

PRAYER GUIDE  
All-Church Summer Prayer Initiative  
June 2020, Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> Week One

~As we begin our prayer initiative let us focus on both private and corporate expressions of worship to our Lord, prayer as an act of dependence on Him and fasting to indicate our urgency for His will to be accomplished~

~Meditations to prepare our hearts for worship, prayer and fasting~

What is worship?

*"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!"* Ps. 96:8  
Worship is declaring the ultimate greatness of God through word and deed. Individually and corporately.

Why do we worship?

*"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!"* Ps. 48:1

We worship not only when He has been especially good to us, but because He is good all the time.

How do we worship?

*"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."* John 4:24

With our whole being. Authentically. With mind, spirit and body. Independent of circumstances.

~Worship by Peter Persson~

Prayer

What? Prayer is in its simplest form a conversation or visit with God. As with any conversation there is listening as much as speaking. Group prayer times just means the addition of other participants.

Why? God wants us to share our lives: joys, needs and wants with Him. He wants fellowship with us and gives us joy and peace in return. He wants to reveal things to us see Jer. 33:3 Call to me and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know. Also, James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. It follows on with the statement, "But when he asks he must believe and not doubt."

We need prayer: our world, our nation, our state, our city and ourselves. We need God to be involved in our lives.

How? First by recognizing that God is always with us. In reality we cannot separate ourselves from Him. We say and know that God is omnipresent.

We need to listen to what God is saying and talk with Him.

When we are in a prayer group we take turns listening and speaking to God and each other. We should probably keep our speaking short rather than long because the others may want to join in or add to the thoughts being expressed.

People who are learning to pray can be encouraged by short prayers because that is something they can do.

This week we focus our praise and prayer on the elders as they continue in confirmation of South's senior pastor – praise for the unity attained among the elders and prayer for wisdom, discernment and continued unity as important decisions are being made.

~Prayer by Dell McDonald~

Fasting is denying ourselves something so as to have a closer communion with God. He desires that our whole being be surrendered to Him. It can be as simple as giving up a little TV time, a meal, or arising a little earlier in the morning.

Andrew Murray says, "Fasting loosens the hold on earthly pleasures."

Jesus taught his disciples that "when you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do" but let it be "obvious only to our Father." Mt. 6:16-18

~Fasting by Karol Evans~