



# 40 Days of Prayer

▶ As a community, we are committing the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven to ponder ten things He said to His disciples after His resurrection. Jesus reminded them of what they had already learned and called them to their new mission. His words are an invitation for us as well. What does God have in store for our lives?

# “DO NOT BE AFRAID”

▶ *“Greetings,” He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid.”*

Matthew 28:9–10

## 1

**REFLECT** // This is the first thing Jesus said to those He encountered after His resurrection. He may say these same words when we see Him for the first time, or when He invites us into something that is new or uncomfortable.

▶ What fears have a hold of my heart today?

## 2

**WORSHIP** // God is our comforter and He is trustworthy for what is happening now and in the future. Share with Him what this means to you. Praise Him for these qualities.

## 3

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today regarding the fear in my life?

## 4

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “Do not be afraid” He is inviting me to...

# “PEACE BE WITH YOU”

▶ ... Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

Luke 24:36–37

## 5

**REFLECT** // When Jesus said, “Peace be with you” He was literally standing right next to them. He was their peace. And when Jesus says to those who follow Him “Peace be with you,” the Holy Spirit is literally within you. He is your peace.

▶ Am I longing for peace in this season of my life? When have I experienced God’s peace in ways that can’t be explained?

## 6

**WORSHIP** // Praise God for His presence in your life.

## 7

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to live in your peace?

## 8

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “Peace be with you” He is inviting me to...

# “WHO IS IT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?”

► *[the angels said to Mary]  
“Woman, why are you crying?”  
“They have taken my Lord away,”  
she said, “and I don’t know where  
they have put Him.” At this, she  
turned around and saw Jesus  
standing there, but she did not  
realize that it was Jesus. He asked  
her, “Woman, why are you crying?  
Who is it you are looking for?”*

John 20:13–15

## 9

**REFLECT** // Mary Magdalene was weeping because the tomb was empty, and she couldn’t find Jesus. When Jesus approached her, she didn’t recognize Him.

- Is there something keeping me from seeing Jesus?
- Am I blind to an aspect of who God is?

## 10

**WORSHIP** // As you worship God today, list all the qualities of God that come to mind and praise Him for who He is.

## 11

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today as I seek to know you in a deeper way?

## 12

**LISTEN** // When Jesus asks, “Who is it you are looking for?” He is inviting me to...

# “GO AND TELL”

► *“Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

Matthew 28:10



## 13

**REFLECT** // Mark 16 shares what happens when Mary did as Jesus asked:

“She went and told those who had been with Him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it.”

Mary did as Jesus asked, however they didn’t believe...yet. It’s a good reminder that Jesus is simply asking us to tell others we have seen Him and how our life is different because of it. How their story unfolds is between them and God.

► Am I telling others I’ve seen Jesus?

## 14

**WORSHIP** // Share with God how your life is changed because of Him.

## 15

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today? Who do you want me to tell? Help me know what to say and when.

## 16

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “Go and tell” He is inviting me to...

# “GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES”

▶ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

Matthew 28:18–20

## 17

**REFLECT** // A disciple is someone who says yes to follow Jesus, who is learning to live like Him, and is inviting others to do the same. The call is simple because it happens one person at a time, and yet the call is vast because Jesus desires for every person to know Him.

▶ If someone asked me why I follow Jesus, what would I say?

## 18

**WORSHIP** // Worship God today for His love that is so big and yet so personal.

## 19

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to be a disciple who is making disciples?

## 20

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “Go and make disciples” He is inviting me to...

# “I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

▶ “And surely I am with you always,  
to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

## 21

**REFLECT** // Jesus is with us when we see Him and when we don't. When we believe Him, and when we don't. When we follow Him, and when we don't. *Always* is not conditional. *Always* is a promise for today and a promise for the future.

▶ Are there times I don't feel His presence with me? How am I experiencing God's presence today?

## 22

**WORSHIP** // Praise God that He has been with you in the past, and for the faith that you have that He will be with you in the future. God, you have been with me when...

## 23

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to live with the confidence you are *always* with me?

## 24

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “I am with you always” He is inviting me to...

# “I AM SENDING YOU”

▶ *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

John 20:21

## 25

**REFLECT** // Jesus was really saying “you are my next.” He was sending them out to continue the mission He had started.

- ▶ What mission is God calling you to?
- ▶ If you are currently serving somewhere, who is your next? Who could you develop to expand or carry on the mission if God invites you into something new?

## 26

**WORSHIP** // Praise God for the unique gifts, talents and passions He has placed within you.

## 27

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to reach people with your love?

## 28

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “I am sending you” He is inviting me to...

# “RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT”

▶ *And with that He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

John 20:22

## 29

**REFLECT** // The God promptings we receive are from the Holy Spirit. He is nudging us toward some things and away from others.

▶ How have I experienced the Holy Spirit nudging me this past week?

## 30

**WORSHIP** // Praise God that His Spirit is our guide throughout our day. Be specific about the instances when He has been that for you.

## 31

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to be in tune with your Spirit?

## 32

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “receive the Holy Spirit” He is inviting me to...

# “STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE”

▶ *A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*

John 20:26–28

## 33

**REFLECT** // Sometimes we get stuck in questions and doubts and find ourselves asking God for proof. Jesus knew what Thomas needed to believe and showed him the evidence on His body. He also knows what we need to believe.

- ▶ Am I slow to believe God is who He says He is?
- ▶ What are my doubts? Have I asked Jesus about them?

## 34

**WORSHIP** // Praise God that He is patient with our questions and doubts, that it is safe to talk with Him about them.

## 35

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today regarding the doubt that I have?

## 36

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “Stop doubting and believe” He is inviting me to...

# “YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS”

▶ *Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”*

Luke 24:45-48

## 37

**REFLECT** // Jesus reminded the disciples that they saw firsthand God’s promises come true. Knowing that God has kept His promises in the past gives us the confidence that He will keep them today and in the future.

- ▶ How have I seen Jesus at work lately?
- ▶ How does this strengthen my faith?

## 38

**WORSHIP** // Give God honor and praise for what you have seen Him do so far in 2018.

## 39

**PRAY** // Father, what invitation do you have for me today to trust in your teaching and promises?

## 40

**LISTEN** // When Jesus says, “you are witnesses of these things” He is inviting me to...

