



40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Dear Ashley River Family,

God is growing our church family and we have much to celebrate. Like the early church in Acts 2, we must continually pray for His guidance, protection, and provision so that we can bear much fruit in our generation for His glory. Therefore, with that truth as our foundation, and using the Lord's Prayer as our model, we invite you to join with us in praying over these next 40 days leading up to the most significant event of our Christian faith – the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Beginning today and every Tuesday leading up to Easter, you will receive an email with the next 7 days of prayer devotions. Each 7 days will begin on Wednesday.

As we join our hearts together in prayer over these next 40 days, may we draw closer to Him, closer to each other, and closer to obeying His Great Commission. My prayer is that each of us will commit to this crucial spiritual discipline as we seek to call on God for His leadership and direction. Blessings to you as we embark on this journey – 40 Days of Prayer!

Week 1

Welcome to the first 7 days of our 40 Days of Prayer!

This week's portion of the Lord's Prayer focuses on God's Name: ***"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name."*** We are to address God as Father and to acknowledge His holiness!

Day 1 – Feb. 25 – God's Name is Father

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

Prayer is our invitation to commune with God Himself and in its purest form, begins as worship simply by addressing Our Father in heaven. We acknowledge His place in the world and our lives. We honor His name and His power. The spoken words to a loving Heavenly Father are a testament to His authority and divinity. Our prayers are futile if they are directed toward any other entity. We worship our Father when we acknowledge His rightful place on the throne, and we express our faith in a sovereign God when we make known our requests. To pray is to worship.

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on Him as your Father in heaven.



Day 2 – Feb. 26 – God’s Name is “I AM”

Read Ex. 3:13-15; Proverbs 18:10.

“I AM” is the One who sends us. God (Father, Son, and Spirit) has always been, always is, and always will be. Jesus declared, “Before Abraham was born, I AM” (Jn. 8:56). Therefore, He is our strong tower, protector, refuge, strength, and our source of peace and safety. We cannot find these things in this world. In these past few years, our world has faced “uncertain times” and that may have been troubling for many of us. Uncertain times can cause all sorts of emotions because it means we might not have walked that road before or cannot predict what is happening. However, if we look to the truth found in Proverbs 18:10, we see that God has given us the promise that in these very times, He is our strong tower and the One we should be running towards in the midst of whatever circumstances we face.

Security can't be found in circumstances. Circumstances can change. They can take us by surprise. But God, our fortress, our strong tower, never changes, and nothing ever catches Him by surprise. No other person, and nothing else on this earth, can bring us the peace and safety that He can...and does...and will. So, as we run toward God’s Vision for our church, we can be certain of this: Our help comes from the Lord our God, who calls us and sends us – the great I AM!

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on the Name of God:

Elohim = All-Powerful Creator
El Chayim = The Living God
El Elyon = God Most High
El Roi = God Who Sees
El Shaddai: All-Sufficient One, Almighty
Jehovah Jireh = God Provides
Jehovah Nissi = God, our Banner
Jehovah Ro’I = God, our Shepherd
Jehovah Shalom = God is Peace
Yahweh = “I AM,” Self-Existent One
Abba = Father

Day 3 – Feb. 27 – God’s Name is Holy

Read Exodus 15:11-13.

The holiness of God appears in all our new beginnings – the one that began when He found us at the end of ourselves; the one that began when we learned to trust Him to take the lead; the painful ones and the joyful ones alike. The holy, holy, holy God was there. Because we are His and because He is holy, we may begin each day anew.

He is matchless in perfection. He is able to do abundantly more than we can imagine. This God, who knows the beginning and end of all creation, radiates holiness. Yet here He is, not far from any one of us. He sits beside our spouses at the same time He watches over our children. He walks with our



mothers just as He rejoices with our grandparents in eternity. Can you comprehend it? His holiness surrounds us daily. His holy mercy greets us in the morning with the warmth of the sun. His holy providence guides us as we work, study, and accomplish mundane day-to-day tasks. His holy love pierces through our fears as we lay down to sleep.

As we awake to each new day, we can trust in His holiness even as the Seraphim sang, *“Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.”* (Isa. 6:3) We can choose to praise Him with a victory song in the here and now, knowing full well that there is no one like our God: *“Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders.”* (Ex.15:11) And He calls us to holiness: *“Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”* (Lev. 19:2) Our holiness emanates from His holy presence in our lives.

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on His holiness.

Day 4 – Feb. 28 – God’s Name is Sovereign

Read Daniel 2:20-23.

The God who creates all things with a word, who splits the seas, who orchestrates the universe, who knows each star by name, sees you. The God who clothes the lilies, who feeds the birds, who knows the number of hairs on every head, knows your name. The God who commands the stormy seas to be still, who brings life from a barren womb, who fells fortress walls with sounds of trumpets, hears your cry and sees your pain.

This same God, our Father in heaven, invites us into His presence, into His very throne room. Jesus, the Great "I AM", has restored this safe place of intimate fellowship: *“Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with full assurance that faith brings...”* The holy, Almighty, all-powerful, strong, most high God beckons us to "Come, and abide." Mindful of our unworthiness yet drawn by His grace-filled promise of love, we enter, always welcome. We may boldly draw near as we open our hearts to His listening ear. We listen in turn, in unhindered trust and surrender. He whispers, "Peace." We receive His embrace with thanksgiving and worship.

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on His sovereignty.

Day 5 – Mar. 1 – God’s Name is Beautiful

Read Psalm 27:4.

Change is hard. Transitions are hard. Life is hard. We have all had to navigate sudden changes in our lives but God always offers us a fresh perspective. God brought us together and has elevated us to a new view of His goodness and faithfulness. Moses asked God: *“Now show me your glory.”* And God



answered, *“I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My Name, the LORD, in your presence.”* (Ex. 33:18-19) These small shifts in our lives of eternity remind us of the very real fact that we are human, and we are limited – limited by fear and anxiety, and that we are vulnerable to faithlessness in spite of His goodness.

In one of King David's darkest moments, he wrote this simple yet profound thought – that at the end of our unraveling, there is only one thing worth asking in prayer, one thing that will allow us to throw away our laundry list of prayer requests, and that is to simply reflect on the beauty of our Creator.

In this verse, the beauty of the Lord is so much more than something to behold with our eyes, but it is the very power that will allow us to find our footing when the world falls out from underneath our feet. Within the beauty of the Lord lies the authority to destroy and to establish, and King David reminds us that there is nothing too out of control that cannot be brought into control with one glimpse of heaven and the beauty of the LORD.

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on His Beauty.

DAY 6 – Mar. 2 – God’s Name is Powerful

Read Colossians 1:16-17.

“Anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Heb.11:6) These words are so profound that we must wonder if we truly understand the magnitude of the statement. Many people pray but are unaware of the One to whom they are praying. However, as Christians, we do so with the assurance that we are praying to the one true God. He is All-Powerful and Creator of all that exists in both the physical and spiritual realms. He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist forever. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, and sovereign ruler over all the earth.

And within His infinite power lies His infinite love for us. This love is so great that He sent His only begotten Son to die for our salvation even though we have done nothing to deserve it. We pray to this loving God. We trust that, because He loves us, He also hears us. He cares about every detail of our lives and desires an intimate relationship with us.

Oh, what a joy it is that we can come to such a holy God in prayer knowing that while He reigns in heaven as Ruler of the universe, He also reigns in our daily lives!

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on His Rule and His Supremacy.



Day 7 – Mar. 3 – God’s Name is Love

Read 1 John 4:7-21.

God is love. May we all praise Him for who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do through our local body of believers called Ashley River Baptist Church. May we be a Christian family that *“loves the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves.”* (Mk. 12:29-31) Jesus said, *“Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”* (Jn. 15:13) May we all demonstrate this sacrificial love toward our great God and Savior and toward everyone we encounter – in our families, our church, and our community.

Let us reflect on God’s great love for us and may He reveal to us our value as His children. He created us in His image and He wants us to bear that image to His creation. May we honor Him as we serve as His representatives on this earth, in every facet of our lives.

Spend time with God in prayer, reflecting on God’s Fatherly Love.