

Prayer Experience



AT HOME

This prayer experience is designed for the body of Christ to come together, in separate spaces, but of one mind together, seeking God and asking Him to come intervene in our lives, our families, and communities. This will take roughly one hour if you give it all the time allotted. For some of us, this will be the longest we've ever prayed, but our challenge is this: **try it for all it's worth**. We have faith this will be a meaningful and growing experience for us in Jesus.

We have a video that will walk you through this whole prayer experience! We recommend you use it and follow the prayer prompts as they come. This will help pace you, and give you valuable ideas and encouragements.

blueridge.org/prayerexperience

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

PREPARATION

Get distraction free - set aside an hour. This is a time for you to connect with the Lord. Get alone, or with some close friends and family, and dedicate this time to Jesus, for however He'd like to use it. Turn off your phone if you need to.

Get a pen, notebook, and your Bible - ask Jesus to speak to you during this time, and write down what you hear! We can easily forget, or maybe it will make more sense later.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you - as you spend time praying, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the things to pray for! Don't feel bad if your mind starts to wander - ask Jesus why it's wandering. It might be Him prompting you to pray.

Set aside the day and engage with Jesus - Don't worry about your next task of the day - be as present as you can.

LETS GET STARTED

PART 1 - SCRIPTURES

~15 MINUTES

Read these few scriptures, and think about who God is. Try to picture Him in your mind, think about how large and powerful He is, yet so personal, kind, and forgiving. Ask Him to show you more of His character. Then turn your attention to yourself, and what it would be like if God had left you on your own. Then read what God says about us, and be grateful for the miracle that Jesus has done.

Who is God?

Exodus 33:18-23 (ESV) - Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (ESV) - Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Who was I?

Romans 5:10 (ESV) - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (ESV) - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

Who am I now?

John 1:12 (ESV) - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV) - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV) - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

PART 2 - SEARCH ME, KNOW ME

~15 MINUTES

Spend some time asking God to show you where you may have fallen short recently that you haven't confessed / repented for yet. As they come up, confess them to God. If needed, confess to a trusted friend too. Then step into the forgiveness that God offers. Use Psalm 139:23-24 as your template: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"*.

Where have I not been following where God is leading?

This past week - Has God asked you to do anything, and you said no?

Think of places you went - texts / emails you sent - did you ignore God's prompting?

Think of your interactions with roommates / family?

What about your thoughts? Have they been following Jesus?

Do I have any unconfessed sin?

Is there something in my life I've kept hidden from others and God? What's keeping me from being completely open and vulnerable, accepting God's healing and restoration?

Have I prioritized the Great Commission in my life?

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

PART 3 - PRAY

~15 MINUTES

My Family

*Is there a health issue I can pray for?
Are there any family members far from God?
Any relational tension between any members of the family?
Any way I can represent God in my family?*

My Community

*What stirs my heart to action in my community?
What is an injustice I can pray for?
Are there any causes / opportunities I can pray for, or join with?
What parts of town need the light of Jesus?
What schools can I pray for?
What is something happening that I'm excited about?*

My Church

*The Leadership - Elders / Pastors / Ministry leaders
Ministry areas - Kids / Youth / Adults / Missions
Communities served - Bedford / New London / Demographics / Local Missions
Current groups / Future groups - BR Care / Group Communities / New Groups
Blind spots of the church - What might we be overlooking in how we can be more effective in spreading the gospel?*

Listen - What is God saying to you?

*What's my part in what I've asked God to do?
What are my next steps?
What does God want me to know?
What does God want me to do?*

PART 4 - WORSHIP

Spend some time worshipping God through music! Any worship music will work, but we suggest the song "Hope of the Ages" by Hillsong & Cody Carnes.

Wrapping up -

What has God told you during this time?
Is there a lie you've believed that you need to throw out?
Is there something about you that God has affirmed?
Is there a dream or vision that God is awakening in you?
Is there something God is calling you to right now?

Tell someone, write it down, or if you'd like, email elders@blueridge.org. Don't allow these things to slip out of recent memory. If God is speaking to you, act, and allow your faith to grow as you walk in obedience to Jesus. As you go on with your day, expect your prayers to be answered, and keep your eyes out for the answer!