

**21 Day Devotional** 



'Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the Lord your God, and cry out to him there.'

Joel 1:14 NLT



Prayer is the foundation of our faith and everything that we do, both now and in the future, needs to be underpinned by this key principle. Therefore, the church leadership love to call times when we can be together in prayer, this being called our 'Prayer Time'.

'Prayer Time' is based upon the scripture from Joel 1:14 calling for a time set for a church community to come together to pray.

Prayer should be our first response in every situation. Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough; whether things are good or bad, we try to pray before we do anything. In order for it to become a part of our life and church, prayer should be something we look forward to doing. We want you to discover the beauty of conversation with Him and experience the presence of God that will change your life. Moreover, we look forward to praying together, as when we have that connection we can truly be family.



Before any day begins, before you go to bed. Before you go to work or school, be at home or out in your neighbourhood. Before you send that text, Whats App, Tweet or post any image. Before you eat, drive or travel. When bad things happen, before bad things happen.

After the day is over, after we have received that news, after we are made aware of someone else's life event. In every situation it's PRAYER TIME!

You can pray on the move or in stillness, at home in a favourite place or at the same time every day. You can pray morning, noon or night - whatever works, it is your prayer time. The most important thing is that we set a period and try and keep to it!

Look out for specific prayer opportunities across all our locations. Furthermore, set aside times yourself, come together as a group, or join with a friend and let us devote ourselves to prayer. For all our service information visit **renewalcc.com/services**.



To go alongside your season of 'Prayer Time', we have created guides to help you get the most out of the time you can dedicate to God. For more information and specific guides on how to pray, how to fast and other creative ideas visit **renewalcc.com/prayer**.

We would love to hear about how God has spoken to you through your prayer time.

Post your prayers, comments, encouragements or requests on social media **@renewalcc**. You can also email us at **prayer@renewalcc.com**.

For more information on becoming a Christian visit **renewalcc.com/nextsteps**.

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35 NLT

Where are you getting your sustenance from?

As Christians so much time is spent looking for things or ways to sustain us. What we forget to remember is that Jesus instructed, when we discover the things of Him, we shall never grow hungry or thirsty.

- Pray that Jesus sustains and fills you, so that you'll no longer have to look for worldly satisfaction.
- Pray to Jesus thanking Him for your salvation and for the life that you live because of his sacrifice.

## Day 2 I am the Light of the World

"I am the Light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 NLT

Everyday there is an opportunity to choose light over darkness. What often is unnoticed is that the way you walk is optional. Sometimes we may not choose to journey the path that we walk, but you can choose to perceive the walk with light and hope, or as darkness with doubt.

It was the pillar of fire that guided God's people in the wilderness.

- Pray that God will guide your path.
- Pray that God will give you the strength to view your path with light and hope, rather than darkness and doubt.

"I tell you the truth, I am the Gate for the sheep." John 10:7 NLT

It is through the gate where we find Jesus. If we are the sheep and Jesus is the shepherd, then we can respond by following the Good Shepherd through the gate that He leads His sheep to.

 Today, pray and thank God that we are able to enter into a future with Him, that includes forgiveness from our past and power for today. "I am the Good shepherd. The Good shepherd sacrifices his life for his sheep." John 10:11 NLT

Jesus is so concerned for your life, He not only leads you to the gate, but he also promises that in Him all security and fulfilment can be found. The Good Shepherd chose to sacrifice himself for his sheep, so that the depth of love would be evident. You are loved more than you will ever know, by someone who died to know you.

- Pray to God thanking Him for giving himself so that you may know love and security in all its fullness.
- Pray to God asking for a greater awareness of his love and care for you.

## Day 5 I am the way, the truth and the life

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" John 14:6 NLT

It is only in Jesus where direction can be found. Upon discovering Jesus, it is then that we know the truth. Truth for our lives, and the way that we should endeavour to live. To the depth that we believe in the truth of God, will be the level of reflection in our daily lives.

• Today, thank God for being the way and being a God of truth. Ask God to open up more truth in your heart, mind and life.

## Day 6 I am the True Vine

"I am the True Vine and my Father is the gardener." **John 15:1** NLT

As Christians, our fruit will grow and cause much fruit to be produced when we are connected to the True Vine. The source to which we are connected will determine the type of fruit that is produced.

Are you truly connected to the vine?

- Pray to God, thanking Him that He knows what is best for us. That through submission and our connection to him the True Vine all good things are produced.
- Meditate on God's all knowing, all present qualities.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in me will live even after dying." John 11:25 NLT

It is through our submission to the things of God that eternity becomes a permanent structure, not a temporary fixture.

- Pray to God, thanking Him for His power to conquer death and that there is no power that can stand against Him.
- Thank God for accepting you into His family.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere" **Acts 1:8** NLT

We have been called to be witnesses and to proclaim the good news about Jesus throughout the world.

As Christians we get to participate in the mission of God. This requires a reliance upon the Holy Spirit to lead and direct us as His chosen people. We are to be living a life that reflects the goodness of God and causes unbelievers to be naturally affected by God's goodness.

 Pray that you would be filled with the Holy Spirit to do this and bless others through this ministry. "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. **Matthew 5:13-14** NLT

It is our responsibility as Christians to maintain our flavour. We can only be effective in our walk with God when we learn to take time to self care. Self care is learning to take care of every part of our being - our body, mind, soul and spirit. We do this by being held accountable in friendships and by taking regular time with God.

 Pray that God would help us to act like salt and light amidst the decay and darkness of the world around us. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." Matthew 19:14 NLT

The God we serve and the faith we follow is generational. God is concerned about every life regardless of age, gender, social class or expected behaviour. For the word of God to be proclaimed continuously, it will require the work and voice of every generation to share it.

- Pray for children and young people, that they would flourish and be safe. Pray for Christian teachers, Youth leaders, and churches who encourage them with the gospel.
- Pray that churches across your locality will release young people into the areas that God has called them in to.

"Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home." **Luke 1:56** NLT

The things of God are always concerned with the things of the future. Sometimes it is important to take refuge in the home provided. At other times, it is important to notice the time to move forward.

We never take for granted the home we have and the people who have invested into us.

- Pray for those you live with or live near.
- Thank God for the homes and refuge that He has provided.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, ensure justice for those being crushed." **Proverbs 31:8** NLT

Injustice will always be injustice if it does not glorify the things of God. God sets a responsibility to us as Christians to speak out against injustice.

Corruption is a very real component of the society that we live in and it is our responsibility to live in a way that is counter cultural to the society that we are a part of.

 Pray for yourself and other Christians that you will be a voice in the fight for good, and that our actions will impact the societies that we live in. "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 NLT

The way that we love in a world that perceives love differently will determine how others view the message that we aspire to.

Our love for God, and the way that we seek to love and care for ourselves, will impact how well we love our neighbour.

- Pray that your ability to love others will reflect God's love for them.
- Pray for opportunities to show God's love and for love to be evident within your church.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." **Psalm 34:18** NLT

The Lord will provide restoration to those who have experienced brokenness. Often it requires us to come to Him.

- Pray for all of those who have experienced brokenness.
- Pray to God, thanking Him that He is close in times of hurt and upset. That those struggling will know the comfort and peace of God within their brokenness.

As they moved on each day, the cloud of the Lord hovered over them. And whenever the Ark set out, Moses would shout, "Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered! Let them flee before you!" **Numbers 10:34** NLT

It is important that each decision and vision forward is approached with wisdom and direction from God. As individuals we should pray that the clarity of God will be visible in the churches that we are a part of.

As a people it is important to keep moving forward in the right direction, longing for the things of God.

- Pray for wisdom as you seek to be guided by God.
- Pray for wisdom as the church that you are part of searches to be guided by God.

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 NLT

Walking in the things of God, can sometimes meaning walking in unknown territory. Do not be afraid, but take courage in the long, steadfast walk of obedience.

Being courageous in the things of God is important for both the individual and the churches that we are part of.

- Pray that you will walk with courage in the direction that God is calling you.
- Pray for a spirit of strength and resilience to be developed in your life.

Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach **Mark 3:14** NLT

We are all called to be disciples making disciples. Life is done when in community with others. It is so important to surround yourself with safe people that will challenge, encourage and lovingly correct.

Community is established through relationships with each other.

- Pray for the people around you. That God will have people uphold you, encourage you and keep you accountable.
- Pray that the relationships and friendships that you have will develop and be rooted within God.



Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." **Matthew 28:19-20** NLT

We all have a responsibility to disciple ourselves as well as each other. What ways can you reach the people around you? We all have a common goal when we call ourselves believers; to witness. The Christian community cannot expect unbelievers to lead themselves to Jesus.

- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with those who are in your community.
- Pray that your passion for the unchurched will grow, so that you have an urgency to see the gospel shared.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." Acts 8:29 NLT

The Holy Spirit dwells within each of us. Often when we don't hear Him, or maybe feel His presence, it is not that He isn't with you, but rather we've become unaware of him.

- Pray to be ready to do whatever the Spirit directs.
- Pray that you'll become more aware of the Holy Spirit and that He'll guide you in all things.

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? **Romans 10:14** NLT

The service of a Christian is never complete. We all have a duty to respond to the need for salvation to be amongst our world. The response requires action from each member of the body of Christ, to participate in His mission to the world.

- Pray for churches across the world; that they and their members will be brave in sharing the gospel in their communities.
- Pray the word will be proclaimed to every nation, tongue, tribe, class and community.

These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourself." **Romans 13:9** NLT

Love is our benchmark for all things. The way love ourselves and God will affect how well we love others.

Everything we do is out of God's first love for us, and everything we do is a sign of our love back to God.

- Pray this will always remain the central value of who we are as individuals.
- Pray that God's love will be evident in the things that you do.

## Renewal

We are the church in the heart of the nation reaching our community and our world



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