



Passion Challenge

This Week Take A Challenge To Do One Of The Following

- Meet with at least **one** other person to pray for revival.
- Spend time confessing this week; make this a new start.
- Pray everyday for a different country.
- Fast (avoid) something you love this week as a reminder to pray for a friend or family member to come to know Jesus.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the lessons and heart you are growing in me to pray. Continue to teach me and remind me to pray for myself and others. I know that prayer leads me closer to You. Please help me to make time to pray, and to create prayer habits that will continue into the future. I'm so grateful that You desire to hear from me and I praise You that Jesus' sacrifice made it possible for me to come to You. Continue to grow in me a greater desire for prayer and spiritual growth. Amen.

Girls in Prayer

Igniting a Passion to Pray

Teens





"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

Corrie Ten Boom

*"Our prayers are strengthened when we know God is listening
and that He is faithful."*

Dr. David Jeremiah

Believe

If we are going to have a passion to pray, there are a few things that we must believe:

- **That prayer matters**
 - Prayer changes situations
 - Prayer changes people
 - Prayer changes us
- **That there is Someone on the other side.** We aren't just talking to ourselves.
- **That we are being heard**
 - God is listening to you.
 - God is interested in you.
 - God is willing to act for you.

How much do you believe the three things listed above?

Don't believe at all					Believe whole heartedly				

*"God can handle your doubt, anger, fear, grief, confusion and questions.
You can bring everything to him in prayer."*

Rick Warren

Praying for Lost People

Lost people? Who are they? Lost is the condition of any person who has not come to faith in God through Jesus Christ.

In John 14:6, Jesus tells us HE is "the _____, the truth and the life. No one come to the Father except through (Him)."

Lost people really are lost and blind to the reality of their need for a Savior. Jesus looks at them and is filled with compassion for them and wants us to be as well.

Read Matthew 9:35-36. Circle some of the words that described how Jesus saw the people he met.

Joyful	Smart	Sick	Successful	Lost	Good
Able	Harassed	Directionless	Healthy	Free	

We can ask God to give us His compassion for people who don't know Him. In fact, we can ask Him to grow in us a heart that wants to share the truth about Christ with the world.

Now read verses 37-38.

Jesus says that the world is ripe (it's ready) to hear the Gospel, but the workers (those sharing the Gospel) are few. True story, right? However, we don't need to feel discouraged or overwhelmed. We serve the Lord of the Harvest (Jesus Christ) who will send workers (Christ followers), if we ask.

Start Here:

Pick one. Pray for one friend or family member by name. Ask for Jesus to open their eyes and show them the way to come to know Him. Then, pray for the workers to go into the "fields" and share Truth.

Here's the catch. You might just be the one who God sends to answer this prayer.





Praying for Other Parts of the World

Why in the world would you want to pray for other parts of the world when there is so much going on right where you are?

Scripture tells us that when you ask Christ to be your Savior, you become a part of a global body of believers called the Church, and that our goal should be to be unified. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. What does v. 26 say happens when one part of the body suffers?

Ideas to Try

Pray! Ask the Lord to give you a heart for the world and to open your eyes to the needs of His children around the world.

Map It! When you hear about a country on the news, find that country on a map and learn more about it. Let the people from other nations take on an identity in your mind. That means they have real families, real jobs, real homes and they need Jesus just like you.

Ask! Turn this knowledge into prayer.

Salvation—Every nation's greatest need is Jesus. Ask God to open their hearts to the Gospel.

Poverty—Does this nation face a financial crisis? Ask for provision for the people and food for the families in need.

Corruption—Ask God to work in the lives of the political leaders of that country, and to give them a heart that is pure and a burden for the vulnerable.

Disasters—Has this country faced a natural or political disaster? Ask the Lord to make a way in the darkness for His children and assistance for rescue workers.

Persecution—Is this country closed to Christianity? Ask for protection for believers.

Take time right now to research and pray for a different country.

Growing the "Want to"

For some reason we may believe that prayer should come naturally to people of faith, but experience and study tell us that just isn't true. Although we may know that prayer is important, that doesn't make the process of praying easier.

Prayer is like a muscle we grow. It's something that develops over time through practice and repetition. Just like building muscle, it won't always be easy, but the rewards are always worth it.

Take an Uncomfortable Step

Throughout Scripture we see men and women taking steps toward God that were risky and uncomfortable:

- A desire to get to Jesus made Zacchaeus climb a tree. Luke 19:1-10
- Nicodemus visited Jesus in the secret of night. John 3:1-21
- A bleeding woman risked breaking social norms to reach out to Jesus for healing. Mark 5:24-34.

Choose one of these stories to read and answer the following questions:

How do we know that reaching out to Jesus felt awkward for this individual?

What threats or barriers may have prevented them from coming?

What benefit did they receive because they overcame their discomfort?

Now, what will you do to reach Jesus?

Heavenly Father,

Sometimes prayer feels awkward. I know You are holy, and I'm not. Although I know You are powerful, sometimes it feels like I have to say just the right words to get You to listen. Would You grow in me a desire to pray and new prayer habits? Please ignite in me a passion to pray. Amen.



Revival

When Young People Pray

God can use a group of praying kids to change the world. Actually, God did use a group and it was not just a nation, it was the world.

In the year of 1707, in a town called Silesia, in central Europe, a group of school-age kids gathered to pray. Students began to meet in fields outside of town before school and later up to two or three times a day. They would form a circle and pray, sing hymns, read Scripture, and close with a prayer. Many people in the village were upset at the students' passion.

Soon adults began to join the students. As the students met, parents and leaders began to repent and pray. From this one group, other students in other cities started prayer groups of their own, multiplying influence. Most people don't know that this group of students began the spark that ignited the flame of the Great Awakenings in Europe and America.

Revival is a biblical word used to describe a new working of the Holy Spirit. It begins with turning from our sin and can lead to others' lives being changed by the Gospel as well. Revival isn't as much an emotional experience as it is a new commitment to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Signs that you need personal revival.

Check the box for the ones that are true for you.

- ☐ You feel that reading the Bible is lifeless and dull.
- ☐ You couldn't care less about those around you.
- ☐ Worship doesn't stir your heart. Your sin doesn't bother you.
- ☐ You watch the news and it doesn't surprise you anymore.
- ☐ What people think about you matters more than what God thinks about you.

How to pray for revival:

Heavenly Father,

Start in me. Start right here and bring new life to my faith. I want to know You in a deeper way, and I want those around me to see You and want a relationship with You too. Start a fire in us that spreads to the world. Amen.

Read the full story here:

christianitytoday.com/history/2009/may/let-little-children-come-to-me.html

Prayer Journal

Below is an example of a prayer journal. Beginning with a scripture truth, then praise, confession, and thanksgiving. Finishing with intercession for yourself, your friends/family, your classmates/teachers and finally the world. Use the space in each box to be specific with your prayers. **Try this one: John 14:6**

Scripture: _____	
Praise:	Confess:
Thanks:	
Self:	Family/Friends
Classmates/Teachers:	World:



Powerful Words

Have you ever begun praying and wondered if the words coming out were right or made any sense at all? Everyone wonders sometimes if the way they are praying is right.

The good news is that God listens to all of our words and the Holy Spirit communicates the depth of our hearts in ways that the Father can hear and understand. Write Romans 8:26-27:

We can have confidence because the Holy Spirit is helping us pray. But we can also grow in confidence when we learn to use Scripture as a base for our prayers. When we pray using God's Word, it has power built right in. It is easy to turn many scriptures right into prayers for yourself or others. Let's do just that in the following scripture.

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

First, what does this verse tell us about Who God is or what He has done?

Next, we see three qualities in this verse that God wants us to have. What are they?

Hint: Be _____, _____, and _____.

Are there changes in your life that need to happen based on this verse? Do you live those characteristics mentioned above? Do you need to confess that? Do it, right now!

Last, make this Scripture a prayer from your heart to God.

"God, help _____, be kind to others, tenderhearted, forgiving others, just as God through Christ has forgiven me/them." From Ephesians 4:32

The Boy King

Josiah became king when he was eight years old. His father had been entirely wicked, worshipping false gods and leading his country to do the same. After his father was assassinated in his palace, they made his son Josiah the king. Can you imagine becoming queen at eight years old?

While we might be tempted to use this power to stay up late, change speed limits, and watch whatever we want on TV, Josiah set in his heart to please the Lord. It was difficult for Josiah to follow the Lord because of the wicked reign of his father (and also grandfather). One of the things that Josiah did was clean up the temple and in the middle of that clean up process the Book of the Law was found. It had been missing for two generations. When the priests found the Book of the Law in the temple, they rushed it to their young king, who was now 18 years old.

When the king heard what was written in the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes in despair and sent for someone to inquire of God what they must do. God was angry with His people for worshipping false gods and for not following His commands but sent a message back to the young king, *"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the message you have just heard: You were sorry and humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I said against this city and its people ... You tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. And I have indeed heard you, says the LORD."* From 2 Kings 22:18b-19 (NLT)

Josiah took responsibility for the sin of his people. He read the entire book of the covenant to the people and promised to obey the LORD, keeping all his commands with all his heart and soul.

Josiah honored his commitment to the LORD and led his people back to God.

As you take a survey of your nation, do you see sin patterns? What are those?

Taking Your Sin Seriously

Does My Sin Really Effect My Prayers?

Yes! We need to remember that our relationship with God is just that, a relationship. If we hurt or do something offensive to a friend or a parent, there will be relational tension. When we sin, it is an offense to God and that creates relational tension too.

The Bible shows us clearly how to resolve this tension.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Resolving the relational tension requires confession on our part, and a turning from that sin, a repentant heart. God is not interested in just a verbal “I’m sorry” if our heart doesn’t match. But when we come to Him with a heart that matches our apology, He will forgive us.

It’s tempting when we have unresolved tension with a friend to choose to be around them less or even try to avoid them. The same is true of our relationship with God. When we know that we’ve offended Him and haven’t repented, we will often talk to Him less (in prayer) or even avoid talking to Him altogether.

We have to remember that while God forgives us for our wrongdoing, He may not remove the consequences of that sin in this world. His forgiveness can cover us while the consequences remain.

Is there something you need to confess to the Lord? An attitude or action that needs to go? Go ahead and confess that now.



Bold Prayer Habits

Abigail is a junior in her Michigan high school. She was raised in a Christian home and has attended church her whole life, but making her faith her own has always been important to her.

One of the areas she has been challenged to grow was in her prayer life.

When Abigail began school her freshman year, there was a group of older students who would gather every morning in the hall, hold hands and pray. She knew some of them from church. Ten minutes before school began they would circle up and pray. They would commit their day to the Lord, pray for friends and the difficulties they faced. They also prayed for their teachers to know Jesus. Abigail knew other students were watching and yet as she held her friends’ hands and prayed, her courage to live a life that pleased God in school grew.

Recently, Abigail reflected on how this prayer habit has changed her. Now she is one of the older students who gathers the group to pray. When we asked her why, this is what she said:

“First, prayer is a good kick start to the day. It helps me to get a positive outlook on the day before I start class. That time keeps me accountable to talk with God on a daily basis. We’ve built a community of friends that encourages each other in our faith, and when we pray together it is a time where we can let things that are beating us down go. Instead, we share this burden with others and with God. It is also a way to show my faith to those walking down the halls. Praying with my friends is getting easier. It may have been weird at first to bow our heads, but now we are praying together in our public school at lunch too.”

Abigail is taking many brave steps in her faith. Which ones can you identify in her story?

How could making a prayer habit with your friends change your faith and maybe even your school?

Is there a friend you could ask to join you?