

Prayer Guide

Harvesting God's Blessings



His Vision - Our Purpose

Every good and perfect gift is from above

James 1:17

Where there is no vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18

A Letter from the Pastor

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “pray continually.” Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (NIV). Prayer is a constant theme throughout the Old and New Testaments. I think about Moses praying for the children of Israel during the exodus. I recall men like Joshua, Nehemiah, and Daniel who saw great victories won as a result of prayer.

God is leading the PVS Family on a journey. The theme is *Harvesting God’s Blessings: His Vision – Our Purpose*. The only way the vision will become a reality is if God, with His power, works through us. Only as we humble ourselves before Him in prayer and present our personal and church needs, will we see His miraculous work.

We know from Matthew 28:19-20 the Lord desires us to reach more people for Him. The call is clear, and we must be sure we are connected to God’s power that occurs when we unite our hearts in prayer.

I hope you will join me in these special days of prayer. I am reminded of that gospel song, “Jesus, we’re depending on you to see us through!”

Your Pastor,

Philip May

The Purpose of this Prayer Guide

The purpose of the prayer guide is to prepare you for the Harvesting God's Blessings capital gifts campaign. Each daily devotion is divided into five parts: Read, Meditate, Reflect, Pray, and Apply. Each part will strengthen your relationship with God and help you understand His will for you in this campaign.

(1) Read:

Read the entire selected Bible passage.

(2) Meditate:

Think about the key verse.

(3) Reflect:

Read the reflective thought that explains each day's chosen Bible passage. Ask yourself how the Bible passage applies to your life.

(4) Pray:

Communicate with God every day. Ask Him to reveal to you how He wants you to participate in the campaign.

(5) Apply:

As you work through each day's devotion, write down in the space provided any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Christ and to your involvement in the Harvesting God's Blessings campaign.

DAY ONE (1 OF 15)
2 CHRONICLES 7

Meditate:

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn away from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven.”
– 2 Chronicles 7:14

Reflect:

During the next fifteen days you will be praying to your Father about our Harvesting God's Blessings campaign. God is pleading with you to spend time with Him. First, He wants you to put away anything that prevents you from hearing His voice and receiving His blessings.

Pray:

God, I pray that You will purify my heart and the hearts of every member at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church. Hear our prayers so that our ministry potential will be maximized through Your power and so that You will be glorified.

Apply:

DAY TWO (2 OF 15)
MATTHEW 9:35 - 38

REACH PEOPLE

Meditate:

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” –
Matthew 9:37

Reflect:

Someone has said, “The church is the one organization that exists for those who aren’t even here yet.” There are literally thousands of unchurched people in our community. You can probably think of some of those individuals because they are your neighbors, coworkers and friends. How will they find Jesus?

Pray:

God, help me to realize You have called me to work in Your harvest. Give me opportunities to share Your love with someone today. Please help us as a church to remember that we exist for those who don’t know You.

Apply:

DAY THREE (3 OF 15)
MATTHEW 28:16 – 20

REACH PEOPLE

Meditate:

“Go and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

Reflect:

In Floyd County there are approximately 100,000 people. Living within a five-mile radius of Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church there are hundreds of people who need to hear about Jesus and His love. Many of those people have never experienced the love of Jesus in a local church. We have such a tremendous opportunity to make disciples.

Pray:

Lord, help us to be a church that genuinely cares about making disciples. Empower us from the inside out so that we will be a light in the dark world around us, offering hope and peace through the name of Your Son, Jesus.

Apply:

DAY FOUR (4 OF 15)

PSALM 98

Meditate:

“...all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.” – Psalm 98:3

Reflect:

Envision Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church reaching the Floyd County area and the world by preaching and teaching the salvation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Imagine thousands of people giving their lives to Christ and growing in Him as a result of our investment in their future. Imagine God’s arms enveloping a church body that faithfully walks in perfect step with His will.

Pray:

Father, I pray that You would continue to embrace Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church. Remind me of Your perfect love and salvation so that I will go and share Your blessings with the many who are hurting and in need.

Apply:

DAY FIVE (5 OF 15)
LUKE 5:17 – 26

Meditate:

“They were filled with awe and said, ‘We have seen remarkable things today.’” – Luke 5:26

Reflect:

God still works miracles. He does things to amaze His people and to prove He is God and we are not. This campaign is about God doing the remarkable in each life. William Carey, the father of the modern missionary movement, once said, “Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God.” Let us attempt great things for God and expect great things from Him during this campaign.

Pray:

God, I stand in awe of You! You desire to do remarkable things through my church and my life. May I never doubt what You can do through me. Help me to be totally surrendered to You. Please begin Your greatest work in me today.

Apply:

DAY SIX (6 OF 15)
COLOSSIANS 4:2 – 6

EXPAND MINISTRY

Meditate:

“Make the most of every opportunity.” – Colossians 4:5

Reflect:

Just about every minute of every day provides us with opportunities to minister to others. As we imagine the possibilities of expanding our ministry, those opportunities become even greater. Keep your eyes open today for areas where you can serve Jesus, and dream a little of the potential of the future.

Pray:

Lord, thank You for the possibilities of ministry You will place in my path today. As we expand our ministry at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church, may we see even greater opportunities to share Your everlasting love with an ever-changing world.

Apply:

DAY SEVEN (7 OF 15)
ACTS 11:19 – 21

EXPAND MINISTRY

Meditate:

“The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.” – Acts 11:21

Reflect:

In times of great challenge the church has always seen growth – spiritually and numerically. The key to that success is the fact that God’s hand must be involved. We must rely on His strength, wisdom and provision. It takes courage to say, “We’re going to do something so big, if God’s not in it, it’s bound to fail!” It is then that we truly see the hand of God at work.

Pray:

God, You are sufficient to supply more than all we need. I praise You and thank You for all your blessings. May we as a church be completely reliant upon You as we expand this ministry. And as we rise to that challenge, may we see Your hand at work like never before, in our lives and the lives of others.

Apply:

DAY EIGHT (8 OF 15)
EPHESIANS 4:11 – 13

EQUIP SERVANTS

Meditate:

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” – Ephesians 4:12

Reflect:

Think back and remember a school teacher, a coach, or a youth leader who really made a difference in your life. Somehow they went the “extra mile” and challenged you just a little more or they made the extra effort to help you really see your potential. No doubt, you are still grateful for that servant leader. A major aspect of the church is all about building up God’s people so they can make a serious impact in this world.

Pray:

Father, thank You for sending special people into my life to help shape me and mold me into the child of God I am today. Help Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church to be an effective “Training Station” so that we can bring them in, build them up and send them out. I pray for every person in our church with the responsibility of teaching and training, that You would use them in effective ways.

Apply:

DAY NINE (9 OF 15)
HEBREWS 13:20 – 21

EQUIP SERVANTS

Meditate:

“May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will.” - Hebrews 13:20a – 21a

Reflect:

Firefighters will tell you that a major part of their time is spent in training. They have to be adequately equipped and trained to handle the enormous task of fighting fires, rescuing people, and saving lives. In the church our ultimate training instructor is Jesus. And God has promised to fully equip us for doing His will.

Pray:

Sometimes we get nervous, Lord, about being in over our heads. Help us to remember, first of all, that You are “The God of Peace” and that we can trust You when times get tough. But also, Father, help us to realize that You will equip us with everything good for doing Your will.

Apply:

DAY TEN (10 OF 15)
2 CORINTHIANS 4

EQUIP SERVANTS

Meditate:

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:18

Reflect:

Most of our lives we focus on the temporal. We trust in what we can see. Our lives are fixed on things that pass away. We tend to invest our time and money into things that won't last.

Pray:

God, help me to fix my eyes on the eternal, not the temporal. God, cause me to see people like You do. Place in my heart a desire to see people coming to a life-changing connection with Your Son, Jesus Christ. I want to see all people through the cross. Help me to remember that my giving will reap eternal rewards. Help me to invest my money wisely.

Apply:

DAY ELEVEN (11 OF 15)
1 CORINTHIANS 2

EXPERIENCE GOD

Meditate:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” – 1 Corinthians 2:9

Reflect:

God has prepared greater blessings for you than you can imagine. He promises this to those who love Him. Begin your prayer today expecting God to give you more than you have dreamed, to show you His wisdom, and to give you a mind like Christ.

Pray:

Thank You, God, that you are prepared to bless me beyond my greatest dreams. I do love You. Reveal to me what You have prepared for my church and for me. Help me to abandon my own agenda and surrender all to your agenda and your will for the world. Give me wisdom like Yours and a pure mind like Your Son’s.

Apply:

DAY TWELVE (12 OF 15)
PSALM 63

EXPERIENCE GOD

Meditate:

“I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.” – Psalm 63:2

Reflect:

God created us to enjoy a relationship with Him. David instructs us to seek God...to thirst and hunger for Him. At Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church, we truly experience God every weekend in worship. When you need God the most, He will cause you to recall those rich experiences of worship.

Pray:

God, You are my God. I seek You. I long to spend quiet time with You. I have seen Your power and Your glory in worship. May my life be a center of worship for You. And may the worship services of Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church continue to lift up Jesus and show Your power and glory.

Apply:

DAY THIRTEEN (13 OF 15)
ACTS 16:16 – 34

GROWING FAMILIES

Meditate:

“He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.” – Acts 16:32

Reflect:

It is exciting to see baptisms during the worship services. It is especially a joy to see entire families make that commitment to God. One of the possibilities of expansion is to help more families find the joy of knowing Jesus. Can you imagine it? When we make Christ the center of our family, forgiveness is found, wounds are healed, and relationships are restored.

Pray:

Father, You know the names of every family that our future ministry will touch. Please make Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church a safe place for families to find Your love, forgiveness, and grace. Use me in that process of ministry.

Apply:

DAY FOURTEEN (14 OF 15)
EPHESIANS 3:14 – 19

GROWING FAMILIES

Meditate:

“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.” – Ephesians 3:16 – 17a

Reflect:

It has been said that the way to truly change a city is to start with one family at a time. And the only way to change a family is from the inside out. Ask yourself, “How much am I allowing God to change me? Is Christ at the center of my entire family?”

Pray:

I can never thank You enough God for the family You have given me. Thank You also for my living church family. I pray that my family would give You first place in our lives. Unify us so that we can work together as a team, heal us from past hurts, and strengthen us so we can endure the tough times of life. Make us into the kind of family you desire.

Apply:

DAY FIFTEEN (15 OF 15)
2 CORINTHIANS 9

GROWING FAMILIES

Meditate:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8

Reflect:

God takes pleasure in those who cheerfully give when the opportunity arises. Although everything belongs to God and He needs nothing, He desires to see the joyful attitude of your heart toward giving. God has met our deepest needs by giving Christ, His Son. Because of God’s generosity, shouldn’t we give generously to Him?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, impress upon my heart, through Your Spirit, what my part needs to be in giving. You gave Your only Son for me. What can I give to You? I desire to give generously because I want to be pleasing to You. Even though I can’t see how You will use my gifts, I know they will reap eternal rewards. God, thank You for allowing me to make the greatest investment of my life.

Apply:

OUR FAMILY CONFERENCE

PURPOSE:

To pray, study and communicate with one another to discover God's will concerning your commitment to Harvesting God's Blessings.

PREPARATION:

Participate in daily devotions offered in the "Harvesting God's Blessings" prayer guide so God has the opportunity to prepare every family member.

Set a time for your family meeting. The meeting will probably take thirty minutes to an hour, depending on the age of your children.

Instruct each family member to begin thinking of sacrifices that God wants that person, and the entire family, to make in order to make a great investment in God's work.

DATE:

An evening between _____ and _____,
with your written commitment to be turned in on the
_____.

LEADER:

Preferably the head of household, with ALL family members present.

OUR FAMILY CONFERENCE

Suggested Steps:

1. The leader prays, inviting God's presence and leadership into the meeting asking God to give a spirit of love, unity, and unselfishness.
2. Read and discuss as a family the Bible passages listed here. Write God's principles for giving in the space provided.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 11:24-25

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Luke 6:38

OUR FAMILY CONFERENCE

3. Ask family members to talk about sacrifices they and the family could make in order to give to God through the **Harvesting God's Blessings** campaign now and over the next three years. List family ideas below. Be sure to include each child so every family member has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving sacrificially to God.

4. Let each family member pray sentence prayers:
 - Thanking God and praising God.
 - Asking God's direction and help in making a family decision according to His will.
5. Compare God's principles for giving (written under the Bible verses you have read) with the ideas your family has come up with. Add any other suggestions that anyone offers.
6. Decide as a family what will be given.
7. Close with a prayer of commitment, asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, and to give you joy in giving, thanking Him for what He has done and for what He will do.

**“EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT
COMETH DOWN FROM ABOVE,
AND COMETH DOWN FROM
THE FATHER OF LIGHTS,
WITH WHOM IS NO VARIABLENESS,
NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING.”
JAMES 1:17**

**“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION,
THE PEOPLE PERISH...”
PROVERBS 29:18**