



A MONTH OF SEEKING GOD

NOVEMBER PRAYER PLAN



CITYWIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

SEEKING GOD IN NOVEMBER

Instead of our usual week of prayer and fasting at the end of the year, this year we are calling Citywide to a month of seeking God together – in November 2024. As the Citywide family, we are together His Church, unified in our worship of God, dedicated to serving his church, and committed to growth as we follow Jesus through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The elected leaders at Citywide are very aware that we need each other in order to serve God well, and we need to be in unity as we worship, and we need everyone to share in the responsibilities of honouring God in all that we do.

Before us as a church family lie some big decisions to be made. It is our desire to present a balanced budget at our Church Budget Meeting on 8 December. Given that in the past 2-3 years we have been running on a deficit budget of up to \$50,000 this is no small thing. The deficit status has been swinging on our expectations for growth and our desire to be living and operating out of faith and expectancy rather than backing off into a safe and stagnant position.

It is true that God has been providing for us way beyond our expectations over many years and we constantly praise him for supplying our every need. But to present a balanced budget now we again need God's favour and grace. We are very dependent on Him.

Another big journey we are on is deciding what and how God would have us use the back block. Our Trustees have been exploring and gaining information from a diverse range of possibilities, but we don't want to move outside of God's purpose and plan for us and for the block. Again, we need him to open the right doors and lead us clearly in how to steward this asset wisely.

As Christ's followers, our primary purpose is to Worship God and Praise him for his Love and Life extravagantly lavished on us. Bringing glory and honour to him is our main business. One of the ways we do this is to

open ourselves to a growing relationship with Jesus – to make him the focus of all we do and say – letting him take the lead in all our decisions and actions – drawing into us his Life and Power as we stay grounded in his Word and make him Lord of all. Serving him and others is a natural outflow of our faith but we need his power flowing through us to effect growth.

And so we call Citywide to a month of seeking God in November. Each week of the month we are asking everyone to sacrificially commit to four things.

1. **Praying** – in worship, in thanksgiving, in repentance, in supplication, in reflection, in listening.
2. **Fasting** – choose which day each week you will fast and dedicate yourself in sacrificial surrender.
3. **Giving** – if you're not already, then try it for a month – cheerfully and willingly.
4. **Bringing** - someone who is not a Christian to church with you each week.

We believe God will move amongst us as we dedicate ourselves and pursue him in this way. In submission and with sacrificial faith, we position ourselves for God to move, for difficulties to be overcome, for breakthroughs to occur, for blessings to flow and for Kingdom growth to happen.

Can you? Will you? - make this commitment to a month of seeking for God to reveal himself in a fresh way.

Join us in November on this act of consecration and adventure in faith and obedience.



OPPORTUNITIES

Join with others in prayer

Saturday 2 November

Join with Nepalese in their monthly prayer and fasting
9.00 – 11.00 am at Lenah Valley

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
2.00 pm at Lenah Valley

International Day of Prayer
7.00 pm at Hope Christian Church, 25 Tasma St, North Hobart

Monday mornings

9.00 am at Mornington office

Wednesday lunch times

12.00 noon at Lenah Valley

Thursday mornings

9.00 am at Mornington office

Thursday lunch times

12.00 noon at Mornington

Thursday evenings

7.30 pm at Mornington Lounge

Life Groups throughout the week



WEEKLY GUIDE

Prepare for your month of Seeking God

Over the weekend, take time to seek God as to how he'd like you to order your days this month to go deeper with him and focus your whole life on him and grow your relationship with Jesus. Take notes to record your month with Jesus, writing what you sense him saying to you.

What time slot will you schedule each day for extra worship, prayer and reflection? *Put it in your diary.*

Which day each week will you fast? *Put it in your diary.* Who can you begin praying for with the purpose of inviting them to church?

Reassess your giving to God. If you are not already tithing, then pray about it and trust God with your finances.

Covenant with God to:

- Meet with him daily this month.
Use the enclosed suggestions as a guide.
- Choose one day each week to fast.
- Tithe your total income.
- Invite a non-Christian to church each week.



WEEK 1

Use the accompanying guidelines – choose one or two of the suggestions to guide your worship and prayer each day.

Ask Jesus to show you clearly what he wants of you at this point of time. Listen to him. Write it down. Resolve to be obedient. Plan your follow up.

WEEK 2

Use the accompanying guidelines – choose one or two of the suggestions to guide your worship and prayer each day. Write down what you hear him say.

Pray for someone close to you for Jesus to touch their life in a specific way. Find a scripture that shows your prayer is God's will for them (eg John 3:16, 2 Pet 3:9 for salvation or Matt 10:1, Mk 1:41 for healing) and pray aloud using the scripture. Give praise and thanks for what God is doing in their life.

WEEK 3

Use the accompanying guidelines – choose one or two of the suggestions to guide your worship and prayer each day.

Seek God for his wisdom and leading in our budget planning process at Citywide. Specifically pray for Tim and the Trustees as they tangle with the challenges for a balanced budget. Give thanks to God for his generous provisions for us through the years and seek his grace as we desire to serve him with all that he's given us. Write down anything you sense him saying for Citywide - share it with the leaders

WEEK 4

Use the accompanying guidelines – choose one or two of the suggestions to guide your worship and prayer each day.

Seek God for his guidance and direction for our Trustees in our decisions re the back block. There are some optional scenarios emerging, all of which will have implications on our church and vision. This is a pivotal point in Citywide's life and mission, and we are dependent upon and need God's clear leading. Write down anything you sense him saying for Citywide – share it with the leaders.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Be Real with God

Do you know more about prayer than what you actually practise in your life? Use this month to explore and discover the adventure of communing with God. Be surprised by answers to prayer and the difference that happens in your relationship with him.

A 'Word' in the Spirit

I will open the storehouse of heaven and my Spirit will rain down over you. I will open the flood gates and let my life flood over you – such that there will be an abundance of my Spirit's anointing and an overflow of my life that will flow from you and spread from you. Prepare yourselves for an encounter with me – purify and humble yourselves before me – come with empty hands and be expectant – come as little children and my abundance will pour down over and above all that you can imagine.

2 Peter 1:2-9 *May God bless you with his special favour ...*

OPTIONAL APPROACHES

If you're not sure where to start, try the **ACTS** approach

Adoration

Take a different aspect of God's character each day to meditate and chew on, praise him for it and know that you are praying to a tremendous God!.

Confession

Be honest with yourself. Recognise the sin within you for what it is and name it. 'Everyone's doing it' is the catch cry of hell – it gives you no place to stand before a holy God. Be specific – generalities are hollow. Get honest with God and don't play games with him.

Thanksgiving

Remember a time when God has come through for you ... acknowledge his goodness - Contemplate his grace - and thank him again. Thank him for answered prayers, for spiritual blessings, for relational blessings, for material blessings.

Supplication

God loves you – and he is able! Lay your request/s before him in faith. Nothing is too big for God to handle, and nothing is too small for him to be interested in.

LECTIO 365

Download from the App Store this recommended audio daily devotion

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Pickup the contemplative prayer booklet from the office or download at heyzone.com/shelf/9119b8cc07.html.

WORSHIP

2 Chron 29 *The Lord has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him, to lead the people in worship and make offerings to him.*

Heb 4:12-16 God's provision and encouragement for us through Christ - ...so let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious 'God ...

2 Pet 3:18 *Grow in the special favour and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ*

Job 9 What an awesome and fearful God! v.33 was answered for us ...
Praise God! Read Isa 42 / Heb 7:24-28 / Rom 8:1
Reflect on the work and submission of Jesus on the Cross – for us!

Rev 2:5 Remember how you loved me at first – return to me again ...
Rev 4 & 5 Let the words be a stimulus for your worship. Recapture a personal fear of God. Refresh your hope – consecrate yourself in preparation for eternity.

Coll 3:1-17 ...Set your heart on the realities of heaven ...

Ps 34:1-3 Choose to praise God, regardless. Covenant with Him to praise him every day in your circumstances.

3 John 1 *Extravagant love* – let's respond with our lavish devotion = Worship

DEDICATE YOURSELF

1 Chron 21:24 *Dedicate yourselves ... seek out his appointed ways. I will not offer burnt offerings that have cost me nothing*

1 Chron 22:19 *Seek the Lord with all your heart.* Seek him in the midst of our struggles.

Jam 1:2-4 Praise him in all circumstances.

Heb 11:6 *God rewards those who diligently and earnestly seek him.* Anything we sacrifice to get closer to God and obey him, we receive back many times over what we give.

Rev 21:6 *Come ... to the thirsty I will give ...* Those who hunger after righteousness will receive it. You must desire it above everything else. Your yearning for God must supersede all other desires. It must be like a gnawing hunger and a burning thirst.

James 4:6-10 *... So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.*

REPENT

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say we have no sin ...* Purify yourself by coming before the Cross of Jesus – pause there and consider afresh his sacrifice for you.

Ps 51 *Have mercy on me, O God ... Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean (de-sin me), wash me and I will be whiter than snow – sustain me with a willing spirit. ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, renew a right spirit within me ... make me willing to obey you.*

Heb 9:9-28 *Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God...* The No.1 key to entering into worship is a clear conscience. The blood of Jesus does that for us, and frees us to worship.

GIVE THANKS

Ps 118:1 *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His faithful love endures forever.*

1 Chron 16:8-36 *Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness ...*

1 Chron 29:10-20 *...may you be praised for ever and ever ... we thank you and praise your glorious name ...I know that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there ...*

Praise God and thank him for his favour upon Citywide. What a blessed people we are!

Thank him for our pastors and leaders.

Thank him for our unity and submission to one another.

Thank him for the flow of love and fellowship we enjoy with each other.

Thank him for our premises and the freedoms we enjoy.

Thank him for his generosity towards us and the many times he has provided way beyond what we could ever have imagined.

Thank him for his answers to prayer

Thank him for his healing blessings on so many of our people

REFLECT

- Meditate on and become enraptured with the heart of God
- Deepen your love for Jesus - Strengthen your surrender of heart and life to him
- Come to a place of helplessness of self and see your need of the presence, the love, the grace and the mediation of Jesus.
- Breathe in deeply and refresh your openness to the Holy Spirit's power within you.

Spring

- A season to make a fresh start, repent of yesterday's mistakes and turn your face towards the potential that God has planned for you.
- A season of new life and vigour – *stir into flame the gift that is within you.*
- A season to clean out anything in your life that is not edifying or that clutters and blocks your full function and potential.

Isaiah 43:1-13

John 7:38

Deep inside each of us there is a river of life given to us by God. It flows with good health, a positive outlook on life, and a generous and forgiving attitude. How's the flow in your river?

Has neglect turned it into a small stream?

Has it become blocked up with discouragement or disappointment or unforgiveness or bitterness?

Make a choice today to stop spending your life trudging through the mud. Ask God to help you clear out the debris. He'll show you what's blocking the flow and how to get the living water flowing through you again.

Are you enthusiastic about your faith in Jesus Christ? It is the essence of vital spiritual experience. The disciples had been with Christ and they couldn't help but testify to that which they had seen and heard. Are you intoxicated with Jesus – go forth boldly, filled with the Spirit of God, and share your message of love with unreserved abandonment.

What's the next step in developing my character / my relationships / my ministry? Ask God to show you – and act on it.

ASK

Know that God is able. Build up your faith by searching the scriptures

God has power over nature Ex 16 / Jn 6:1-13 / Mk 4:35-41

God has power over circumstances Acts 12

God has power to change people's hearts Ex 3-4 / Acts 9:1-31 / Lk 22:31-32

- Ask Jesus to show us clearly what he wants of you at this point of time.
- Seek his wisdom and leading in our budget planning process.
- Ask for his guidance and direction in our desire to use the back block well.
- Ask for a spirit of worship and holiness to engulf us at Citywide.
- Invite Holy Spirit to bring fresh anointing to our church.
- Ask Holy Spirit to move upon people and draw them to seek after Jesus, and find his love and forgiveness and truth.
- Pray that we might be graced with new believers and baptisms.

LISTEN

Keep a journal of your times with God

Write down what you think Jesus is saying.

- To you personally
- To Citywide





FOLLOW *Jesus*
SHARE *Life*
BLESS *Tasmania*



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