



PRAYER GUIDE

JANUARY 2020

A NEW THING!

WEEK 1: JANUARY 1-4

“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.”

ISAIAH 43:18-19

God is always faithful to His people. Whether delivering the Israelites from Egypt by way of parting the Red Sea or keeping His promise about the coming Messiah, God is true to His Word! And just as He promised His people through this prophetic passage in Isaiah 43, He is always doing a new and fresh thing through the power of His Spirit.

Our faith in Christ is never stagnant; we don't need to hold on to an idyllic past. God is preparing a new thing that is ready to spring up in our nation. We are praying and believing for another revival and spiritual awakening that will bring life to what seems like a barren land. Let's begin the year 2020 with the hope of that new thing—especially an entire generation immersed in the transforming power of Scripture!

WEDNESDAY: On this first day of the new year, invite God to set forth a new vision in your personal walk with Him. Pray for your life to be saturated with His Word in new and fresh ways.

THURSDAY: Do you need to surrender your past to the Lord and invite Him to resurrect a new thing in you? Pray for healing, cleansing, and restoring of your past so that you can fully embrace the transformational power of His Word in your life.

FRIDAY: Ask God to do a new thing in your church. Invite Him to use His Word as a stream of living water that refreshes and revives your congregation.

SATURDAY: Pray for the launch of the Year of the Bible in 2020. Ask God to do a new thing through the declaration of His Word to a land that desperately needs His reviving presence.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

WEEK 2: JANUARY 5-11

“Then the king ... went up to the temple of the Lord with ... all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. The king ... renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.”

2 KINGS 23:1-3

King Josiah was a young king who loved God and followed the example of his ancestor King David. But he knew nothing of Scripture until it was discovered in the temple. He was distraught as he realized the nation of Judah had not been living according to God’s Word. In repentance, he brought all the people together to publicly read and proclaim Scripture.

It was transformational. And not only did Josiah and the people vow to follow God’s Word, they took action! Josiah went on a holy rampage to purge the nation of desecrating idols, altars, and shrines. The nation was cleansed of defiling objects—all in response to the power of Scripture. Imagine this kind of revival and cleansing in our own nation because of the exalting and honoring of God’s Word throughout the land. When we proclaim the Bible and faithfully follow its commands, God responds with mercy and healing.

SUNDAY: Pray for your pastors to stay true to God’s Word, proclaiming it boldly and confidently as the answer to any personal or cultural decline.

MONDAY: Invite God to renew your desire for Scripture engagement. Confess any attempts to live apart from the power of biblical truths.

TUESDAY: Commit to the Lord that you will establish the Bible as the foundation of your family. If you are not regularly reading the Word together, pray for renewed joy and consistency in Scripture proclamation.

WEDNESDAY: Take inventory of things you have allowed to be raised up as idols in your life. Ask the Lord to direct you in confessing and removing whatever distracts you from obeying God’s Word.

THURSDAY: Pray that churches across our nation will rediscover the power of God’s Word to transform lives. Ask God for a movement of Bible proclamation among all ages—from the youngest to the oldest.

FRIDAY: Pray for an awakening in our nation to the truth of the Bible. Pray that those in authority will be drawn to live according to biblical principles.

SATURDAY: Ask God to tear down the idols and arguments that have been raised up against Him and the truth of His Word. Pray that our nation will embrace a way of life that honors God and His Word.

A “BIBLE REVIVAL”

WEEK 3: JANUARY 12-18

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’”

LUKE 24:30-32

The two followers of Jesus Christ unknowingly chatted with the risen Jesus as they walked along the road to Emmaus. He appeared suddenly and engaged in conversation with them, but they did not recognize Him as their Messiah. They recounted the entire resurrection story to Jesus, not realizing He was the main character! Jesus then set the stage for personal revival as He described the writings of Moses and all the prophets and how they pointed to Himself. Yet, the men were still blind to the truth.

Then Jesus broke bread with them—and a personal spiritual awakening occurred. In the instant that they recognized Him, He disappeared. But their hearts burned within them as they recalled the Scriptures. They experienced a “Bible revival”—that moment when God’s Word sears our minds and engages our hearts with truth, power, and hope in the resurrected Jesus!

SUNDAY: Pray for a renewed love for God’s Word in churches across our nation today. Pray for Scripture to be revived in people’s hearts and hope restored in the power of Jesus to transform lives.

MONDAY: Pray for a “Bible revival” in your personal life. Where Scripture has become stagnant, ask God to revive your love and passion for engaging in the Word.

TUESDAY: Revival means that something once dead comes back to life. Scripture is always living and active, but our hearts can be deadened to its power. Pray for your heart to be awakened and engaged.

WEDNESDAY: Ask God to revive the church to the centrality of God’s Word in life and mission.

THURSDAY: Pray for the next generation to awaken to their desperate need for the truths of the Bible to define their generation.

FRIDAY: Pray for culture in our nation to be redefined by the truths of God’s Word. Where there is resistance to embrace the Bible, pray for an awakening to its power to change everything.

SATURDAY: Pray that the resurrected Jesus will be revealed to our nation through the reviving power of the Bible. Proclaim the truth that He is alive!

LOVING GOD'S WORD

WEEK 4: JANUARY 19-25

“‘What is written in the Law?’ Jesus replied. ‘How do you read it?’

He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’”

LUKE 10:26-27 (NIV)

The followers of Jesus asked Him what works they must do to receive eternal life, and Jesus replies with an all-encompassing call for their heart's devotion. His followers may have sought a behavioral formula for salvation, but Jesus offers the ultimate Gospel message summarized in one word: love!

Jesus calls His followers to a radical love of God. It's a greater love than any they have known on earth. This is a call to love God through our imagination, intellect, actions, possessions, willpower, thoughts, and heart's devotion. This love is the paradox of the spiritual pilgrimage; to be found by God yet pursue Him earnestly. The beauty of this never-ending and all-satisfying pursuit of God is that He has chosen to reveal His very nature, essence, and majesty in His Word, which we can access daily! This pursuit leads us to love what God loves and hate what He hates. In cherishing God's Word, we prioritize what matters to the object of our soul's affection. Loving our Lord is loving His Words that teach us His ways, that we may ultimately know and be more like Him.

SUNDAY: Ask God to be our first love, renewing a lasting hunger in our heart's for God's Word.

MONDAY: Pray for God to help reprioritize passion for Scripture, igniting transformation in our life and those in our community.

TUESDAY: Pray for lost souls around you. Ask God to open their eyes to His Gospel invitation. May God lead them to engage the Bible and surrender to following Him.

WEDNESDAY: Ask God to show you how to love Him with all your strength through loving His Word daily.

THURSDAY: Pray for God to heal the lost, hurting, and broken so they may be restored in God's love and know Him through loving His Word.

FRIDAY: Pray for the church in America and around the world to be restored to radical love for God and affection for His Word.

SATURDAY: Ask Jesus to transform and ignite the global church in devotion to Scripture, daily seeking to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength through Scripture reading, memorization, meditation, and application.

HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

WEEK 5: JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”

JAMES 1:22-25

James was written to geographically scattered believers, many of whom faced trials, persecution, and oppression for their faith. James begins his letter by offering counter-intuitive advice: find joy in trials that test faith! He reminds Christians of the goodness of God, and calls believers to pursue humility, wisdom, and holiness.

James gets serious. He tells suffering believers that they are wasting their time if they hear God's Word but don't do it. Regularly applying God's Word means we approach it with a heart of humility, wisdom, and holiness that leads us to action. Are we good at hearing, but bad at follow-through? There is hope! James reminds us that the more we look at God's Word with a teachable spirit, the more we begin to take on its appearance. Our thoughts, beliefs, and actions begin to change accordingly! How would 2020 change if we seek after God's Word so often and apply it, that we began to slowly think, look, speak, and act more like it, day by day?

SUNDAY: Ask God to search your heart and repent for how you have not obeyed His Word. Resolve to do what God has spoken with fresh surrender.

MONDAY: Doing God's Word can feel uncomfortable. Pray for new joy in the testing of faith that comes by stepping out in obedience to His Word.

TUESDAY: Hearing God's Word leads to action that transforms not just us, but others! Pray for discernment to know who God is calling you to share His love with.

WEDNESDAY: Pray for the global Church to awaken to its role as a hearer and doer of the Word that truly embodies Jesus to a world in need.

THURSDAY: Ask the Lord to help you see the blessings He's promised as you obey.

FRIDAY: Pray for spiritual hunger and willingness to not only seek His Word daily, but take the next step in obeying it.

SATURDAY: Doing God's Word often means stepping out of our comfort zone while also finding the fulfillment of adventure in trusting Jesus. Pray that 2020 will be a year of hearing and doing His Word with miracles that follow!