

Prayer Guide for Week One

LEADER: (Say everything out loud except those things that are in parentheses () or brackets [].)

Let us lift our hearts up to the Lord and lay aside any distractions...what may have happened this morning/today or even on our way to Bible study...let us ask the Lord to prepare our hearts to commune with Him. If you have anything that is burdening you or upsetting you, would you take a moment right now to quietly lay it at the Lord's feet. Entrust whatever it is entirely to the Lord. Ask Him to help you take your eyes off of the things of this world and turn them toward Him. Fix your eyes and your heart upon Jesus. Let us go to our knees and bow before Him now.

[T H A N K S G I V I N G]

Let us, "*Enter His gates with thanksgiving . . .*"

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.*
 - 2 Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.*
 - 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 4 to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 5 to him who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 7 to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 8 the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
 - 9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;*
- (Psalm 136:1-9).

Let us worship the Lord by offering Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving. During the next 2 minutes, we will take turns thanking the Lord out loud, specifically for His wonderful deeds recorded in His Word and recently demonstrated in our lives. We want to focus on the deeds He has done, or on WHAT He has done.

Abba Father I thank you for ...

[P R A I S E]

Let us enter, "*into His courts with praise.*"

- 1 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!*
- 2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!*
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!*
- 4 Praise him, you highest heavens,*

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and you waters above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created.
6 And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
(Psalm 145)

During the next 2 minutes let us all praise the Lord aloud for specific attributes of His character that you remember from His Word or that you have experienced in recently days. Praise Him for who He is and how He has revealed himself to you in His Word, in His creation, through His people, or by His Spirit. Let us focus on WHO He is.

Abba Father, I praise you, for you are . .

[C O N F E S S I O N]

Let us approach confession with hope, placing our trust in Christ. He not only cleanses us from all of our sin, but He gives us himself!

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!
(Psalm 139:23-24)

Lay your heart before Him and remember that Christ bore the sin on your behalf.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
(John 1:29)

Abba Father, we confess our sin to you, humbly, and specifically quietly in our hearts...and if some of us are willing...aloud to one another.

[I N T E R C E S S I O N]

As the body of Christ, His ambassadors and His holy priesthood, let us bring our requests before Him. During the next 2-3 minutes we will each take a turn praying out loud for ourselves and those who don't know the Lord.

Abba Father, we lift up...

[C L O S I N G]

Let us close today by praying through the Lord's prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.