
most—seem ignored. We wonder if God is listening or if He really cares.

Is our life a waste? It can feel like it sometimes. Unanswered prayer, job loss, financial reversals or periods of unemployment that eat all our savings or take our homes. The death—especially the untimely death—of someone close, a family member who rejects Christ and all we stand for, years of ministry that fizzle to a stop. Where is God at those empty times, when we have nothing to show for everything we've done. Do we matter?

Jeremiah and Ezekiel lived lives that seemed wasted, ministering God's truth to people who constantly rejected it. To the end, they never saw a positive outcome to their work. Were their lives wasted, "poured out" on the ground?

Faith trusts God to bring fruit from parched ground, but it's times like these that reveal motive, the hidden part of the human heart. Why do we do what we do? What really matters to us? Is it God we love or the sense of significance we get from serving Him? Do we love Christ or what we do for Him? The disciples actually argued about which of them would be greatest in God's kingdom. Are we more like them than we realize?

What kept prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel going was their faith. Their faith saw God for who He is and always will be. They could never rely on the results of their ministry to motivate them or to give their work meaning. They were moved by God Himself, and He proved Himself faithful beyond the horizons of one lifetime. God used them to reestablish Israel long after their death. And their confident faith speaks to us today.

God loves us more than we could possibly imagine, but not because we impress Him. Yes, He does use us, but we accomplish nothing for Him. He loves us, but He doesn't need us. It's hard to fathom—but true.

Pour out your life for your Lord. Whatever the outcome, He wastes nothing, and He loves His own as He uses us to exalt His great name.

And He's worth more than everything we have to give.

Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Pray for a lasting legacy of service in God's kingdom, measured in souls who come to embrace Christ.
- **Local Outreach:** Pray for the Corona Walk for Life, October 6.
- **Missions:** Stefanos & Manon Mihalios (Reach Global): *Greece*

Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at prayer@northpointcorona.org
 - By phone, at 951.734.1335
 - On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service
- Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.
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prayer *life!*

Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year *THREE*) September 2018

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. —Philippians 2:17

Nothing Wasted

"Unbelievable!" The soldier didn't know if he should laugh, cry, or holler. "How could he pour it out like that, after what we did? I could have been killed!" Fresh in the hero's memory was the twang and hiss of arrows barely missing him, as he patiently raised a bucket from the well in his king's hometown, now a Philistine garrison.

He and two friends had visited Bethlehem for the love of their king. Some king! David led a band of six hundred men on the run from Saul. Samuel may have anointed him, but it remained to be seen if he would rule. "I really do believe in him. He'll be a great king—if he ever makes it. I mean, trusting in the LORD is a great thing, but this? Does he care so little about what we did for him? He might as well just throw our lives away.

"Of course, being king means he has the right to do what he wants with us. I've followed his command into the face of death before. He's never been wrong, and we've always won. Maybe God does listen when he prays. But where's the payoff? I follow David because I think he can win. With him as king, Saul and the Philistines are history. Israel wins, and it belongs to us! That's why I got him water from the well at Bethlehem. To tell King David I believe in him and to show the Philistines their days are numbered.

"And isn't that what he wanted when he longed out loud for someone to get him the water? Why would he just pour it on the ground? What was that he said? 'Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?' Hmm..." The soldier silenced his incredulous mind. Why the waste? What did David mean?

Sometimes life seems pointless. All our best efforts don't make a dent on our goals. We strive much but accomplish little. One small reversal obliterates all we've worked so hard for. We *commit our work to the Lord*, but *our plans are not established* (Proverbs 16:3). God answers our small prayers, but the big ones—the ones that matter

Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year THREE)

September 2018

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: School or Job	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
<p><i>O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. – Isaiah 25:1</i></p>						<p>1) Read: Lamentations 4 <i>Praise God for ...</i> His constant faithfulness, in good times and when things seem hopeless.</p>
<p>2) Read: Lamentations 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> Marti Wiegman, Ministry Director for Women: May God's Spirit empower her ministry, to transform lives.</p>	<p>3) Read: 2nd Peter 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to use you to influence your family to love and follow Jesus Christ as Lord through faith, especially those with the greatest need.</p>	<p>4) Read: 2nd Peter 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> The love and character of Christ to shine through you in every aspect of your life.</p>	<p>5) Read: 2nd Peter 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> <i>Corona-Norco Rescue Mission:</i> May the Gospel of Jesus Christ transform the lives of the homeless.</p>	<p>6) Read: Ezekiel 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> A keen awareness of our utter dependence on God that drives us constantly to our knees before Him,</p>	<p>7) Read: Ezekiel 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Strength and growth in the Church in China. May it thrive, despite persecution & the lack of religious freedom.</p>	<p>8) Read: Ezekiel 3 <i>Give praise for ...</i> The abundance, security, and freedom we enjoy in America. May we use them responsibly for His kingdom.</p>
<p>9) Read: Ezekiel 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> Sarah Pate: Pray that God will draw close to her heart, direct her life, and empower her ministry.</p>	<p>10) Read: Ezekiel 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> Pray beyond the "now." Ask God to fill the generations that comes after you with faith, hope, & love through the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>11) Read: Ezekiel 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to meet the needs of your colleagues. Ask Him to use their struggles to lead them to Him and to use you in the process.</p>	<p>12) Read: Ezekiel 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> <i>Corona Life Services</i> to be used by God to redeem the lives of all who come in for help, along with their children.</p>	<p>13) Read: Ezekiel 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> Husbands & wives in America to be faithful first to Christ, then to each other in life-long marriage & commitment to lead their families in His ways.</p>	<p>14) Read: Ezekiel 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> A revival in the Church throughout the West, so Christ can once again set His defining mark on those long-standing but backslidden cultures.</p>	<p>15) Read: Ezekiel 10 <i>Give thanks that ...</i> Christ died on the cross for your sin. Praise Him that you are free from sin & the burden of being righteous in your own strength.</p>
<p>16) Read: Ezekiel 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Geoff Grant, Director of Worship, to cultivate complete devotion & obedience to Christ, so he can lead Northpoint to do the same.</p>	<p>17) Read: Ezekiel 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> God's blessings on your cousins & that they will rejoice in Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord.</p>	<p>18) Read: Ezekiel 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> God's peace, which passes all understanding, to be visible in all your actions & interactions at work.</p>	<p>19) Read: Ezekiel 14 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to spread His love through you to your neighbors, so they see Christ in you and turn to Him.</p>	<p>20) Read: Ezekiel 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival to break out in the Church in the United States and spread throughout the entire world exalting Christ above all things.</p>	<p>21) Read: Ezekiel 16 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to use the refugee crisis in Europe & the Middle East to lead many people to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord.</p>	<p>22) Read: Ezekiel 17 <i>Rejoice ...</i> In the hope found in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Life eternal is yours in Him!</p>
<p>23) Read: Ezekiel 18 <i>Pray for ...</i> Michelle Balga, Ministry Assistant, Administration. Pray for God's grace to flow through her to others in all her interactions.</p>	<p>24) Read: Ezekiel 19 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in faith & develop Christ-like character.</p>	<p>25) Read: Ezekiel 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> The success of your workplace or the school you attend. Pray for God's abundant blessing & a clear awareness that all blessings flow from Him.</p>	<p>26) Read: Ezekiel 21 <i>Pray for ...</i> Northpoint Church to thrive and be an influence for Christ in Corona & beyond.</p>	<p>27) Read: Ezekiel 22 <i>Pray for ...</i> America to look to God alone for our good. May we embrace His truth & holiness exalting Christ & living His righteousness.</p>	<p>28) Read: Ezekiel 23 <i>Pray for ...</i> The peace of Jerusalem, during a time of mounting trouble & opposition. Ask God to lead His chosen people to honor their Messiah.</p>	<p>29) Read: Ezekiel 24 <i>Rejoice ...</i> The Lord reigns! He is working out His perfect will in all things and cares about your every need.</p>
<p>30) Read: Ezekiel 25 <i>Pray for ...</i> Northpoint to reach out more and more to our community and grow by adding the new believers to our body.</p>						