

In an effort to help us learn to read the Bible as individuals, families, and a Church, I invite you to read each of the following this week, perhaps first thing in the morning individually and then collectively at dinner. The verses listed in the middle column are designed for youth to adult disciples, but some of these might be difficult for children to understand, so we include an alternate reading for families with children.

Basic Tips: 1.) Use a translation you can understand. If new to the Bible, try the NIV or The Message, which are both available online. 2.) Use a kids Bible with kids. 3.) Keep a pencil and notebook around to write down questions, observations, and conclusions. 4.) Have fun. Use your imagination and your brain.

Week 9 – March 1-8

I AM CALLED TO PRAY.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Day 1	Matt 6:5-13	
Day 2	Mark 1:35-37	
Day 3	Phil 4:6-7	Luke 18:1-8
Day 4	James 5:13-16	
Day 5	Rom 8:26-27	Matt 9:35-38

Questions to Guide You:

1. What does this story teach us about Jesus? the Father? the Spirit?
2. What does this story teach us about followers of Jesus? People who reject Jesus?
3. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow? Is there a bad example to avoid?
4. What lies, truths, or circumstances cause people to live these ways?
5. What would my life, my relationships, my work, my school look like if I believed and obeyed this Jesus teaching?
6. What practical thing can I do different this week to better imitate and obey Jesus with regards to my marriage, my family, my friends, my work, and my neighbors?

Summary Declaration:

Jesus said, “When you pray,” not “if you pray,” because I’m too busy not to pray.ⁱ Prayer is the power supply for my spiritual life.ⁱⁱ I will not neglect the privilege of talking to my Father in Heaven, for this privilege was secured for me by Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.ⁱⁱⁱ Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit pray with and for me, I can address God as Father, cast all my cares upon him, and know he cares for me.^{iv} My prayers are powerful and effective. Therefore, I will pray for the church, the sick, my enemies, my daily bread, others, forgiveness, and myself.^v

ⁱ Matt 6:5; Mark 1:32-35; Mark 6:46; Matt 14:23; Heb 5:7

ⁱⁱ Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 6:12; John 17; Acts 16:25; Eph 6:18-19; Col 4:2-4; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Jude 1:20-21; Luke 18:1-8

ⁱⁱⁱ Luke 18:6-8; Luke 18:9-14; Matt 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-25

^{iv} Matt 6:9-13; Matt 7:9-11; Luke 11:2-4; Romans 8:26,34; Phil 4:6-7; 1 Peter 3:12

^v James 5:13-16; Matt 5:44; Matt 9:38; Acts 9:40; Acts 28:8; Rom 15:30; 2 Cor 1:11; Eph 1:15-19; Eph 3:16-18; Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:9-14; Col 4:12; 2 Thess 1:12; 2 Thess 3:1-2; 1 Tim 2:1-8