



**Week of
Prayer
January
2017**



Day 1 :: Sunday

Theme :: Getting Ready

On Sunday we talked about looking forwards and looking backwards. When the Romans decided to add a new month to the start of the calendar they called it January. It was named after Janus – the Roman God of beginnings and endings, gates and doorways. At a time of transition the Romans wanted to think that a God was looking after them. We know that Jesus really does help us at all times.

This week we'll be reflecting on the New Year. Looking forwards and backwards and asking God to help us on our journey through life.

Make a commitment to take the week of reflection and prayer seriously and ask God to help you with your plan. Why not also make a commitment to fast sometime this week? It's a significant way to get close to God.

Each day, write down some of the things you think God is showing you.

Next Sunday we will be encouraging everyone to say something about their experiences during the week. For example,

- **What happened.**
- **How you felt.**
- **Anything God has said to you.**
- **Any message you think God has given you to share with the church.**

The guidelines for each day are to help start you off, not to limit you! Each day, ask God

what else to pray about and talk to Him about whatever is on your mind.

When and where you are going to pray?

Who might you pray with at some point?

Why not contact them now to make arrangements.

Are you going to miss any meals (fast) in order to pray more?

If so, when?

What do you want to get out of the week?

Day 2 :: Monday

Theme :: Giving thanks for 2016

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.”

1 Chronicles 16:34 NLT

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100:4 NLT

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

1. Personal reflection & prayer

Think about today's Bible verses, and talk to God about them.

2016, like most years, will probably have been a mixture of good and bad things. Today we're reflecting on the good things. Think back over the past year and make a list of things you want to thank God for.

2. Pray for others

Think about some of the people who were a blessing to you in 2016 and pray for them.

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.

Day 3 :: Tuesday

Theme :: Breaking free from 2016

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

“...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1 NLT

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”

Galatians 5:1

1. Personal reflection & prayer

What are the things that held you back in 2016?

What are the things that you want freedom from?

What things from the past do you want God to help you get over?

Think about today's Bible verses and talk to God about them.

2. Pray for others

Think about your friends, family and any others you may know.

Who do you know that needs to break free from the difficulties of their past?

Who looks like they're going to repeat the same mistakes this year?

Pray for them to reach out for God's help; that they would connect with Him and start their journey of transformation.

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.

Tomorrow is a church day of prayer & fasting.

Prayer drop-in 6-8am

Prayer meeting 7-8pm

Day 4 :: Wednesday

Theme :: Not looking forward to....

Today is a church day of prayer & fasting.

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God...” Isaiah 43:1-3 NKJV

“...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NLT

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

Philippians 4:6 NLT

1. Personal reflection & prayer

As you approach 2017 are there things you're not looking forward to?

What difficulties are you facing?

God wants to help you face these things with confidence and peace.

Think about today's Bible verses and talk to God about them.

2. Pray for others

Think about your friends, family and any others you may know.

What situations are they facing?
What fears have they told you about?

Pray for them.

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.

Day 5 :: Thursday

Theme :: Hoping for ... myself

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

“...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-14 NIV

1. Personal reflection & prayer

Think about the year ahead.

What do you want happen in 2017?

How do you want to be different?

What do you think God has for you?

What do you want to achieve?

Think about today's Bible verses and talk to God about them.

2. Pray for others

Our lives are linked to so many others.

What are your hopes and prayers for those who are close to you?

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.

Day 6 :: Friday

Theme :: Hoping for ... the church

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 NLT

1. Personal reflection & prayer

Think about today's Bible verses and talk to God about them.

What are your hopes and prayers for our church?

2. Pray for others

What are your hopes and prayers for other churches, both locally and nationally?

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.

Day 7 :: Saturday

Theme :: Hoping for ... the World

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2:14 NKJV

"...Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15 NLT

"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." 1 John 5:5 NIV

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 NIV

1. Personal reflection & prayer

Think about today's Bible verses and talk to God about them.

Look back over what you have written down during the past week.

Talk to God about anything that stands out.

What experiences from the week can you share in church tomorrow?

2. Pray for others

Many troubling things happened in the world in 2016.

What are your hopes and prayers for the world in 2017?

3. Write down a couple of things that have been significant in your praying today.