

Week of Prayer

September 5–11, 2022

Following the Holy Spirit, we exist to create a movement of disciple-making disciples, in RDU and around the world.

Our purpose, as a church, is wrapped up in the mission Jesus gave to his disciples—the call to make disciples of every nation. When he gave his disciples this commission, he also promised his presence and his power. It's an enormous task, but it comes with a great provision and a great promise: “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession” (Psalm 2:8 NIV).

As we engage in the mission of God, we want to rely on his power and presence in all we do, calling on him to grant us success. As the psalmist writes, “May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17). This week, we are inviting you to join us in prayer, asking God to move mightily in and through us.

Each day, we will focus on a particular area of ministry at the Summit, giving you a passage and some prayer points to guide you. As you interact with these, listen to the Holy Spirit and follow his lead in prayer. We encourage you to set aside a specific time each day to pray. But also look for other opportunities throughout the day to seek the Lord and plead for his kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven. And as you pray this week, ask God to show you specific ways that you can be connected to and engaged in his mission through The Summit Church.

Practical Prayer Tips

Praying is spiritual breathing, essential for our life in God. As we meditate on God's Word, we breathe in the promises and purposes of God. In prayer, we breathe out, responding to God's Word to us. Each day in this guide, there will be a passage from Scripture and a few prayer responses for you to guide your praying. Below are some helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide:

- **Commit to a specific time each day to devote to prayer.** Find a place where you can be free of distractions and be alone with God.
- **Use the prayer points and Scripture** in this guide to focus and fuel your praying. **Write** the Scripture and prayer point on a card and carry it with you, post it on your social media, make it the **screensaver on your phone**—whatever you can think of to keep these prompts in front of you. Use them throughout the day and invite others to join you in praying.
- You can take it a step further by **journaling** your prayers each day, simply writing out your prayers to God. It's a great opportunity to hide God's Word in your heart, working to memorize the verses as you meditate and pray.
- In addition, you may consider ways to **pray with others** during this season. Set up a Zoom call with friends or members of your small group. Pray together as a family.

Praying with kids? Introduce this Week of Prayer to children by saying something like this:

*God has always wanted to be with his people. Prayer is the way we talk **W.I.T.H.** God, by praying:*

- *Wow!*
- *I'm Sorry,*
- *Thank You, and*
- *Help*

We worship God and remember two things: (1) He is always with us, and (2) we always need him. This week, our church will be praying together to ask for God's help in everything we do as a church.

Church family, let's earnestly seek the face of God with great expectation!

September 5 | Summit Kids

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”
—Psalm 145:3–7

There is no other god like our God. And we must tell of his greatness. Pray that we would faithfully make him known, calling out to the children of the Summit the mighty deeds of God. Pray that the hearts of these children would be drawn to God, that they would ‘taste and see that he is good.’ Pray that they would surrender their lives to Jesus and learn to seek and serve him all their days.

- Ask God to raise up volunteers who will consistently serve in Summit Kids. Pray for 200 new leaders across all campuses this fall.
- Ask God to make our Summit Kids leaders effective in communicating the truths of God to children of all ages.
- Pray that parents and other caretakers, filled by the Spirit, would be empowered to faithfully disciple the children in their homes, leading them to know and love God.
- Ask God to speak to you about the part he wants you to play in cultivating the next generation of disciples.
- **Praying with Kids?** Pray that they would have strong relationships with their Summit leaders and that they would grow to be disciples who make disciples.
 - **Kids pray:** “Father, thank you for our Summit Kids leaders. Help me to know my leaders and be disciplined by them. Please help me to grow into a person who loves you and loves others.”

September 6 | Summit Students and Summit College

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

–Ephesians 1:17–19a

Let these verses be our prayer for our students, from middle school through college. Ask God to give them a clear vision of his glory and awaken them to know him more and more. Pray that their knowledge of him would stir great love and faith in them. Ask God to fill them with hope and use them to declare that hope to their fellow students. Pray that they would rely on his power to live a life worthy of the gospel.

- Ask God to raise up women and men to partner with Summit Students in the discipleship of middle and high schoolers.
- Pray that our students would grow in their love for God’s Word and their commitment to spend time in prayer.
- Pray that our high school students would be intentional in sharing the gospel with their friends.
- Ask God to equip our students to disciple others even as they are being disciplined.
- Pray that doors would be opened for our college students and Summit College staff to connect and share the gospel with freshmen at the beginning of the semester.
- Pray that college students would share the gospel with clarity and boldness. Ask God to save hundreds of students this year on college campuses across the Triangle.
- Pray that our college ministry would be effective and fruitful as they invest in this generation of college students.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, “God, all wisdom comes from you. Thank you for so many students who want to know you more. Help them to become wise women and men who live by your Word.”

September 7 | Small Groups and Women's Discipleship

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

—2 Timothy 2:1–2

We are saved and sustained by God's great grace. Pray that, as God's dearly loved children, we would continue to grow in that grace. Pray especially for small group leaders and those who lead various discipleship groups, asking God to cause them to continue to trust and rely on God's grace in their lives.

- Ask God to raise up more small group leaders and give us an increase in small groups this year.
- Pray that through the launching of new groups, we would see more people connected to discipleship relationships at the Summit.
- Ask God to help our leaders identify and invest in those who will faithfully invest in others.
- Pray for greater engagement and accountability as our groups seek to grow in discipleship.
- Pray for our Women's Discipleship efforts through Bible studies and Equip Groups.
- Ask God to raise up more leaders and facilitators at all our campuses.
- Pray that more women would be connected to these groups and that they be effective in reaching and teaching other women to know and love God.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, "God, thank you for letting me be part of a church where so many grown-ups love you. Help them know you more and lead others to love you, too."

September 8 | Kingdom Diversity

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

–Philippians 2:1–4

God has sovereignly put us in a strategic place with the opportunity to reflect the diversity of our community as we declare the diversity of the kingdom. We are surrounded by a diverse and growing community. And in a world that is increasingly divided, we have the opportunity to live out gospel-centered unity and love. Ask God to grow us in the grace of considering others, especially those who are different from us, as more important than ourselves.

- Pray that as a church family, we would abound in love for one another and for our community.
- Pray that God will provide us with called and capable leaders of color who will help us influence *all* of our community.
- Ask God to use The Summit Institute to effectively recruit and train women and men of color for gospel ministry.
- Pray that God would lead you to grow in your relationships with those who are different from you, as we seek to become a church that represents the “every tribe and language” throng that will one day gather around the throne of God. Ask God to strengthen and sustain our unity in diversity.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, “Father, thank you for making so many different kinds of people in your image. Help our church to look like your family. Help us to love all people the way that you do.”

September 9 | Local Outreach

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.”

–Micah 6:8

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

–1 Peter 2:12

God’s expectation is that we will live our lives in a way that reflects His character. We are called to be His agents in the world, working for justice and showing compassion and mercy. Our good deeds and care for others is supposed to cause others to see and know Him.

- Pray that God would use our Neighboring 101 training to cultivate our hearts for the poor and marginalized in the Triangle.
- Ask him to lead many in our congregation to participate in that training this year.
- Pray that we would see an increase in the number of Summit members who are participating in local outreach opportunities.
- Pray that God would continue to give us access to our local prisons, so that the gospel would be preached to those who are incarcerated.
- Ask God to lead individuals and small groups to come alongside prisoners, walking with them post-release.
- Ask God to speak to you and show you where he wants to use you to demonstrate his concern for the weak and the vulnerable in your community.
- Pray that many in our city will come to know the saving love of Jesus through our local outreach efforts.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, “God, let us shine your light in the darkness. Help us love those around us in the ways that they need love. Please use us to reach those in our city who don’t know you yet.”

September 10 | Domestic Church Planting

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8

Our commission is no larger than the one God gave the early church: to start making disciples at home and to reach out, from there, to the ends of the earth. And the power for accomplishing our vision—of planting 1,000 churches by 2050—can only come from the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for the four church planters who began their training at the Summit in August.
- Ask God to protect their hearts from selfish ambition and fill their hearts with a desire to see God’s kingdom advance in the cities where he is sending them.
- Pray that God would raise up at least 50 people from the Summit to move to be a part of a new church plant this year.
- Ask God to use our Future Leaders Cohort to develop leaders for the next wave of church plants.
- Pray that all of our church planters and their teams would walk faithfully with God, seeking him daily.
- Ask that God would strengthen and protect their marriages and families.
- Pray that God would use these church plants as powerful witnesses to the truth of the gospel and that many would be saved through their ministry.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, “God, thank you for letting our church be a part of building your kingdom. Help us always grow and be able to start churches in more places. Bless those who go to start new churches and help them to be faithful like you are faithful.”

September 11 | International Sending

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

–Matthew 28:18–20

The One who has all authority has called us to make disciples of all nations, and he has promised to be with us until the very end. His presence guarantees our success. He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine (cf. Ephesians 3:20). He will gain glory for himself among the nations.

- Ask God to give you boldness in sharing the gospel, showing you where he wants to use you.
- Ask God to sustain and strengthen the 297 Summit members currently serving around the world.
- Pray for their personal purity and their spiritual and physical health.
- Ask God to protect their marriages and draw their children to himself.
- Pray that we would see many more called to go to the nations.
- Pray that God would grow us in generosity and sacrifice, for the sake of the spread of the gospel.
- Rejoice in the 502 churches we have planted, and ask God to fulfill the vision of planting 1,000 churches by 2050.
- Surrender yourself to God today, and ask him to speak clearly about where and how he wants to use you for his fame and glory.
- **Praying with kids?** Have them pray, “Father, thank you for the people in our church who have said ‘Yes’ to living as witnesses for you. Help us remember them and care for them while they care for others. Please use our church to spread your good news all over the earth.”

How Do We Respond Now?

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

—Titus 2:11–14

This isn’t the end; it’s just the beginning. Samuel Chadwick said, “The greatest answer to prayer is more prayer.” We will never be beyond our need for God’s grace. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to be taught and led by our Savior. It is our joy to be engaged in his mission and we are eager to see his Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. The fulfillment of the Great Commission depends, not on us, but on him. Salvation belongs to our God. All of it is his work. So we must continue to pray.

As we move beyond this Week of Prayer, we must not move on from prayer. Continue to use the prayer points from this week to fuel your prayer for the mission:

- **Maintain a set time** to pray each day.
- Use the Summit daily **Bible reading** to lead your praying.
- Keep a prayer **journal**, writing out your prayers.
- Participate in your **campus prayer hours** and other prayer gatherings throughout the year.
- And **ask God** to show you where and how you can be connected to the mission here at The Summit Church.

Pray continually for the advancement of his kingdom as we wait for his glorious appearing.

There’s too much at stake for us to stop now. Let’s pray!