



**FAMILY
CHURCH**

PRAYER WORKS

31 Days of Prayer

Thank you for joining Family Church on this 31-day prayer journey.

The focus of this prayer guide is praying word-for-word through our vision statement and the vision scripture that drives our church. At Family Church we truly believe that ***Prayer Works*** and we believe that focusing on prayer this month will lead to...

Individuals developing the habit of a daily prayer time. It takes about 21 days for most people to develop a habit. If you commit to pray each of the 31 days, it will help you to have a continuing daily prayer time after the month ends. Small steps lead to bigger steps.

People drawing closer to God. Prayer is simply talking with God. Consistent, authentic prayer will help us grow closer to God.

Understanding our vision statement and scripture that drives our church. As we unify around our biblically based mission, it will excite and energize us to live out the mission that God has given us.

A deeper level of unity to our church. When we are praying the same prayers daily as a church family in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, our hearts will unite around the same vision.

God moving in our church in a more powerful way. As we collectively call out to God, we will see him move in our lives and the church.

More of our family, friends, and neighbors coming to trust Christ as we are used by God to share his love with them.

Commit to make prayer a priority, find a place where you can pray uninterrupted, and use this guide as a starting place for your daily conversation with God.

Vision Verse

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

— *Romans 15:13*

Day 1 | As we **now** begin this journey together, pray that God will urgently give everyone a desire to pray daily. Pray today that God would move in your life to draw you closer to him and to encounter him in a real way over the next 31 days. Enter each day with an understanding and expectation that you are meeting with God.

Day 2 | Pray for unity in our church **now**. Just a few verses before Romans 15:13, Paul writes in verse 5 – “Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another.” Jesus says in John 13:35 — “By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” Our unity and love for each other is a powerful witness to the world. Pray that people will be drawn to Family Church where they feel united by love.

Day 3 | In this verse, Paul calls God, the God of **hope**. Paul means that God is the source or giver of hope. Our hope is only as good as the source we put our hope into. When we put our hope in God, we can have absolute assurance that he is going to accomplish all that he promises. Pray asking God to reveal things that you are putting your hope into (money, job, relationship) and ask him to help you to redirect your hope only to him.

Day 4 | We cannot doubt a God of **hope**. Doubt has no place in hope. The more we trust in God, the more doubt will fade in your life. Is there any area where you are not walking in faith because you doubt? This could be sharing your story or joining a small group, serving, trusting him with your finances or reconciling a relationship. If you aren't walking in faith in these areas, ask God today to increase your faith and walk in obedience.

Day 5 | Our **hope** is in the promises of God — such as the forgiveness of sins, his presence in our lives, the fact that he will give wisdom if we ask, that he's created us with purpose, to name just a few. When we trust his promises, it leads us to live with hope everyday through the hope that God provides. The world wants that kind of hope and as the church we have the answer — Jesus.

Day 6 | **Hope** is for now and for eternity. As Christians we have this hope of heaven that awaits us. The reality of heaven produces an ongoing hope that something greater than this world is in our future. Thank God today for the hope of heaven and all that it means for you today. Pray also for those you know who don't know that hope and that you can share it with them soon.

Day 7 | Paul doesn't pray that you will have a little bit of **joy**. Rather, he prays that the God will fill you with joy so that you will overflow with hope. Biblical joy is more than a happy feeling. It's a lasting emotion that comes from the choice to trust that God will fulfill his promises. Pray today that as you face trials, suffering and difficulties that you can still have joy because you trust that God is using this for your growth and his glory.

Day 8 | **Joy** is a fruit of the Spirit. The more we love God and walk in obedience, the more joy the Spirit will produce in your life. How are we filled with all joy? You must be filled with the Spirit. Today in your prayer time, ask God to reveal to you any areas in your life that you are not living in total obedience to him. Allow the Holy Spirit to overflow from your life.

Day 9 | Our **joy** isn't based on circumstances. James 1:2 instructs us to have joy even in trials and tough times. Why? Because it is in the trials that God grows our faith in greater ways. Trials show us how God is working in our lives. Is there any area of your life that is hard, or maybe you have had a bad attitude or have gotten mad at God because of it? If so, ask God to help you see how he is working to help you grow.

Day 10 | God is also the source of **peace** in our lives. Isaiah 26:3 — “You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you.” That kind of peace is only for the person who trusts in God. Our trust in the God of hope should be strong enough for us to be at peace because we know how much he loves us. This morning, if you are anxious and worried about anything in your prayer time, turn it over to God and live in peace in him.

Vision Verse

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

— *Romans 15:13*

Day 11 | How do we know if we are putting our hope in God? We believe his promises and find **peace**.

Psalm 29:11 — “The Lord gives his people strength; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” Do you believe that? You will if you put your hope in God. If you still struggle with trusting God in all areas of your life, today ask God to increase your faith.

Day 12 | **Peace** is also a fruit of the Spirit. God produces this fruit in greater abundance in our lives as we live connected and aware of the Spirit. Spend a few minutes this morning in quiet and ask God to fill you with peace. Be still and know he is God. Be ready if God sends you someone distraught, looking for peace, so you can direct them to Jesus.

Day 13 | Your walk with God will never exceed the depth of your **belief**. In Mark Chapter 9 a father brings his demon possessed son to Jesus for healing. He says to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus’ response is “If I can?” Does the father know who he is talking to? The father responds, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” Jesus challenged the father’s shallow faith, and the father responds correctly: increase my belief. Today, join the father and ask God to increase your belief.

Day 14 | **Belief** is like a muscle, the more you use it, the stronger it grows. If we don’t use a muscle, it atrophies, weakening to the point of ineffectiveness. Today in your prayer time, think of an area in your spiritual life where you need more faith and ask God to help your faith grow in that area. It might be the faith to take a stand at work or school or a difficult conversation that needs to happen, or faith to share your story with someone. Talk to God about it.

Day 15 | Have you ever been so happy that you couldn’t help but share it with someone? Maybe you aced a test, got a promotion at work or became parents for the first time. You overflowed and told the world. Here Paul says that the **hope** we have in Christ should be so powerful that we can’t help but share it with someone. Is there someone you need to share your hope in Christ with? Ask God to provide an opportunity for you to overflow that hope into someone else.

Day 16 | The study **Experiencing God** asks you to write down the ‘spiritual markers’ in your life. These markers are times when you saw God move greatly — an answered prayer, a healing, the opportunity to face something that you were fearful of. The word ‘remember’ is in the Bible over 200 times. Remembering how God worked in the past gives us greater confidence to put our hope in him for the future. Today, write down 2 or 3 spiritual markers and see how your faith has grown.

Day 17 | Everyone **hopes** for something. The hope that Paul talks about is a supernatural hope that only comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have already looked at the truth that joy and peace are Fruits of the Spirit — the more we walk in the Spirit the more joy and peace he produces in our lives. The same is true for hope. Today in your prayer time thank God that you don’t have to produce hope, but God gives us hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 18 | Today, read a prayer of Paul’s to all believers and then personalize the prayer for your life. “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the **hope** of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the might working of his strength.” Ephesians 1:18-19

Day 19 | Biblical **hope** not only desires something good for the future — it expects it to happen based on the promises of God. What promises of God do you put your hope into as you continue to build an intimate, personal, growing relationship with the God? Spend some extra time in prayer today praising God for the hope you have in him.

Day 20 | Romans 8:26-27 makes it clear the **Holy Spirit** intercedes for you and prays for in ways you don’t understand, strengthening your weakness. In your prayer time today, let go of your thoughts own and recognize the Spirit in you who intercedes for you. As you release your thoughts, see if he brings anything to mind that you need to pray in agreement with him. Thank him that he knows what you really need and what is best for you.

Vision Statement

“Family Church exists to bring hope and joy to our neighbors through the love of Jesus Christ.”

Day 21 | When we changed the name of our church to **Family Church** we did so because many said that our church felt like family. Over and over that term came up. Pray today that the feeling of love and unity pervades all our campuses and communities every Sunday and throughout the week in our small groups and ministries so people feel like they belong to a family.

Day 22 | The other reason we chose the name **Family Church** is because we felt our calling was to help the family. The institution of the family today is under attack and only the church has the answers to help it. Pray today that our small groups, Kid's / Student / Sports ministries and any special events on our calendar will impact every family that attends to be drawn closer to God.

Day 23 | The heart, the unity, the strength of **Family Church** is found in small groups. Our small groups are little families brought together to love, care, pray and share with one another. If you aren't in a small group, pray for God to draw you to one. Also, pray for the small groups currently in session that they will draw together closer than ever before.

Day 24 | We believe we **exist** at five campuses and in three languages because God has uniquely put us here in Central Florida. Our locations are where they are because God knew who would drive by or move in and see us. The church has been God's plan, put into place by Jesus and has survived 2,000 years. Pray that our purpose becomes clearer as the Holy Spirit draws people nearer.

Day 25 | Before Jesus departed the earth, he told his disciples to “Go into all the world.” What do disciples **bring** with them as they go? The Gospel. The message of hope and peace. Our job is to deliver it wherever we go to whomever God places in our path. Pray today for an opportunity to deliver that message of love to someone you meet today.

Day 26 | We've prayed all month for **hope**. Recent events in our world have sucker-punched humanity, knocking out everyone's wind through isolation, anger and fear. Now, more than ever, people need hope, something to trust and believe in. Jesus provides all the hope our world needs. Pray that you can communicate that hope to someone who desperately needs to hear it.

Day 27 | Just like hope, **joy** is contagious. People are drawn to joy like a moth to a flame. It's hard to find joy in anything today. Maybe laughter or fun, but joy is different. There's a security to joy, a contentment, a carefree peace with everything around them. People try to find that through worldly resources but only a relationship with Jesus provides the joy people seek.

Day 28 | Our vision statement gives us a clear task to take that joy and hope to our **neighbors**. Even Jesus was asked — Who is my neighbor? His answer, basically, was anyone we encounter along our way during the day. While those who live on all four sides of us are the easiest recipients of that message, pray that God would prepare you for whoever you encounter today.

Day 29 | Jesus said to “Love our **neighbors**.” For some that's not easy. For others, a cinch. Either way, we are to show Christlike love to every person around us, which means our cubicles and school desks too. Pray today that you have a chance to show or maybe to tell to others about that love Jesus has for every one of us.

Day 30 | Pray for our church as we approach the holiday season. Thanksgiving and Christmas draw the communities' hearts toward love, family and God. We need to be our best in order to express in all our services and ministries the hope and joy that the birth of **Jesus Christ** provides. Pray that God draws people to Family Church throughout November and December.

Day 31 | Our month of prayer commitment ends with the author and finisher of our faith, the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, our healer, sustainer, creator — **Jesus Christ**. It's why Family Church exists — to proclaim and glorify him in all we do. Pray for our purpose and our mission which ultimately glorifies Jesus Christ to the world!