

# **Teach us to Pray:** **A Seven Day Devotional**

## **Monday, Day 1**

In this week of devotions, we're going to think about the concept of God as our Father and learn how that can help us grow in our life of prayer.

Thought for the day:

“Our Father...”

Think about this quote:

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” (A.W. Tozer)

Stop and think for a minute... When you think of God as your Father, what comes to mind? How do you think your view of God as your Father affects the way you pray?

Many of us, depending on what our life experience has been, have very specific things that come to mind when we hear the word “father.”

Loving... Loud... Strong... Distant... Workaholic... Provider... Protector... Abuser... Wise... The descriptions could go on and on.

How do you think your feelings about your father affect your thoughts about God?

Ask God to speak to you about this verse: 1 John 1:16

Pray this prayer:

Father, your word says You are love. No matter how I feel about my earthly Father, help me to believe that You are entirely, forever loving toward me, and that You are always working for my best in life. I thank You that you

Speak in Your Word about Your love for me. Help me to understand the truth about Your character. If there are any areas where I am believing lies about the way You feel about me, please identify them and show me the truth of who You are.

Please help me, today, to love others with Your love. Amen.

Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

I pray for \_\_\_\_\_(person's name) to feel the Father's love today.

I pray for the people of \_\_\_\_\_(a nation) to understand God is reaching out to them in love.

## Tuesday, Day 2

### Thought for the day:

There is never, ever, a time when God does not welcome you to be with Him. He's never too busy. He's never asleep. He's never doing something so important that He doesn't have time for you. His door is always open; and you are always welcome. In fact, it's not just that you're welcome... He is actually always eager to spend time with you. Being in His presence is always an invitation, 24 hours a day for the rest of all time!

Ask God to speak to you about this verse today: James 4:8 and Ephesians 2:13

### Pray this prayer:

Father, I am so thankful that I don't have to be perfect to come to Your throne of grace. I am beyond thankful You have promised me that anytime I draw near to You, You will draw near to me. Thank You for being so eager to spend time with me. And thank You, Jesus, for giving Your blood on the cross so that I am cleansed from my sins and have been brought near to You!

### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

Father, the people of the nation of \_\_\_\_\_ are so far from You, but You died to make a way for them to be brought near to You also. Please send people to tell them about You.

I also pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (friend, family member, co-worker) to know that You are inviting them to know You and draw close to you.

### Wednesday, Day 3

#### Thought for the day:

God gives good gifts to His children. He is our Provider.

A good Father is often thinking about how he can bless his children. Often this is in meeting their needs. But then a good father wants to go beyond needs and also give gifts just for the sake of blessing his kids! What are some of His gifts that meet your needs? What about gifts that are simply blessings from Him?

Ask God to speak to you about this verse today: James 1:17

#### Pray this prayer:

Father, You are so good in all Your ways. You have provided for me all that I have, and you provide all I need. I cannot survive without You in my life. Thank You for taking care of me through Your gifts – both the ones that meet my needs, and the ones that are simply blessings!

#### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

I want to thank You, Father, for \_\_\_\_\_ (needs that He has met).

Thank You for these gifts that simply bless me: \_\_\_\_\_.

I pray that you will also meet the needs of \_\_\_\_\_ (person you know with needs)

## Thursday, Day 4

### Thought for the day:

One of the things we should expect from a father is that he is good. A loving father should be working on behalf of his children, for their good and not for their harm. Obviously, though, sometimes earthly fathers, even if they have the best intentions, cannot work all things out for our good.

God, though! He is the one being in the entire universe that has all power to accomplish ultimate good for His children. He can make all things happen! And because He is ultimately good on every level – in fact, there is nothing in God that is not good – then we can know with confidence that, in the end, everything will work out for the very best for us if we are His children.

Ask God to speak to you about these verses today: Psalm 145, 8,9 and Romans 8:28

### Pray this prayer:

Wow, Father, it is impossible for my mind to figure out how You are so good, no matter what, all the time. There's no one else like You! You are good! You are full of mercy and grace and love! I choose to believe, right now, that because I love you, and because I believe I am called according to Your purpose, You are working out all things for my good.

### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

Here's an area, Father, where I am praying for You to work things out for good:

\_\_\_\_\_  
I also pray for \_\_\_\_\_(family member or friend) who needs to know today that you are working out their situation.

I specifically pray today, Father, that you will help us at All Peoples Church to find a permanent facility to house our church and all of our ministry work. And let it be soon!

## Friday, Day 5

### Thought for the day:

From skinned knees to sinful choices to business bankruptcies, we are all going to encounter some tough moments in life. And quite honestly, some of us may have encountered situations in our lives that have been almost unbearable.

When life hits us with those situations, we need someone to understand us, comfort us, and encourage us that we can get back on our feet! We need a Father who believes in us and gives us the grace to accomplish what He asks us to do.

God is all of these things, and through His Holy Spirit gives us perfect comfort and encouragement.

However, the Bible says that any time God gives us comfort, it's actually so we can comfort others in the same way we are comforted by Him. It's never only about us! We are part of God's comfort and encouragement that He gives to others.

Ask God to speak to you about these verses: 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 and Hebrews 4:15, 16

### Pray this prayer:

Father, there are so many times I'm in need of comfort, and I'm in need of your encouragement. I'm so thankful that You are the perfect Father who understands everything. You created me, so you know everything about me. And Your word says that you faced all the same things I face, and so you know what it feels like. Thank You for Your comfort and encouragement.

But Father, please don't let my eyes stay focused only on myself and my own needs. There are others, all around me, who need comfort, too. In fact, everyone I meet, every day, is carrying some kind of burden. Help me to keep my eyes on others as well, and be a part of the comfort that You provide for them.

### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

Father, I need your comfort and encouragement for \_\_\_\_\_ (a difficult situation) in my own life.

I also ask You to give Your great comfort to \_\_\_\_\_ (person you know who is facing a difficult situation). Please give me an idea of a specific act I can do to bless them and be a part of Your comfort in their life.

## Saturday, Day 6

### Thought for the day:

One of the most encouraging things about praying to God as our Father is this: He is powerful. He can do it. He is big and strong and able to answer. In fact, there is nothing He can't do. Nothing!

When we're very small children, there is a period of time in which we think our dad can do anything. But as we get older, it dawns on us slowly that Dad has his limits.

But not God! He can! And this is one of the things that is most reassuring about praying to Him as our Father... There is nothing that He can't accomplish!

So He is the perfect – and really the only! – one we should go to with our prayers!

Ask God to speak to you about these verses today: Psalm 115:3 and Isaiah 45:18

### Pray this prayer:

You amaze me, Father! I am so thankful that it's You that is managing the universe, and You that is managing my life, because there is no one else capable! You are all-powerful, and all-wise, and always making the perfect decisions!

But thank You for the fact that, even though You are all those things, and even though You are overseeing all creation, all governments, all oceans and climates and every other big thing... You still make a way for intimacy with me, and desire to know me.

### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

I pray, Father, for our nation's leaders, that You will direct their decisions so that Your will is done on earth as it is in Heaven.

I pray God for the nation of \_\_\_\_\_ today, that You will raise up laborers to proclaim the truth about Jesus there.

I ask You, Father, to meet this need in my life: \_\_\_\_\_(the biggest need you have).

I also ask You to meet this huge need in my family member or friend's life:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Sunday, Day 7

### Thought for the day:

As we gather to worship as a community today at All Peoples Church, it's a good morning to focus on His worthiness. He is worthy. He is magnificent. He is perfect. He is kind, smart, powerful, beautiful, indescribable, imaginative, loving. He is the fullness of joy. He is the best of everything and the best at everything and the best in everything.

Nothing compares to Him.

He is a Father worthy of all the worship and all the adoration and all the praise we can give Him... And even that wouldn't be enough to begin to touch how worthy He is to be worshiped.

He is beyond all descriptions. Good. Full of life. Full of mercy.

And He gives abundant life to us, simply because He wants to.

He is an extravagant Father.

Ask God to speak to you about these verses today: Revelation 4:11, 5:12, and 19:6

### Pray this prayer:

Father, there is none like You. If I, and every person and creature and created thing in the universe did nothing but praise You for the next thousand years, it still wouldn't even begin to be enough praise to declare Your worth! You are God, and there is no other!

I thank You for these past seven days of focusing on who You are as my Father, and I ask You that You will continue to reveal Yourself to me, Your child, as each day goes by.

Teach me, Father, to pray, to communicate with You, to have constant relationship with You.

### Pray for these things as you fill in the blanks:

Father, I worship You by giving You thanks for these 3 people You have put in my life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I praise You by declaring these five amazing things about You that make You worthy of worship:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.