



"IF" Prayer Night

Friday, April 28th 7-9pm

Focus: Making room for Jesus through Listening Prayer around 2 Chronicles 7:14

Schedule:

7:00 pm Opening words and Worship song (Make Room)

7:15 Listening Prayer/Lectio through 2 Chronicles 7:14

7:45 Instructions for Prayer Stations

7:50 Worship Song

7:55 Free flow through Stations

9:00 Soft close...

Station 1: Be Loved

Focus on being "His People called by His name".
Everything starts with being loved and living loved.

This station connects with the final "commitment station"

ACTIVITY:

Find a stone (any stone will do) to represent the Ebenezer stone found in 1 Samuel 7:12. Ebenezer means "Thus far the LORD has helped us." and "carry" it through all of the stations as a reminder that God's love and ever-present help goes with us through everything- stone will be left at the commitment station as a memorial of what God is building in His kingdom tonight. (1 Sam 7:12)

- Take one candy and enjoy the sweetness of it, just as the Word says "*Oh, Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)*" – just as you crave for another candy because of its sweetness, may it be with the craving for the sweetness of the Lord's love for you.
- Take a sniff of the lovely aroma from the diffuser. May it remind you of the Lord's love through his sacrifice on the cross for you, that is a sweet-smelling aroma (Ephesians 5:2)
- Take one card and read this before turning over:

No matter where you're at in this season of life, receiving the Love of God is what keeps us stable in all of life's challenges. As you spend time in this station the hope is that you would leave with a renewed sense that you are known and loved by God... not because of anything you have or haven't done but simply because Jesus loved you to the fullest in enduring the cross for YOU! Jesus was rejected, hence why he cried out on the cross "My God, My God why have you forsaken me..." - the only time





we see Jesus calling His Father, God. Because the way was opened for US to call God.. Father! We have become His children, whom he loves and is well pleased with!

Backside of card:

Keep this card with you.

Read the following scriptures aloud to yourself and put your name in the blank space.

- _____, *for the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs*” (Zephaniah 3:17 NLT)
- _____, *though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*” (Isaiah 54:10, NIV)
- _____, *this hope doesn’t put you to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in your heart through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to you.*” (Romans 5:5, NIV)
- “The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “_____ , I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3)
- _____ , *you are My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased*” (Matthew 3:17)

Feel free to find more verses in the days to come and keep reminding yourself of these truths every day.

Take this card and your stone with you as you move on to the next station.

Station 2: Confession/Repentance:

Focus on “Humble yourself & turn from your wicked ways & God will forgive our sins” inwardly/personally.



Warning:

As you SLOW DOWN here, and give God FULL access and permission to shine his light in every part of your heart and mind...

You can expect:

God to bring to light an area he desires to speak his love into.

When you hear his knock, open the door and have an honest “**confession and repentance**” conversation with him.



Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with him and he with me."
- Jesus

ACTIVITY:

Take A Look In The Mirror...

What do you see?
Do you like what you see?

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b

Now...
Ask Jesus to show you what he sees!

Have an Honest Conversation with the one who sees you fully!

"True intimacy with God will not come at the expense of intimacy with our spouses and families"

Jack Frost, Experiencing Father's Embrace

ACTIVITY:

Pull up a photo on your phone or in your mind's eye and ask God how he sees your family. Allow him to give you his perspective and change your heart and posture toward them!

Read these verses slowly and allow Jesus to speak to you through them:

*"Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love.** Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent** and do the things you did at first" **Revelation 2:4-5***

*"I know your deeds, that you are neither hot nor cold, I wish you were either one or the other! So because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." **Revelation 3: 15-20***

Continue onto Communion Station.



Confession and Repentance (Additional resource)

"Humble yourself & turn from your wicked ways & God will forgive our sins"

Repentance is not something that happens once but should become a consistent pattern in the life of a believer. John the Baptist said, *"Keep with repentance and bear fruit."* The idea is that ALL of our BEHAVIOR is a result or "fruit" of what we believe and think.

Repentance is a change of HEART, that leads to a change of MIND, which leads to a change in our BEHAVIOR.

Pick a heart idol you struggle with (approval, control, reputation, success, security, pleasure, knowledge, recognition, respect) and walk through the following:

1. Identify and Admit it

Identify the external sin (negative fruit) that you recognize or are aware of. (grumpy, unkind, selfish, rude, proud, controlling, manipulating, lying, blame, sexual sin, withholding kindness, ignoring someone, avoiding someone or something, mocking, ungrateful, complaining, judging, frustration, anger, anxiety, worry, jealousy...)

Think about how you respond or react when you are misunderstood, don't get what you want, when you make a mistake, when you have a bad day...describe how you respond...that's the fruit coming from your life (coming from your heart believing something and your mind thinking a certain way)

All Fruit is the result of believing and thinking wrong about God, ourselves, others, money, sex, leisure, family, etc...

2. Confess it

Confession literally means to "agree with God". Speak honestly with God about the fruit you see and its effects.

3. Invite Jesus in to change your heart and mind

Inviting Jesus in (you have already done this thru admitting) but here you are acknowledging your inability to change, your dependence, and your total reliance on God's work in your life by faith.

4. Surrender and Trust

Surrendering is the choice to abandon, to give up your "natural, old way" of control, and choose to act and trust His way of thinking and living. It's aligning yourself with him, whether you feel like it or not.

Station 3: Communion

Focus on "Seek His face"

Read through this compilation of Scripture and reflect on what Jesus may be saying to you through them. Partake in the elements after reading.



*Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.
Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.*
Psalm 23:3-6

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
1 Chronicles 16:1

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.*
Psalm 63:1

*Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle...he is the King of glory.*
Psalm 23:7-10

*One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*
Psalm 27:4

*My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.
Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.*
Psalm 27:8-9

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin
offerings you did not require. Then I said, "Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll.
I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart"*
Psalm 40:6-8

*He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in
heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...He is before all things, and in him all things hold
together...For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to
himself all things...making peace by the blood of his cross.*
Colossians 1:15-20

*Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our
iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We
all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was
oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as
a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he
was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people, he was stricken.*





He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53:4-9

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,

"Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom"

Matthew 26:26-29

It is finished.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:13-15

Reflect on what God has been revealing to you as you "seek His face".

What does he want you to lay at the foot of the cross? Recall Jesus chose to bear the agony of the cross—to drink the cup—to save you. Is there a cup that the Father is asking you to drink—something about which you need to pray the prayer of Gethsemane: "Yet not as I will, but as you will"?

Submit this to prayer and receive communion.

Pray with gratitude – Jesus does not forsake us

Consider with gratitude - all His attributes and all that He has done on our behalf through His sacrifice.

Declare your adoration – that through Jesus,

*"I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **Colossians 1:24-27***

Station 4: Lament

Focus on "Humble yourself & turn from your wicked ways" outwardly.

Instruction:

Please read and reflect on these collected prayers and Scripture passages in order. Stay and linger as long as you need, and as prompted, put what is standing out to you in the chat bar. If you move through all the prayers and verses, feel free to re-visit that which is grabbing your attention.





Where lament can feel heavy, I encourage you to enter this space understanding that "lament challenges the church to acknowledge real suffering and plead with God for his intervention." (Soong Chan-Rah, Prophetic Lament)

May you enter knowing He is trustworthy to listen to us.

Prayers of Lament

Number One (Personal)

*You asked for my hands
that you might use them for your purposes.
I gave them for a moment
then withdrew them for the work was hard.*

*You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper
that I might not be accused.*

*You asked for my eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them
for I did not want to see.*

*You asked for my life
that you might work through me.
I gave you a small part
that I might not get "too involved."*

*Lord, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
and only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.*

*Lord, forgive me,
renew me,
send me out as a usable instrument,
that I may take seriously
the meaning of your cross.*

Written by Joe Sereman, South Africa.

Read Psalm 130:1-6 and/or Lamentations 3:1-58

Prayer of Lament Number Two (Corporate)

*Oh Lord our God,
To you we cry out,
To you we run,
For where else would we go?*

We feel the weight of our broken world,



*Through wars, famines, and disasters,
In injustice, hatred, and oppression.
The nations, including ours, desperately need your deliverance.*

*We weep at our own brokenness
For the guilt, shame, and pain we feel
Weighed down by sin, held back by fear
We mourn our distance from you.*

*Be near to us, Oh God
Remember not our sin or failures
Reveal your Kingdom to our hearts and our community
Restore us to an awareness of your presence.*

*But, we have experienced your grace
And we will experience your restoration*

*Through your atoning death our sins are forgiven,
And your resurrection demonstrate a restorative power,
And in your return we will be made whole.*

Prayer of Lament for our Relations with Indigenous People

*Gracious and loving God,
Forgive us for what we have done and what we have left undone in our country's journey with
Indigenous peoples. Our failure to live up to the treaties, to live up to the dignity of all peoples, to live
up to your dreams of justice have created a rupture in our nation and a deep wound in our hearts.
Bring us a change of heart, a restored will, and a deepened resolve for a renewed and hopeful future.
With your enabling and empowering love, help us to begin to live in honour and mutual respect. Write
this covenant of right relations on each of our hearts, and through the power of your Spirit, make it an
enduring bond of love and justice. In the name of the One who loved every person, every creature,
into being, we pray.*

Amen.

Written by Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS

Station 5: Intercession

Focus on " Pray &; Heal our Land"

Instruction:

Please read and reflect on these Scripture passages before moving to the final written prayer. Stay and linger as long as you need, and as prompted, put what is standing out to you in the chat bar.

Scripture References:

- *Psalm 85: 1-8*
- *Jeremiah 29: 4-14*
- *Isaiah 58*
- *Matthew 5: 1-11*
- *Revelation 22:1-6 (what is promised and to come)*



Prayer of Commitment Help As We May

*There is no shortage of ways that we can help
to heal our world, Lord;
we just need the willingness to see them
and the courage to act.*

*So, we pray for Your inspiration and strength,
to use the abilities and resources we have
for the sake of those who need them.*

*We pray for those of us who have plenty –
of wealth that can lift some out of poverty,
of power that can influence the world
toward justice and equity,
of relationships that can connect
those who can help each other,
of creativity that can inspire and challenge through
new ideas and new visions,
of time that can be used to feed the hungry,
transport the weary,
or befriend the lonely.*

*And we pray for all who need ordinary, gifted people
to ease their grief, their pain, their trauma,
their need and their fear.
Do not let us rest, Lord, until we have found
a way to help as we may,
for the cause of Christ.*

Amen.

Written by John van de Laar on his Sacredise website. Used by permission.

Station 6: Commitment

Focus on “What has Jesus spoken to you tonight and what are you going to do
with what He said?”

Instructions:

Please stand up and take one step after you answer each question. Carry your Ebenezer stone with you to the end.

1. What is the main thing God has been speaking to you tonight?

Take a step.

2. What action step is God asking you to take?



Take a step.

3. Who do you need to tell so that they can keep you accountable? (consider texting them right now)

Take a step.

4. Thank God that it is **He** *“who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.” Phillipians 2:13*

Take a step.

5. Express your trust in Him as you lay down your rock proclaiming:

“thus far the LORD has helped us” (1 Samuel 7:12)

Samuel set up the Ebenezer stone at the site of victory to commemorate it. They had defeated the enemy with God’s help. As we go out of this place, trust that the Lord’s help and love go with you.

