

08 SUNDAY

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 1 (you and God)

Psalm 90:4 (NIV)
For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Perhaps what is happening to you lately does not make much sense to you. Sometimes it is hard to see God's plan in your life. Maybe it's because His plan covers many generations and your part in that plan is just one small part of something much larger. How does this realization make you feel?

- **Romans 8:1-18** What name does the Spirit let us call God?
- **Mark 8** What did Jesus feed 4,000 people?
- ◆ **Isaiah 37-39** How many years did God add to Hezekiah's life after he pleaded to be saved from death?

August 2010

A praise this week _____
A confession this week _____
A need this week _____
God connected to me through _____

09 MONDAY

10 TUESDAY

11 WEDNESDAY

12 THURSDAY

13 FRIDAY

14 SATURDAY

Luke 7:47 (NIV)
Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.
Guilt—feeling bad for what we have done to others—should, at the very least, make us more loving to others. But the opposite happens. Unresolved guilt causes us to treat people even worse than before. Get rid of the guilt. Receive God's forgiveness. Then watch your newfound love for people explode around you. What unresolved guilt do you need resolved before you can really love others?

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
The image of God is seen in relationship. Two completely different and often opposite people, a man and a woman, mysteriously complement each other—sometimes in ways that can only be appreciated when looking back. Why do you think God created two different human beings to reflect His image?

2 Peter 3:9 (CEV)
The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.
There is only one reason why the Lord has not returned, thus causing the end of the world as we know it. He wants those who have a relationship with Him to share that relationship with those who do not have one so that they might be saved. Who do you know that does not have an everyday, talking and listening relationship with the Lord?

Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.
No matter what disasters have happened to you, no matter what fearful events lie before you, God is near. When, in the midst of trouble, have you felt the presence of God?

2 Timothy 2:23 (NIV)
Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.
Buttons. You have them and the people in your life know how to push them. You know how to do it too. Why do we push each other's buttons? Why do you do it?

Psalm 25:16 (NIV)
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
To say the words "I am lonely" is not easy. Truth is, most people are. Maybe you are. There is One who is always with you. No matter what. When have you felt lonely?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 2 (you and a friend and God)

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 3 (you and your family and God)

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 4 (you and your group and God)

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 5 (you and your church and God)

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 6 (you and God's kingdom)

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 7 (you and the world and God)

- **Romans 8:19-39** What tells you if you are a child of God?
- **Luke 1** What did Elizabeth's baby do when Mary greeted her?
- ◆ **Isaiah 40-42** Who will soar on wings like eagles?

- **Romans 9** Whose unbelief caused the author's unceasing anguish?
- **Luke 2** What empire's taxation led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem?
- ◆ **Isaiah 43-45** What two natural forces can God's people pass through unharmed?

- **Romans 10** Who will be saved?
- **Luke 4** In what city was Jesus almost thrown off a cliff by a mob?
- ◆ **Isaiah 46-48** For whom is there no peace?

- **Romans 11:1-24** What does the grafting of the olive tree symbolize?
- **Luke 7** Whose house was Jesus at when a sinful woman anointed Him?
- ◆ **Isaiah 49-51** God will make Zion's deserts like what garden?

- **Romans 11:25-36** Who are God's chosen people?
- **Luke 15** How many coins did the woman have originally?
- ◆ **Isaiah 52-54** Who are like sheep?

- **Romans 12** How should you treat a hungry enemy?
- **Luke 16** You cannot serve both God and what?
- ◆ **Isaiah 55-57** What is like the rain that waters the earth?

1 Thessalonians 3:9 (NIV)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

Wouldn't it be great if someone you knew said something like this to you today? Why not bless those around you with God's goodness and see what happens. What do you think it means to have joy in the presence of God?

- **2 Corinthians 11:1-15** Was Paul (the author) a good speaker?
- **Acts 28** What creature bit Paul on the hand but did not harm him?
- ◆ **Daniel 1-3** In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, what four metals comprise the statue?

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Proverbs 10:32 (NIV)

Those who do right know the proper thing to say. But those who do wrong speak only twisted words.

You have had it done to you. You have done it. You have taken words about someone - words that have been shaped and molded to make someone look bad - and spread them to others who will then further shape and mold the words: twisted words. Do right today. Have nothing to do with twisted words. When has this been done to you? When have you done it to someone else?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 2 (you and a friend and God)

Ephesians 3:16-17a (NIV)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

How do you feel deep inside? Confident? Bold? Strong? Fearful? Insignificant? Weak? God's Spirit is His gift to you today. A spirit of power and strength. What do you think it means to let Christ dwell in your heart through faith?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 3 (you and your family and God)

1 Kings 2:1-3 (NIV)

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go."

Perhaps you had a parent that said words like this to you. If so, praise God and carry on. If not, then these are God's special words for you today. Did your parents ever challenge you with words like this?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 4 (you and your group and God)

FIRST DAY OF FALL

Luke 12:25 (NIV)

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

This day has hardly begun and perhaps you are already piling on the worry. Work worry. People worry. School worry. Responsibility worry. Unidentified worry. Let it go or do something about it. Give it to God or ask God to help you with it. But don't just sit and worry. It's a waste of time. What things are on your worry list today?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 5 (you and your church and God)

Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Perhaps a friend has said some hard words to your face - words that spoke the truth but words that hurt. Be thankful. Your enemies speak kind words to your face but lies behind your back. How are you at receiving "words" from a friend?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 6 (you and God's kingdom)

1 Corinthians 10:33 (NLT)

I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.

We live in a "what's in it for me" culture. But that philosophy only ends in brokenness and pain. What can you do for others today? How can what you do impact their salvation?

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 7 (you and the world and God)

- **2 Corinthians 11:16-33** How many times was the author (Paul) shipwrecked?
- **Romans 1** Why does no one have an excuse not to know about God?
- ◆ **Daniel 4-6** At what king's banquet did a phantom hand write on the wall?

- **2 Corinthians 12** Why was the author given a "thorn in his flesh"?
- **Romans 2** For Gentiles, where is the law written?
- ◆ **Daniel 7-9** Who explained the vision to Daniel?

- **2 Corinthians 13** How were the Corinthians to greet one another?
- **Romans 3** How many are righteous?
- ◆ **Daniel 10-12** Who was Belshazzar?

- **Galatians 1** Which brother of Jesus does Paul mention?
- **Romans 4** Whose father is Abraham?
- ◆ **Hosea 1-4** God compares the people of Israel to what stubborn animal?

- **Galatians 2** Whom did Paul oppose when he met him in Antioch?
- **Romans 5** Why did God give us the law?
- ◆ **Hosea 5-7** What will the Lord do if we return to Him?

- **Galatians 3** Can people receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the law?
- **Romans 6** What is the result of sin?
- ◆ **Hosea 8-10** As Israel accomplished much and began to build palaces, whom did they forget?

19 SUNDAY

PRAYER FOCUS:
Connection 1 (you and God)

📖 Luke 2:5-6 (NLT)
He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.
God had a special plan for Mary, Joseph, and the birth of His Son. Likewise, God has a plan for you. You may not always know what to expect, but you can trust God to do what is best. When has God done something unexpected in your life?

- **Revelation 10** What did the angel ask the author to do with the little scroll?
- **1 John 5** What are the three things that testify that Jesus is the Son of God?
- ◆ **James 3-5** What animal is compared to the tongue?

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2010

A praise this week _____
A confession this week _____
A need this week _____
God connected to me through _____

20 MONDAY

21 TUESDAY

22 WEDNESDAY

23 THURSDAY

24 FRIDAY

25 SATURDAY

📖 Luke 2:7 (NIV)
She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room ... in the inn.
There's a lot of pressure to have a "perfect" Christmas with great gifts, caroling, and family. Often that makes our actual Christmas a let-down. We forget the first Christmas was far from perfect — Mary had to give birth in a stable! What blessings from God can you find in your disappointments of the season?

📖 Luke 2:7 (KJV)
And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
"No room." Ever feel that way at work? In your family? In God's house? "No room for you." Jesus knows just how you feel. When have you felt left out?

📖 Luke 2:9 (KJV)
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
Fear of death? Of people? Of pain? Of things seen and unseen? Of things near and far? Of being left out or missing out? Of God? Don't let your fears keep you from hearing the good news. What fears are holding you back?

📖 1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)
Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
Since the first Christmas, more people have put their trust in Jesus than in any other person on the earth. How about you?

📖 1 John 4:9 (NIV)
This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.
This little verse says more about what Christmas is truly all about than all the gift buying, decoration displaying, party going, carol singing, and food eating we typically fill the holidays with. Have you accepted the gift of God's Son into your life?

📖 John 1:14 (NIV)
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
The Word is Jesus. He is God's Word of Love like no other. Living our pain. Living our life. Showing us the way. How has Jesus lived with you?

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FIRST DAY OF WINTER

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS DAY

- **Revelation 11** What natural disaster killed 7,000 enemies of God's witnesses?
- **2 John** How should people respond to teachers who do not bring Jesus' teachings?
- ◆ **1 Peter 1-2** What plant does Peter compare to man?

- **Revelation 12** What red creature pursued the woman who bore a son?
- **3 John** John commends his friend Gaius for what?
- ◆ **1 Peter 3-5** If a wife's husband does not believe in God's Word, he may be won over by what?

- **Revelation 13** What number is the mark of the beast?
- **Jude** Who disputed with Satan over the body of Moses?
- ◆ **2 Peter 1-3** What animal was given the ability to speak in order to stop the wicked prophet?

- **Revelation 14** Who could learn the song the choir sang?
- **Revelation 1** The number seven is used for four different items in chapter one. What are these four items?
- ◆ **1 John 1-2** Why did John write this letter?

- **Revelation 15** How many angels accompanied the last seven plagues?
- **Revelation 2** The seven letters have been written for whom?
- ◆ **1 John 3-5** How can we tell who belongs to God?

- **Revelation 16** What container holds God's wrath on the earth?
- **Revelation 3** What church was neither hot nor cold?
- ◆ **2 John-Jude** Who disputed with Satan over the body of Moses?