, what might it look like to breathe life into it again?

This booklet is a guide for you to start dreaming in community. Each week invites us to practices that help sync our dreams with God's dreams. Through the formational habits of prayer, partnership, path, pursuit, and potential, we are inviting you to journey together toward God's future... to dream big, but to dream in rhythm with the heart of our Father.

Each day of this guide invites you to three ancient practices:

- Scripture reading (via the Daily Office)
- Journaling what God is revealing
- Prayer with our wider faith community around these themes.

May we find new dreams, rediscover old ones, and move toward the future God has for us as a community.



INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the New Community 2024 New Year Prayer & Study Booklet. For each day of the next five weeks there is content for us to engage together as a church community. We are leaning prayerfully into this season, believing that God has some dreams for our church and for you as individuals and families.

Each week of this booklet centers around the theme and content of our upcoming Sunday worship time. We are walking through a series called “**P... A Guide to the Future**” and leaning into conversations about the formational habits of prayer, partnership, path, pursuit, and potential. You’ll learn more about these as we go, but here is a quick overview:

- *Prayer* - Our conversations with God.
- *Partnership* - Our communal life as fellow followers of Jesus.
- *Path* - Our regular walk as disciples of Jesus.
- *Pursuit* - Our mission in the world to bring the Good News of Jesus and the way of his Kingdom to our neighborhoods.
- *Potential* - Our surrender to the future God is dreaming for us

Here’s how this guide works:

Scripture

First, each day includes four Scripture readings taken from the Daily Office lectionary. Read through these at the beginning of your devotional time. Everyday there will be a Psalm, a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Gospels.

Question

Second, each day includes a question for you to reflect on related to the theme of the week. Take some time to meditate on this question, and then write your response in the blank space below each question or in a personal journal.

Prayer

Finally, each day includes a quote written by a host of historical figures, saints, leaders, and reformers. Once you have completed the readings, and meditated on the questions, utilize these quotes to spend some time in prayer to conclude your devotional time.



WEEK 1: PRAY



MONDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 103

Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12

Revelation 19:11-16

Matthew 1:18-25

QUESTION:

What does prayer currently mean to you in your life? What might God intend for prayer to mean to you?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”
- Martin Luther



TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 34

1 Kings 19:1-8

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:1-14

QUESTION:

What have you *not* shared with God in prayer?
How might you tell Him now?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“You may as soon find a living man that does not breathe, as a living Christian that does not pray.” - Matthew Henry



WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 68

1 Kings 19:9-18

Ephesians 4:17-32

John 6:15-27

QUESTION:

What are you afraid of today?

What are you ashamed of?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 136

Joshua 3:14-4:7

Ephesians 5:1-20

John 9:1-12, 35-38

QUESTION:

What joys and delights have you experienced in the last 24 hours? How can you thank God for this?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.” - Søren Kierkegaard



FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 2

Joshua 2:2-9

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 11:17-27, 38-44

QUESTION:

What new habits of prayer are you discovering?
How might you speak to God about your hopes
for your prayer life in the future?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God,
at His disposition, and listening to His voice in
the depths of our hearts.” – Mother Teresa



SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 46

Isaiah 49:1-7

Revelation 21:22-27

Matthew 12:14-21

QUESTION:

What might God be saying to you if you spent 20 minutes in silent meditation?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying in the world, the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil.”

- E.M. Bounds



SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 111-113

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:29-34

SABBATH PRACTICE:

Take some time for a walk or a time of silent reflection. Practice prayer as listening today rather than conversing. Be still and be silent.

PRAYER PROMPT:

What have you experienced this week in prayer? What new thoughts, feelings, and desires are you experiencing? Take some time to speak with God about these.



WEEK 2: PARTNER



MONDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 1

Genesis 2:4-25

Hebrews 1:1-14

John 1:1-18

QUESTION:

What does the idea of community mean to you?
What do you feel about your experience of
community right now?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The church is not a building, but a community
of believers.” - Unknown



TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 5

Genesis 3:1-24

Hebrews 2:1-10

John 1:19-28

QUESTION:

Who needs to know you love them and are beside them? How can you tell them today?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The Christian church is a fellowship of the weak and the needy for the strength and supply of their common Redeemer.”

- J.I. Packer



WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:1-24

Genesis 4:1-16

Hebrews 2:11-18

John 1:29-42

QUESTION:

Who do you need to share your heart with to allow to walk beside you? How will you do this?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The church is a place of refuge for broken hearts.” - Lysa TerKeurst



THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 18:1-20

Genesis 4:17-26

Hebrews 3:1-11

John 1:43-51

QUESTION:

What dreams do you have for sharing life with others? Share these with God in prayer.

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The church is not a place to go, but a family to belong to.” - Unknown



FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 16

Genesis 6:1-8

Hebrews 3:12-19

John 2:1-12

QUESTION:

What does celebration look like within your community? What and how can you celebrate today?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.” - Pauline Phillips



SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 20

Genesis 6:9-22

Hebrews 4:1-13

John 2:13-22

QUESTION:

Where have you been “faking it” in community?
What does vulnerability mean for you?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The community that dares to live in close fellowship with the poor will find itself in a special place in the economy of the Spirit.”
- Howard Thurman



SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 148

Genesis 7:1-10

Ephesians 4:1-16

Mark 3:7-19

SABBATH PRACTICE:

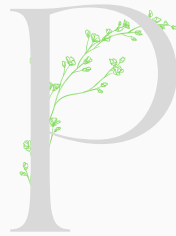
As you worship in community today, share with someone what you've heard God speaking this week. Share their value to you. Share your vulnerability with them.

PRAYER PROMPT:

Pray with someone today. Out loud, face-to-face. Share a partnership in God's dreams together.



WEEK 3:
PATH



MONDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 25

Genesis 8:6-22

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

John 2:23-3:15

QUESTION:

Where are you in your walk with Christ? Where is there life and fruit? Where does it feel dead and withered?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The goal of discipleship is to be conformed to the image of Christ. To be Christ-like, we must know Christ.” – Rick Warren



TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 26

Genesis 9:1-17

Hebrews 5:7-14

John 3:16-21

QUESTION:

What is your story of salvation? What does salvation mean to you today and each day?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.” - Dallas Willard



WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 38

Genesis 9:18-29

Hebrews 6:1-12

John 3:22-36

QUESTION:

Where do you need to surrender to following Jesus each day? What are you holding back?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Christian discipleship is a decision to walk in his ways, steadily and firmly, day in and day out, in all seasons, in all circumstances.”

- Elisabeth Elliot



THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 37:1-18

Genesis 11:1-9

Hebrews 6:13-20

John 4:1-15

QUESTION:

What is Jesus saying to you this week about his call to you to be his disciple? What will you do about it?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Discipleship is not about finishing a course, but about being formed in the image of Christ.”
- Brennan Manning



FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 31

Genesis 11:27-12:8

Hebrews 7:1-17

John 4:16-26

QUESTION:

If you were to suffer with Jesus, what would it cost you? What steps do you need to take to commit all of you to all of Him?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ, and it is therefore not at all surprising that Christians should be called to suffer.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 30

Genesis 12:9-13:1

Hebrews 7:18-28

John 4:27-42

QUESTION:

How might you need to shift your discipleship from *doing* to *being*?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Discipleship is not a call to do but a call to be in Jesus’ name.” - Henri Nouwen



SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 63:1-11

Genesis 13:2-18

Galatians 2:1-10

Mark 7:31-37

SABBATH PRACTICE:

Take some time to journal. What have you learned this week? What new habits are forming or need to be formed? What is God saying and what will you do?

PRAYER PROMPT:

Pray with someone today. Out loud, face-to-face. Share a partnership in God's dreams together.



WEEK 4:
PURSUE



MONDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 44

Genesis 14:1-24

Hebrews 8:1-13

John 4:43-54

QUESTION:

What does mission mean to you? What does mission mean in light of the Gospel?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.”

- United Methodist Church



TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 47

Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21

Hebrews 9:1-14

John 5:1-18

QUESTION:

What mission does Jesus have for you? Who comes to mind when you think of people who need the Good News of Jesus?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.”

- Hudson Taylor



WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:49-72

Genesis 16:1-14

Hebrews 9:15-28

John 5:19-29

QUESTION:

What might God be calling you to pursue as a mission? How might it be creative, unexpected, and unique to you?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The mission of the Church is not to make converts but to make disciples.” - Ralph Winter



THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 50

Genesis 16:1-17:14

Hebrews 10:1-10

John 5:30-47

QUESTION:

How does God's dream of making disciples line up with your dreams?

PRAYER PROMPT:

"If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers."

- Nina Gunter



FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 51

Genesis 17:15-27

Hebrews 10:11-25

John 6:1-15

QUESTION:

Where does your heart break for the people of the world? In your neighborhood? In your school/workplace? In your region? In the nations?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The task of missions is to project the voice of Jesus across the years, cultures, languages, and borders until every man, woman, and child has had the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.” - David Platt



SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 139

Genesis 18:1-16

Hebrews 10:26-39

John 6:16-27

QUESTION:

What is God saying to you this week about your missional pursuits? How will you respond?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“The church is the only cooperative society in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members.” - William Temple



SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 24

Genesis 18:16-33

Galatians 5:13-25

Mark 8:22-30

SABBATH PRACTICE:

Take time for a prayer walk today in your community. Spend at least thirty minutes asking God for eyes to see the world as he sees it, for the burden of the Gospel, and for fruitfulness in your life. Spend some time journaling your thoughts afterward.

PRAYER PROMPT:

Pray with someone today. Out loud, face-to-face. Share a partnership in God's dreams together.



WEEK 5: POTENTIAL



MONDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 64

Genesis 19:1-29

Hebrews 11:1-12

John 6:27-40

QUESTION:

How have the past four weeks shaped you as you think about the future in your spiritual formation?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Your time is limited, don’t waste it living someone else’s life.” – Steve Jobs



TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 68

Genesis 21:1-21

Hebrews 11:13-22

John 6:41-51

QUESTION:

Rewrite Thoreau's quote below through the lens of the Gospel and Jesus. What might Jesus say about this to you?

PRAYER PROMPT:

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined."
- Henry David Thoreau



WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:73-96

Genesis 22:1-18

Hebrews 11:23-31

John 6:52-59

QUESTION:

What are you dreaming about after the past four weeks? What is God dreaming with you?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” - Psalm 37:4



THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 71

Genesis 23:1-20

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

John 6:60-71

QUESTION:

What's next? What is God unveiling for you to live into?

PRAYER PROMPT:

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles." - Isaiah 40:31



FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 73

Genesis 24:1-27

Hebrews 12:3-11

John 7:1-13

QUESTION:

What is God saying to you right now?
How will you respond?

PRAYER PROMPT:

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



SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 23

Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51

Hebrews 12:12-29

John 7:14-36

QUESTION:

Where to from here?

PRAYER PROMPT:

“Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream of things that never were and ask why not?” – Robert F. Kennedy



SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 147:1-11

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

SABBATH PRACTICE:

Consider taking an hour or more to listen, meditate, reflect, and journal about the close of this journey. What is God saying now? Where will you go from here in obedience?

PRAYER PROMPT:

Share your reflections with someone who loves you and ask them to pray faithfulness for you.





Share your Journey

We'd love to hear how God has shaped you during this journey. Share your story at the link below!



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