

WEEK OF FAMILY PRAYER

The new year is a great time to start new habits—exercise more, eat less junk food, replace technology time with more family time. New life patterns can change the trajectory of our lives. At Hill Country, we value a new year and a fresh start, and we want to ensure that we FIRST seek Jesus and His presence, priorities, and plans for us in prayer. At the beginning of each year, our staff stops activity and spends a full week worshiping, praying, and spending time in God's presence. Launching off that special week, our church family comes together to worship and pray for our church, our leaders, and our year ahead. We believe God's Word in 1 Corinthians 2:9 that says:

But just as it is written, "Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love him."

As a church, we love Him and eagerly pray for Him to work in ways we can't even imagine in 2021! This year, we invite you and your family to join us at home the week of February 8 in praying and seeking Jesus for what's ahead. He has prepared amazing things for your family as well! Bonus: What an incredible life pattern for your kid(s) to experience with their family—a simple but powerful practice that will shape them for life!

THEME

This year, we are focusing on the theme "One." Throughout the week we will be focusing on the word unity. **Unity is the state of being one, being together in purpose or direction, or working together as a team for a common goal.** God and His word provide us with examples of unity and how we are to model that in our own lives.

A FAMILY GUIDE

Whether you are an experienced "pray-er" or just starting out, we'd love to help you and your family pray together with this prayer guide. Each day offers a focus, suggestions for prayer, and possible discussion questions for going deeper. As you focus on regular prayer as a family, we hope that you'll experience more unity with God, unity as a family, and unity with other Christians as we follow Jesus together.

PRAYING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

1. Find a time that works for your whole family for the week.

- Mealtimes are a great time where the family is usually all together. Take time before or after to pray together.
- If you typically pray with your kids before bed, switch it up this week and pray together as a family instead.
- No matter what time you choose, remove distractions (phones, TV, pets, etc.) so you can focus on prayer.

2. Prayer is about your relationship with God.

- Prayer is a conversation with God. It doesn't need to be long, fancy, or formal; simply pray to God with sincerity.
- Prayer is about relationship, and relationships take time to grow. It is okay if it is challenging at first.
- Like all relationships, it may seem a little awkward or weird in the beginning, especially if it is one of your first times praying together as a family. That's okay! The important part is that you are talking to God and starting a new pattern for your family.

3. Participate as a whole family.

- Pray out loud together or pray silently. God hears your prayers either way.
- If you are praying out loud, make sure everyone gets an opportunity to pray.
- Model praying to your kids. Especially with our different prayer topics, consider praying first, giving your kids an example of how to pray. With younger children, consider using simpler and fewer sentences for them to imitate.

WEEK OF PRAYER: DAY 1

GOD'S UNITED, CONSISTENT CHARACTER

PRAY

Pray and thank God for being who He is.

Example: "Thank you so much that you love us so much. Thank you that you are creative and made the whole world."

Ask God to help you grow in one of His characteristics.

Example: "God, help me to forgive other people like you have forgiven men."

READ

Exodus 34:6-7

UNITY

Unity is the state of being one, being together in purpose or direction, or working together as a team for a common goal.

DEEP DIVES

All:

Look at the definition of unity in the blue circle above. How does God's character show unity?

Kids:

Look at the Attributes of God Chart and look up the meaning/definition of different qualities of God. Which one of these qualities is your favorite part about God?

Students:

Watch the Bible Project Video(s) on Exodus 34:6-7 (multiple videos on different qualities) and talk about it with your parent(s). What surprised you? What do you still have questions about?

BONUS CONTENT



Attributes of God



Character of God

WEEK OF PRAYER: DAY 2

UNITED IN PURPOSE

PRAY

Pray that in your own life you can be focused on loving God and others

Example: "Thank you God for loving me and showing me how to love others. I pray that I can love You and others with all my heart, soul, and strength."

Think about a specific person in your life who needs love or you think God wants you to show love to. Pray that you can show God's love to them. Then, be sure to go out and show them love!

Example: "God, I know that my neighbor has a hard time taking out her trashcans. I pray that, by me offering to help her, I can show love to her."

READ

Matthew 22:34-39

UNITY

Unity is the state of being one, being together in purpose or direction, or working together as a team for a common goal.

DEEP DIVES

All:

Look at the definition of unity in the blue circle above. How does the greatest command show unity?

Kids:

Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 as the greatest command. Jesus knew that the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, was super important and had memorized God's word. Look up these Bible verses together to see what Jesus was quoting and had memorized. Then, memorize Matthew 22:37-39 together (shorten as necessary for younger ages).

Students:

Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 (part of the Shema) and Leviticus 19:18 as the greatest command. Watch the Bible Project Videos on Shema (specifically the videos on Heart, Soul, and Strength). Which one of these 3 areas can you better love God with this week?

BONUS CONTENT



Shema Videos

WEEK OF PRAYER: DAY 3

UNITED AS A CHURCH

PRAY

As you read John 17:20-23, pray those words back to God, asking for unity among all Christians, especially those in our church family.

Ask God to unify all churches around what we share in common—our faith in Jesus' death for our sins and resurrection to give us eternal life.

Example: "God, I pray that all churches would follow You and Your word and would be unified because of our faith in Jesus."

READ

John 17:20-23;
John 13:34-35

UNITY

Unity is the state of being one, being together in purpose or direction, or working together as a team for a common goal.

DEEP DIVES

All:

Look at the definition of unity in the blue circle above. How does or should the church show unity?

Discuss what "unity" among Christians and among churches would look like. How would we act toward each other if we are unified? How would churches act if unified?

Look up the following verses and pray the verses back to God and ask for unity as the Church.

- 1 Corinthians 12:25
- Romans 12:5
- Philippians 2:2
- Ephesians 4:11-16

WEEK OF PRAYER: DAY 4

UNITED AS A FAMILY

PRAY

Ask God to unify your family and to help you love each other and others well.

Example "God, I pray that I can show love to my family by being patient with them."

If you have sinned against someone in your family, ask for forgiveness from God and from them.

READ

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

UNITY

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DEEP DIVES

All:

Look at the definition of unity in the blue circle above. How can our family show unity?

Kids:

Share your favorite memory of your family and why you love it.

Students:

Share your favorite family tradition and what traditions you would like to keep when you are an adult.

WEEK OF PRAYER: DAY 5

UNITED IN VOICE OF GRATITUDE AND PRAISE

PRAY

Thank God for all that you learned this week.

Thank God that when we pray to Him, He listens.

READ

Psalm 100;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

UNITY

Unity is the state of being one, being together in purpose or direction, or working together as a team for a common goal.

DEEP DIVES

All:

Look at the definition of unity in the blue circle above. How can our worship and praise to God show unity?

Listen to and sing Doxology//Amen by Phil Wickham and praise God for who He is and all He has done!

BONUS CONTENT



Doxology//Amen