

21
DAYS OF PRAYER

GLORY BAPTIST CHURCH
2024

Week 2

Introduction

Each day of this plan, we read a passage of Scripture and then apply the SOAP Method to a few verses. We believe that using this method allows us to glean a greater understanding of Scripture, which allows us to apply it effectively to our lives.

The SOAP Method includes four steps:

Scripture. Write out the verses at least one time. Slow down and copy the passage from the text, focusing on what you are writing. Writing it more than one time is always helpful.

Observation. Take time to carefully observe the passage. What do you see in the verses you're reading? Who is the intended audience? To whom is the writer speaking? What cultural factors are at play? Are any words or themes repeated? What literary devices are being used?

Application. After carefully observing what is happening in the passage, determine the main message or truth of the passage. How can you apply this truth to your life?

Prayer. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time, pray about it. Confess any sin God has revealed. Pray through the truth of the passage.

The most important ingredients in the SOAP Method are your interaction with God's Word and your application of it to your life. God's Word is powerful and effective. You will never waste time in God's Word. Take time to study it carefully, discovering the truth of God's character and heart for the world.

As you work through these readings and prayer times, you will likely find it beneficial to read more than just the day's verses. You may want to read all of Matthew chapter 6 each day. Or chapters 5-7. Feel free to do more/add more in – including cross references.

Prayer

Father, lead me on this journey of learning and applying. Reveal truth to me each day. Help me see what I can't see that is wrong in my thinking. I acknowledge your ways are higher than my ways. Your thoughts are higher than mine. I begin these weeks by acknowledging the power of your Kingdom and my desire to experience you and your Kingdom more deeply than I ever have before. I want to experience you not just when I stand face-to-face with you, but in the here and now. Lead me. My desire is to follow you. Amen.

Week 2 - Day 1
Matthew 6:7-8

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Prayers like The Lord’s Prayer are great prayers to pray and wonderful tools to instruct us in the process of prayer. By giving us this prayer, Jesus isn’t saying this is the only way to pray, pray this and only this. In fact, He warns against that. When prayer become rote, when we put prayer on autopilot and just babble out meaningless words out of obligation without thinking, our prayers are wasted breath. Prayers of this style were common in the time of Jesus and people would babble them endlessly thinking it made their gods more likely to hear them. God is always ready to listen, but He cannot be manipulated through ritual prayer. “Babbling” to get God’s attention and to manipulate Him to get what we want is foolish, because the Father is aware at all times of His children’s needs even before they ask. Though God already knows, we should not hesitate to ask. Jesus’ disciples don’t pray to give Him information but to express our desires, our needs, and our dependence on our heavenly Father. Prayer is much about changing us, our character, our will, and our values, even while we seek for God’s response.

Week 2 – Day 2
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 9 “Father in heaven”

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The term for “Father” is “Abba,” a name used by children for their earthly fathers that denotes warmth and intimacy in the security of a loving father’s care. While children may have used it as a form of endearment, similar to the English expression “Daddy,” it had a much more profound use in adult religious life. Jesus Himself used the term similarly to address His heavenly Father. By calling His disciples to share in the kingdom of heaven, they now have entered into a relationship with His Father as well. Moreover, God is “our Father,” expressing the relationship we have with one another as disciples and with Jesus as our brother, and the corporate intimacy we have with the same Father.

Week 2 – Day 3
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 9 “hallowed be your name”

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The purpose of hallowing the name (the name signifies the person) is that God might be “sanctified” or set apart as holy among all people and in all actions, that He will be treated with the highest honor. To hallow God’s name means to hold it in reverence - to hold Him in reverence, to honor, glorify, and exalt Him. This is the essence of the first three of the Ten Commandments: “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything.... You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God ...” (Ex. 20:3–7; Deut. 5:7–11).

This model prayer is concerned with the glory of God. Before we ask anything for ourselves, we look for the hallowing of God’s name, the extending of God’s kingdom and the doing of God’s will. These are the issues that weed out all that is self-centered in our prayer lives. It’s not just a matter of coming with our requests - it is coming with requests for things that will give glory to God, that will be in the interests of His gospel and that will produce more obedience to Him in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Week 2 – Day 4
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 10 “Your kingdom come”

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Israel looked for God to send His Anointed One to rule the earth, and now that Jesus has inaugurated the kingdom of heaven, His disciples live with the anticipation of the completion of that program. God’s anointed Messiah is here and at work, bringing the sovereign and saving rule of God. As the disciples pray “your kingdom come,” they align themselves with Jesus’ own practice of prayer and join His kingdom movement and seek God’s power in furthering its ultimate fulfillment.

The idea then is this is a prayer for the kingdom of God to become fully present - not for God’s people to be snatched away from earth to heaven, but for the glory and beauty of heaven to be turned into earthly reality as well. When that is done, God’s name - His character, His reputation, His very presence - will be held in high honor everywhere.

Week 2 – Day 5
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 10 “Your will be done”

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This appeal is to be linked with the preceding petition. Wherever the kingdom of heaven exerts its presence, God’s will is experienced. God reigns in heaven absolutely, which means that all of heaven experiences His perfect will. Jesus prays that earth will experience that same rule of God.

Jesus’ own utmost act of obedience in His earthly ministry was to submit to the will of God the Father (Matt. 26:39, 42). With the inauguration of the kingdom, those who carry out the Father’s will in Jesus’ ministry become his disciples (12:50) and display the reality of the kingdom of heaven as they remain faithful to that will for their lives (cf. 5:13–16).

Week 2 – Day 6
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 10 “on earth”

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The complete experience of God’s will on earth will occur only when His kingdom comes to earth in its final form, causing an overthrow of all evil rule (Rev. 20:1–10) and completing the regeneration of this earth (cf. Rom. 8:18–25). But Jesus’ disciples are the present living testimony to the world that God’s will can be experienced in part today. We are the ones, who through living out our faith in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, will be the agents extending God’s kingdom on this earth. So, we need to long for God’s will to be done and trust that it indeed will, but we also need to work for God’s will to be done, being actively involved.

Week 2 – Day 7
Matthew 6:9-10 – Focus on verse 10 “in heaven”

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The Father is the Lord of heaven and earth (11:25), and after the resurrection He gave Jesus universal authority in heaven and on earth (28:18). In the meantime, as disciples are involved in the gradual extension of the Kingdom by their words and deeds, their utmost desire is for the ultimate realization of God’s reign on earth. Currently – already – God’s will is being accomplished in heaven, and we pray for that to come to earth as well. That evil would be vanquished, that death would be no more, and that sorrow would no longer have a place.

This too serves as a reminder that greater things are indeed in store for those who have put their faith, trust and hope in Jesus. The brokenness of this time will end. We humbly seek that, earnestly praying for it – Lord let it be.

