



PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

30 Days of United Prayer For Schools (Sept. 1-30, 2018)

*“Broken: I Fall on My Knees Before the Father”
(Ephesians 3:14-21)*

Pray For Schools is a coalition of Christian ministries inviting the body of Christ in America to engage in prayer for the emerging generations in three ways:

1. Mobilize churches to set aside a portion of their worship services on the third Sunday of September to unite in prayer for students and teachers (This year, it’s September 16).
2. Invite people to pray for 30 days in September, following a prayer guide that can be downloaded from www.prayforschools.com and/or followed on social media (see website for details).
3. Encourage believers of all ages and from all walks of life to continue to pray for schools, utilizing the various prayer initiatives featured on the website.

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Week 1:

Sat. 9/1

The 2018 theme is *Broken: I Fall on My Knees Before the Father*.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21—the 2018 theme verse and the surrounding passage.

You can start right where you are, right now, today. God has placed you in your family, your school, your city, in this culture, in this generation for His purpose! If you have never before prayed while kneeling, today would be a great day to start. Simply “fall on your knees before the Father.”

Sun. 9/2

Today, look up and read Ephesians 3:14-15.

Paul tell us that when he considers all that God has called him to do and the great responsibility he has been given to reach his generation, he has no choice and no other response than to fall on his knees.

Imagine your life for a moment without Jesus, salvation, your family, friends, and all you have written down above. Realizing that all we are and all we have is a gift from God can be a humbling

experience. As you pray today, take a few minutes to thank Him for all His blessings and gifts to you.

Mon. 9/3

Read Ephesians 3:17.

When we trust Christ to save us in our broken state, He comes to make His home in our hearts. This means that the same Jesus you read about in the Gospels that healed people, performed miracles, calmed storms, and taught thousands of people about God now lives inside of you. Wow! That is definitely hard to wrap your head and heart around.

If you have never trusted Christ as your Lord and Savior and are ready, here is a short prayer to ask Him to make the four promises listed above a reality in your life:

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I now turn from my sins and ask You into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Please forgive my sins and give me Your gift of eternal life. I want to follow You for the rest of my life. Thank You for dying for me, saving me, and changing my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Tues. 9/4

Read Ephesians 3:18-19.

We all have a really hard time understanding a love that is limitless and unconditional like God’s love. In fact, especially these days, the love we see in and from the world can make us cynical and skeptical about accepting ourselves and loving others.

Today in your prayer time, ask God to help you to not only understand His amazing love, but experience His love. Ask that He would make you “complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from” Him.

Wed. 9/5

Read Ephesians 3:20-21.

This verse simply means that God’s power isn’t limited to our human expectations or boundaries. It does not matter at all what anyone says God can or cannot do. He is infinite in what He can accomplish, more than we can imagine, ask, or think.

Today, pray about and then pay attention to what God does and when and how He might answer to provide what you have been requesting of Him.

Thurs. 9/6

Below is a customized version of Ephesians 3:14-21, the verses we've been reading all week. Read this passage as a personal prayer and ask God to start helping you see your life in His Word.

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen [me] with power through his Spirit in [my] inner being, so that Christ may dwell in [my] heart through faith. And I pray that [I], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [I] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all [I] ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within [me], to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (NIV, bracketed words have been altered)

Fri. 9/7

Read Mark 1:35.

This verse is what it is; means exactly what it says; in whatever translation or paraphrase you want to read. Jesus got up early in the morning and went away alone to pray. One of the most life-changing spiritual disciplines in which you can invest is a daily and dedicated time alone with God.

During this time you can read your Bible, journal, pray, listen and obey His voice.

Close with a quiet moment to hear God speak. Be still and know He is God (Psalm 46:10). Pray Samuel's prayer: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Week 2**Sat. 9/8**

Read Matthew 5:43-47.

When people today criticize prayer, this is just one of the many ways they are only lashing out against Jesus just as He said would happen. It is so easy to only pray in the situations where we feel comfortable and for the people we love. But praying where it is not popular or accepted and for those who even hate us is when true Christianity is expressed.

Take a moment to write down three people that love you and then three people you believe might not care for you. Pray for them all with equal passion, just as in today's verses Jesus commanded to do.

Sun. 9/9

Read Luke 18:1-8.

Waiting for God's answers to our prayers can be one of the toughest things in the Christian life. As a perfect Father, His "yes" is always *provision*. So, we must also trust and know that God's answers of "no" or "wait" will never be about *punishment*, but rather *protection*. His character will only allow Him to give what is right, even when He knows it is not what we want, because He is always only after our best. When God gives you a "yes," be grateful for His agreement with you and permission to you. But when He answers with a "no" or a "wait", don't *push* Him away, but rather *press* into Him.

Thank God today for His answers to your prayers and for His provision and protection.

Mon. 9/10

Read James 5:13-18.

Scripture makes it clear over and over again that faith is the key to prayer, but God's answers are not dependent on our human efforts. If we express faith in God but the answer that we wanted does not come, we must not assume it is about us and that we did not have enough faith. We must realize that our prayers are answered not because of the greatness of *our faith*, but our faith in the greatness of *God*.

Read today's verses again and look for what you need to pray today. For someone who is sick? To celebrate a victory? To confess a sin?

Tues. 9/11

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Today, God promises to hear you, forgive you, and heal the hurts and wrongs in your life. Your part is to recognize you are called, humble yourself, pray, seek Him, and turn from sin—or disobedience—to Him.

Use this verse as the guide for your prayer time today.

Wed. 9/12

Read Mark 1:15-19.

Once you are a Christ follower, it is important to understand that you have a calling on your life. And that calling changes everything. The fact that you have been called by God can also change history. You could impact the world for Christ, be a history maker, a world changer.

As you pray today, begin to ask God to show you *your* calling. While He leads us all to different ministries, everyone's journey begins at the same place: "Come, follow Me."

Thurs. 9/13

Read Ephesians 4:1-3.

Is there an area where you know you need to humble yourself? Why not go ahead and surrender it now before a circumstance or a person does it for you? God is always out for our best in all things, but, like the Apostle Paul, that doesn't always happen in a way that we would choose.

Pray today about any area where you struggle with humility and then also those where you battle insecurity.

Fri. 9/14

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

Our time alone with God can begin a conversation we can have with Him all day long. Constantly taking our concerns and praises to Him as we go about our day.

Pray For Schools is about gathering with fellow Christians to pray together, but nothing should replace the daily time we can spend building a relationship with our Savior and Lord.

Use Jesus' prayer as your own today, but include any specific personal thoughts or requests as well.

Week 3

Sat. 9/15

Read John 15:15.

When was the last time you truly wanted and needed to sit down to give God your full attention? Maybe when your heart was broken? Maybe something tragic occurred? Or maybe something incredible happened? Learning to sit quietly and be face-to-face and knee-to-knee, so to speak, with Jesus can make the bruises and bumps of life much easier to handle and give you peace in life's many storms.

Today, pretend that Jesus is literally sitting across from you while you pray. If possible, try talking out loud to Him as you would a close friend.

Sun. 9/16

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Evil seems to be everywhere—even in places where we never suspected it to be. Schools, malls, and other public places are no longer safe and secure like they once were. In light of all of this, there is one Standard that has never changed and won't—God's Word. If you will get to know His Word and allow it to be your foundation for life, you will always have a never-changing standard of truth. Let His Word "prepare and equip you to do every good work."

Pray today for God to give you a growing hunger and thirst for His Word and that it would daily transform your life as you read and study.

Mon. 9/17

Read John 10:1-15.

Begin to pay attention to when God might be speaking to you. Start trying to learn His ways and patterns with you. It may even help to write down situations in a journal where you sense He is speaking, even those you may not be completely sure about yet. The more attention you give to listening to Him, it just might surprise you how often He speaks! Just as today's verses say, you can know His voice and you can learn to hear from Heaven. Over time, you can learn His ways and His voice. Jesus wants to have that deep of a friendship with you.

As you pray today, ask God for His help in hearing from Him and learning His voice.

Tues. 9/18

Read 1 John 1:9.

God tells us that when we sin, all we have to do is just one thing—confess and agree with Him that what we did was wrong. In short, when we make a mess, we should tell Him, ask for forgiveness, and He will clean it up. There are times when our sin sets events into motion that cannot or will not be undone. But God will take care of the spiritual aspect of our sin every time. We should take comfort in the fact that we don't have to hide from God, nor do we have to beat ourselves up in guilt and shame or try to "pay" for our own sin. We simply go to Him, be honest, and allow Him to restore us in our brokenness.

In your prayer time, after you *confess*, then next begin to *profess* God's goodness in offering you His grace and mercy.

Wed. 9/19

Read Psalm 51.

Our sin and disobedience destroys, hurts, robs, and brings death to our lives and all we touch. No one in Scripture knew this better than King David as he voices in today's passage. However, God's love and grace builds up, restores, redeems, and gives life to our broken hearts and our broken world. When we daily surrender our lives to Him, His mercy overcomes our failures, bringing true healing to our lives.

In your prayers today, if you have any unspoken hurts or there is something deep within that you are keeping hidden from everyone, get it out and give it to God. Offer your broken heart to Him, just like David, and ask for his healing and restoration. If you need further help, never hesitate to talk to a parent or pastor.

Thurs. 9/20

Read 1 Samuel 3:19.

At the beginning of this chapter, we see that Samuel was a boy who helped Eli with his duties in the Temple. One night Eli and Samuel were asleep where the Ark of the Covenant of God was stationed. Suddenly, Samuel awoke to someone calling his name. After the second time this happened, Eli told the boy, "Go and lie down and if God calls you again, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

A great addition to your personal prayer time is to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." After you talk to God and voice your requests to Him, be still and patient, clear your mind, and expect to hear from Him. Try this today.

Fri. 9/21

Read Hebrews 4:16.

We can often focus on the prayers we pray that don't ever seem to be answered, while we can miss those we pray in the morning and are answered by nightfall. There are many, many blessings that God brings simply because He knows what we need, but there are others that He waits to give until we ask. We must learn to go before Him and ask for what we need, knowing and believing that He is a good, good Father.

- Pray often. You can talk to God anytime.
- Pray specific. Tell Him exactly what you are thinking.
- Pray boldly. Pray as if you are talking to a close friend—because you are.

As you pray today, use these three suggestions.

Week 4

Sat. 9/22

Read Romans 12:10-12.

Prayer is simply sharing our hearts with our Heavenly Father. While many people make prayer a complicated, religious exercise, it is actually an intimate, personal experience.

Guilt is a lousy motivator. Don't pray because you feel guilty, or "just because you know you are supposed to." Yes, there will be days that you don't feel like praying and have to practice discipline, but that's not the same as guilt. Pray in faith that God is the One Who can do everything about any circumstance you may be going through.

Be personal and intimate with your Heavenly father as you pray today.

Sun. 9/23

Read Colossians 1:9-12.

Notice the phrase, "we have not stopped praying for you." While your Bible might say it a bit differently, the meaning is the same. Keep praying. Don't stop. Prayer is an on-going experience, not a one-time event.

There is a synergy and energy when we bring prayer, God's Word, faith, and the Gospel all together to be active in our lives. And this is when we have the greatest opportunity to help change the lives of others as well.

Today, turn the phrases in today's passage into a prayer as in, "Lord, fill me with knowledge ..."

Mon. 9/24

Read Ephesians 6:11-13.

Today, we read and hear a lot of stories of bullies and victims—both physical and on-line. Then there are times we hear about victims eventually becoming bullies themselves, wanting to inflict the hurt they have felt. The Christian should never be a bully *or* a victim. Sure, bad things will happen to us all, but we have the freedom through Christ whether or not to allow the hurt to continue through actions such as prolonged anger, bitterness, revenge, or hatred.

Today, whether for the first time or the thousandth time, be sure you put on God's armor. Ask for His protection against the enemy, but also pray for the grace to show people His love so you will be strong and able to stand firm, loving others the way Jesus first loved you.

Tues. 9/25

Read Psalm 91.

Consider praying Psalm 91 over your school. Insert the name of your school in the blanks as you pray. (The other bracketed words have been changed to be plural.)

“[My School] lives in the shelter of the Most High [and] will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is [our] refuge, [our] place of safety; he is [our] God, and [we] trust him. For he will rescue [My School] from every trap and protect [us] from deadly disease. He will cover [My School] with his feathers. He will shelter [My School] with his wings. His faithful promises are [our] armor and protection. [We will] not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. [We will] not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand fall at our side, though ten thousand are dying around [us], these evils will not touch [us]. Just open our eyes [to] see how the wicked are punished. If [My School] makes the Lord [our] refuge, if [we] make the Most High [our] shelter, no evil will conquer [My School]; no plague will come near [our] home. For he will order his angels to protect [My School] wherever [we] go. They will hold [us] up with their hands so [we] won’t even hurt our [feet] on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.” (NLT)

Wed. 9/26

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Throughout the Bible we see that God doesn’t concern Himself with limitations like age (too young or too old) and experience. He looks for availability, not ability. He seeks a right heart, not the right resume. He looks for people who are serious about Him and His work! That is all God needs to accomplish amazing things in and through your life.

If God is calling you to reach your school and your generation, then who is limiting you? Who is stopping you? Who is encouraging you? Who is helping you?

Today, pray about these questions in your life. Surrender them to Him. Let Him take over and create in you exactly what He desires. He is looking for people to pray prayers just like that!

Thurs. 9/27

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Sometimes prayer is all about our perspective—how we view God and life.

Have you been praying a long time for someone or something? Whatever the request, God honors persistence and faithfulness when we pray according to His will. So keep praying. Our prayers and how God answers work together as a process for our best and His glory.

Today, consider re-engaging a prayer that you have given up on in the past. You might be just a few days from a victory so don't quit now.

Fri. 9/28

Read John 17:20-23.

See You at the Pole is all about Christians—Christ followers—regardless of denomination, church, color, or nationality gathering together in Jesus' name to pray. No matter the size of your church, how your church baptizes, whether they speak in tongues or not, or sing traditional or contemporary worship songs, does not matter. If you love Jesus, then gather together on See You at the Pole day and pray. It's really that simple.

For revival to come, for the world to truly change, to turn the tsunami of evil that is engulfing our world, we will have to take our attention off the issues that divide us and look only to the One Who prayed the prayer for unity in today's verses. If our eyes are on Jesus, we will all be focused in the same place, as well as the right place!

Your campus needs to see *all* those who claim to follow Christ gather together in His name to serve the school. That is the only way they will be reached.

Today, pray for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to go out amongst your generation and for students to connect their faith to Him.

Week 5

Sat. 9/29

Read Matthew 22:36-39.

Have you ever thought about what we can take to Heaven? Of course, we understand we can take nothing physical into a completely spiritual realm. But what of Earth impacts Heaven? Loving our neighbors through our love for Him seems to be important to God here and in Heaven. Simply put, our investment in people here affects Heaven.

We live on a mission field everywhere we are, everywhere we go. God has placed us strategically where He wants us to share Him. And what can we take to Heaven? The relationships we build today. The investments we make in people's lives.

Today, pray about how you can better represent Christ and value "your neighbors."

Sun. 9/30

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

As imperfect and flawed as we all are, God only has one plan to reach the world—us! That means you! He chooses to use those who follow Him as His messengers.

God solved our problem with sin by offering a permanent solution. But we must choose Him. He does not force Himself on anyone. But people need to know there is another way other than sin and death. His offer of reconciliation is made available through us.

Are you being Christ's ambassador? Paul states that as a Christ follower you already are, so the real question is do people know it?

One of the most amazing experiences you will ever have is leading someone to Christ. Today in your prayer time, ask God for the boldness and the burden to share His message with the people you know.

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