



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

### The Book of Books

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. —John 5:39-40*

Mr. Muller, a retired insurance salesman, came up as I talked with my friends at church, took my Bible from under my arm, and started thumbing through its pages. As he browsed, he began repeating over and over, “This is the Book of books! This is the Book of books! This is the Book of books!”

And he was right. He had built his life on the Bible and knew that God’s Word was his sure foundation, as it has been for me and for untold millions who worship its Author. The Bible will continue to be the foundation for the future and for your life as you get to know God through the Book of books.

The Bible is God’s Word. Read it faithfully. Believe it entirely. It’s your guide to all truth—your plan for life, godliness, and joy. And the life God gives lasts forever.

God’s Word tells us the truth—good and bad. It recounts the tragedy of sin with all its horrific consequences. It brings hope through Christ’s triumph over sin on the cross and over death through the resurrection. Scripture gives God’s honest, painfully realistic, but ultimately hopeful truth, so we can truly live forever.

But as you read, look for more than ideas and concepts—some sort of outline of truth in the abstract. Look for Jesus Christ, who said, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6). Our abstract statements of truth are mere descriptions of the One, eternal God—who He is, how He operates, what He’s done. Read the Bible to get to know Him.

Scripture tells the true story of all the world for all of time, and it begins and ends with God. He spoke the universe into being. He filled the earth with good things, fashioned man from the dust of the ground, then gave Him the world as a gift. His infinite bounty and intimate love are on constant display in all He does.

The Bible reveals the conflict of the ages, and its story makes sense of all the stories we tell here on earth. God made man in His own image—a staggering mystery with incalculable consequences. God and man—including you and me—are the main characters in the drama of history, so the Bible makes sense of our daily reality.

God—being GOD—set the ground rules for man—His greatest creation. *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Genesis 2:16-17). Man disobeyed when Adam ate fruit from the tree God commanded him not to eat from.

The rest of the Bible—and all of life—tell of the outcome of Adam’s disobedient decision. Adam brought sin into the world and death came with it. We don’t understand our world or life unless we see ourselves as broken by sin and cut off from our Maker by Adam’s choice. And all the choices of all the humans that live or have ever lived on earth are doomed to frustration and failure because of that sin.

That problem is the central conflict of the ages—the one we must but never can solve, because we are the problem. But God has done what we could not do. *By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh* (Romans 8:3).

This truth “frames” reality, according to God’s Word, but the central figure of the Bible, of the world, and world history is Jesus Christ. As you read the Bible, get to know Him, hear what He has to say about you and your life. Trust Him to make sense of the world and everything it claims to be true. Growth will be your daily experience as you cultivate the habit of getting to know Christ through the Book of Books.

To the praise of God’s glory!

## Daily Bible Reading

Oops! I began the Bible reading schedule on Sunday and skipped the reading for New Year's Day. That mistake set you behind by one day. My apologies. But you are now one day behind, but I don't think making up one lost day will be too difficult. This week's schedule will be an exception.

Remember. If you're reading the Bible through in One Year, follow the one-year plan on row one. If you're just starting the three-year reading plan, follow "Year 1." For the next year, follow year 2, and then year 3 after that.

Enjoy your time with God in His Word and in Prayer!

	Make-up (sorry)	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Bible in 1 Year</b>	Gen. 22-24	Gen. 25-27	Gen. 28-30	Gen. 31-33	Gen. 34-36	Gen. 37-39	Gen. 40-42	Gen. 43-45
<b>Year 1</b>	Genesis 8	Genesis 9	Genesis 10	Genesis 11	Genesis 12	Genesis 13	Genesis 14	Genesis 15
<b>Year 2</b>	Joshua 8	Joshua 9	Joshua 10	Joshua 11	Joshua 12	Joshua 13	Joshua 14	Joshua 15
<b>Year 3</b>	1 Chronicles 17	1 Chronicles 18	1 Chronicles 19	1 Chronicles 20	1 Chronicles 21	1 Chronicles 22	1 Chronicles 23	1 Chronicles 24

## Daily Prayer Topics

**Sunday (Church):** Ask God to use Taylor Mendoza, Pastor of Student Ministries, to lead our students to love Christ, trust Him, and follow His ways.

**Monday (Home and Family):** Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in God's grace and display it to others.

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Pray for your leaders, coworkers and friends at work to come to know Christ and His love.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for the neighbors you interact with most regularly. Ask God to create moments when you can tell them of your hope in Christ Jesus.

**Thursday (Our Nation):** Ask God to transform our education system, media, and businesses, so they honor Christ and uphold the truth.

**Friday (The World):** Ask God to raise up new generations of missionaries to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Thank God! List five things in your life that God has given you, then thank Him for each one.

## Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for God's hand of protection, leading, and provision for our leaders at Northpoint.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, and Amber McEwen
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Tim East, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Laura Flood, Nolan Golightly, Carolee Jefferson, Nick Juarez, Sam Nguyen, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Tyler Van Horssen, and Christina Vasquez, Holli Worthington

## Study God's Word

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* –2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17

## Abide in Christ

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.* –John 15:7-8