

WEEK 4

I AM...

40 Days of Prayer

EASTER 2026

40 Days of Prayer



WEEK 4

MARCH 9 - 15

Digital Guides will be posted weekly at:
www.pbcbr.org/daysofprayer

40 DAYS OF PRAYER INTRODUCTION



Our annual *40 Days of Prayer* has become one of my favorite times of the year for our congregation. It is a sweet thing to interact with those who are yielding this time in prayer to the Lord. Over the course of the last year, we have been challenged with the reality that prayer is powerful because the one who we pray to is powerful, so it is fitting to put that into practice through another corporate time together. Leading into this season of Easter, we are looking squarely at the person and work of God the Son. He impacts our lives and is worthy of all our praise. Over the course of these 40 days, we will be digging into that truth further as we engage in praying with one another. May this season of prayer bring you joy as you fellowship with Jesus.

Each day, there will be a passage with a brief explanation, some application, and then a prayer response. As you pray the specific prompt, I would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for other things as well. You can pray for those in our congregation who have need, for missions, or other needs the Lord burdens you. You can sign up to receive our daily prayer email to help guide you. Also, you can pray for our church, for the ministries we have here, and for our staff. Certainly, include your daily prayer concerns and whatever else the Lord lays on your heart.

May it be that our hearts would be changed through this concentrated season of prayer together.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Chris

The Doorway to Life

READ PSALM 118:20



DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

Jesus' proclamation that he is the door of the sheep is clothed in a great deal of Old Testament Imagery and prophecy. This Psalm speaks to the deliverance of God and the truth of his steadfast Love for his people. Verses 19-22 speak to the reality of the Lord opening the gates of righteousness for the people to enter through. Verse 18 praises God for what he has accomplished in bringing salvation. Verse 22 is a quotation that in the New Testament is used to describe Jesus. The picture of Jesus as the door in John's gospel continues the prophetic image that passages like Psalm 118 give us. Jesus has brought salvation and it is available through him alone. The gates of righteousness have been provided by Jesus, and he provides access to those who believe in his name.

The life that Jesus promises begins with trusting him by faith and surrendering our lives. The question this truth should arrest us with is, what are you looking to as the door to life? That question may not immediately register, but there are several ways that we might phrase it. Like, what are you counting on to bring you life? Or what do you think will provide you access to the life you want? The sneaky truth is that everyone is looking for what will bring them life. We might describe it in different ways, but everyone is seeking it. Some choose different doors than others and eventually find out that it wasn't the door to life. Only surrender to Jesus yields the life we are searching for. The scripture points out the danger we will face. Jesus is the stone the builders rejected. We must make sure that we do not reject him, thinking that life will be found anywhere else.

Today in prayer, let us praise God that he has made a way for us. Ask him to reveal to those who do not know that he is the doorway into life.

Jesus the promised Shepherd

READ EZEKIEL 34:1-24



DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

The religious leaders throughout scripture are often described in the imagery of shepherding. It was the spiritual leader's responsibility to show the people the way to follow God and lead them to honor him. These leaders had failed in their charge and instead of helping the people, they had made the work they did about themselves. The indictment given by the Lord against them is that when they should have been feeding the people, they were feeding themselves. It is a tremendous indictment against those who should have had it in their heart to serve the Lord by serving the people. Instead, they were neglecting honoring God to honor themselves. Because of their neglect, God promises that he himself will come to shepherd his people. We can clearly see this as an allusion to the sending of the Messiah and the coming of Christ. Where they did not have a shepherd, God promised to fill the void himself.

When we think of this picture of finding life, there is only one shepherd who can lead us into life. God fulfilled his promise in sending Jesus. We can know the joy of his pasture through following Christ. Are you looking to Jesus? Are you trusting him to lead you through this life and into the next? God's promise is that he would seek out the sheep and that he would rescue them. He offers saving grace to us through accomplishing both of those things. Would you yield your heart to him? Would you follow him to life?

As you pray today, thank God that he has fulfilled his promise by sending Jesus for us. Would you pray that he would guide you into truth in your life.

The Woman of Samaria

READ JOHN 4:1-15

MARCH

11

TODD SUMMERFORD

“Water is essential. Studies have shown that even slight dehydration affects cognitive function on many tasks. When we have mission teams on the field, we are constantly reminding them to stay hydrated. Coaches often have hydration plans developed for their players to ensure their bodies are in the best shape.

The woman Jesus had encountered at the well in Samaria had arrived to draw water. Though the water she had gone to draw that day was important, what Jesus pointed her to was of the greatest importance. He explained to her how he could provide her with water that would make her never thirst again. Of course, Jesus was not talking about the water in the bottom of the well. He was explaining that in him was utmost satisfaction.

Though we may “thirst” for the things of this life, we need not forget that true satisfaction is found only in Jesus. The world can never satisfy the “thirst” we feel deep within our souls. Only Jesus can.

As you pray today, thank God for the satisfying work of Christ in your life. Ask him to help you avoid looking at anything the world can offer to satisfy.”

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



TODD SUMMERFORD

"Today's devotion connects closely with the one from yesterday. Hang with me!

The woman at the well received the "living water" Jesus told her he could provide (see yesterday's passage). The very vessel the woman in John 4 had taken to fill with water was left behind as she ran back into town to tell anyone who would listen. Her witness led to many Samaritans from that town believing. In today's passage, we read about Jesus speaking to a crowd, giving them a similar message. They, too, could have this living water.

Jesus spoke to the crowd, telling the people how he could satisfy their thirst. It would well up into "living water" that would flow out of their hearts. The awesome reality is that the satisfaction we have in Christ wells up within us to the point of being unable to contain it. The love of Christ spills over into every part of life, impacting what we say, think, and do. Imagine if we, like the Samaritan woman, were willing to tell anyone who would listen about what Jesus offers to those who call on his name—salvation.

As you pray today, think of one person with whom you could share the gospel. Ask God to work in that person's heart and give you the opportunity to share how Jesus perfectly satisfies our deepest need through his saving work. "

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Born Again

READ JOHN 3:1-21



DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

Jesus encounters Nicodemus at night in a place away from the sight of everyone. Nicodemus is intrigued by what he has seen in Jesus and proclaims that Jesus has come from God. Jesus points him to the truth that he must be born again. For Nicodemus, this raises a question. He is thinking in physical terms so he doesn't understand how someone could enter again into their mother's womb. Jesus, of course, is talking in spiritual terms and is describing the work that God does when a person surrenders their life to him. He replaces the old man with a new man. This happens through the work of Christ accomplished for us. He invites Nicodemus to be born again by believing in him. Jesus offers him the opportunity to enter into eternal life.

We might misunderstand like Nicodemus did. What Jesus accomplishes in our lives is to bring redemption to us through the forgiveness of our sins. What is there is a new man who should now seek to live in a way that honors Christ. The old man is dead and the new one lives by the Spirit. As he walks with the Spirit, he will bear the fruit that evidences his changed life.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to draw to new life those who need to be born again. Thank him for his work in your life.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Right Recognition, Right Surrender.

READ ROMANS 10:13-40



DYLAN JONES

Paul points out in Romans 10 that salvation is for all who call upon the name of the Lord. This was a radical idea for Roman Jews to call Jesus Lord because Rome saw Caesar as Lord. But Paul refuted this in verse 9 when he states that salvation comes when someone only confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in their heart that He rose again from the dead. Paul was pointing out the truth to the Jews that salvation was also for the Gentiles. In the Old Testament, the phrase call upon the name of the Lord was associated with right worship of the true God. Here in verse 13, the idea to call upon the name of the Lord is to recognize and submit to the Lord's deity, authority, sovereignty, power, majesty, Word and grace. Paul's aim was that all would give right worship through recognition and submission to the Lord.

If we truly desire to give right worship to the Lord, then we have to not only recognize but also submit to Jesus as Lord of our lives. Rightful recognition requires rightful submission. But there are things in our lives that fight for our submission and recognition. What is it in your life that you give over to that keeps you from rightful recognition and worship of the Lord?

So would you pray that we would rightfully recognize and submit to Jesus as Lord? In doing so, would you also pray for the people in your life who need to call upon the name of the Lord for the first time?

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

The Good Shepherd

READ JOHN 10:11,12



DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

Jesus follows up the proclamation that he is the door to the sheep with another shepherding image. He is the Good Shepherd. Jesus is pointing to the truth that he is the Shepherd who will bring rescue to the sheep. He will accomplish this by laying down his life. Others will abandon the sheep, but Jesus is the one who will sacrifice all for them. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus lays down his life and secures salvation for those who would believe in his name. The Good Shepherd imagery points to Jesus' care for the sheep and the lengths that God would go to for his own.

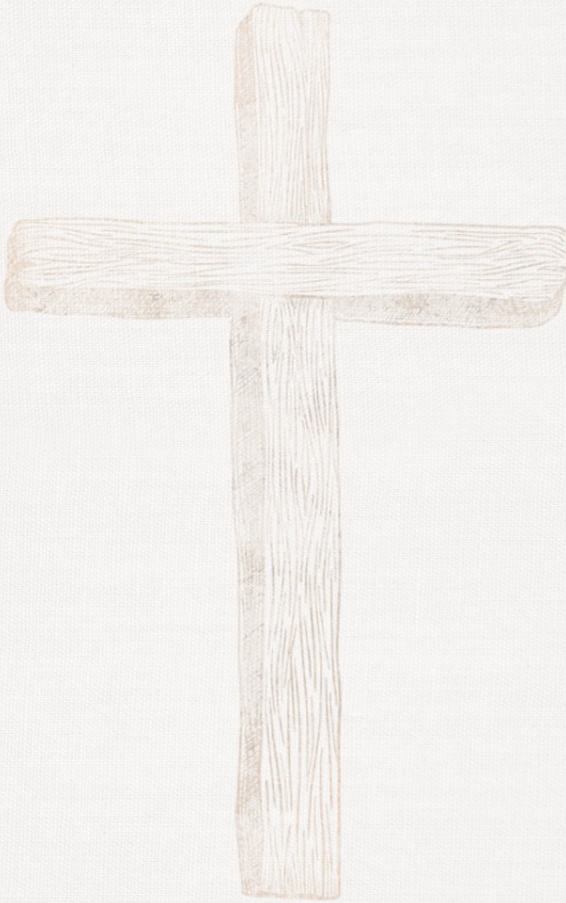
We should realize that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and what that means for life. First, he gives us salvation. It is bought through his sacrifice, and the offer of grace is extended to us through Jesus. By trusting in him, we can find redemption and reconciliation with God. Restored to fellowship with God, we can then know an abundant life. Second, Jesus cares for us. God demonstrated his care by fulfilling the promise of Ezekiel 34 in Jesus. God has met the need like a shepherd to his sheep. He leads us, promises to fill us, and cares for us. We must realize these truths and live our lives in the reality of them. This means that we can trust God, and that we can know what true joy and abundance is as we walk with him. Would you find that in him today?

Today, thank God that he has acted in fulfilling his promises. Thank him for his care for us. Thank him that he is the Good Shepherd.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



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