

THISTLEBEND
In the Garden Prayer Guide for Week Two

Let us go to our knees and bow before Him now.

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory. (Psalm 63:1-3)*

[T H A N K S G I V I N G] Let us, “*Enter His gates with thanksgiving . . .*”
Let us go before the Lord and let us “*Sing to the Lord a new song.*”

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth! (Psalm 57:9-11)*

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Thank you for leaving heaven’s throne and coming down to us. Thank you for coming to live, to die, and to overcome sin and death, for giving us victory over our sin, for cleansing from all unrighteousness and giving us yourself and your righteousness!
Thank you Lord, for your mercy, your grace, and your forgiveness. Thank you for your healing and cleansing power. Because of you and your grace we can know you and be in your presence.

Let us, worship the Lord by offering Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving. During the next 2-3 minutes, we will take turns thanking the Lord out loud.

[P R A I S E] Let us enter, “*into His courts with praise.*”

*Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!
Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God. (Psalm 43:3-5)*

During the next 3 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 recently days. Let us focus on WHO He is. Abba Father, we praise you, for you are ... (identify a character trait that belongs to the Lord. For practice let us praise the Lord by saying these words specifically:

Our Father we praise you for you are: _____. (For example: Omniscient (all knowing), Omnipotent (all powerful), Omnipresent (ever-present), in complete control at all times, full of grace and truth, all-wise, and ever-loving.

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

Let us lay our sin before Him. Heavenly Father, our hearts break because of our sin of:

doubt, unbelief, lack of trust,
willfulness and selfishness,
resistance and rebellion,
wanting to do things our own way or the way that we have always done it,
fear, insecurity, worry, and pride, our critical spirit, hidden resentment, and legalism,
jealousy, envy, tendency to compare,
wrong worldview, erroneous cultural expectations,
clinging to human traditions, our weaknesses, frailty, hurt.

Father forgive us, help us to lay aside every sin that so easily entangles.
Help us be free of the things that hold us back from following you.
Please forgive us O Lord. Have mercy upon us.

Let us all take a moment and confess quietly any sin to the Lord in our hearts. Take whatever the Lord has revealed to your heart this week and confess it out loud to Him and to one another — any sinful thoughts, feelings, words, or actions or inactions.

Abba Father I confess that...

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

We can be encouraged. The Lord tells us if we confess our sin He is faithful to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 32 tells us that:

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

[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.
Pray out loud.

[C L O S I N G]

Let us close today by praying through the Lord's prayer:
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 forever. Amen.