

KeyVerses08 Prayer

Love follows knowledge. A new Believer needs to be fed, fed, fed until they can feed themselves. Here's the 8th of 11 KeyVerse series, each of them with 35 verses (7 weeks worth) to show care and content to a young Christian. This series features verses about Prayer, taken from Jesus' life and teaching.

Examples:

Week 1 Day 1: A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. (Mark 1.35)

Why should you pray, (name)? The best answer isn't, because it's God's rule. No, because Jesus did! He modeled a new way to live, always listening to God, talking to God. It's a good habit to start your day like Jesus did. How? Get up, find some get-alone time, and talk to God. Tell God you want to be like Jesus, praying and listening, day by day.

Week 2 Day 2:

A KeyVerse for you about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that's all the reward they'll ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. (Matthew 6.5-6)

We can pray for show, or pray from the heart. If we try to impress others with our prayers, we will, but God will ignore us. The best prayer is from your heart, (name), what you say when you're all by yourself, alone with God. Practice this today – just you and God, talking together, like lovers do.

Verses to use Choose any verses you feel give insights about Prayer from the gospels. Here's a sample list for your consideration (there are many more):

Week 1: Mark 1.35; Luke 5.16; Luke 11.1; Luke 10.21; Luke 18.1

Week 2: Luke 22.41-44; Matt. 6.5-6; Matt 6.7-8; Matt. 6.9; Matt 6.10

Week 3: Matt. 6.11; Matt. 6.12; Matt. 6.13; Matt. 7.7-8; Matt. 9.37-38;

Week 4: Matt. 17.14-15; Matt. 18.29-30; Matt. 19.13; Matt. 20.20-21; Matt. 21.12-13

Week 5: Mark 9.28-29; Luke 6.12; Luke 20.46-47; Luke 11.13; Luke 18.42-43

Week 6: Luke 18.37; Luke 22.31-32; Matt 27.46; Luke 23.47; John 10.27

Week 7: John 11.41-42; John 12.27-28; John 14.13; John 14.14; John 16.24

To do: Copy the verse from a website like biblegateway.com, add a comment, and email it to a new Believer, Monday – Friday. If you can, pick the same time each day – make it something they anticipate.

Or if you wish, use/modify the 35 KeyVerses below.

Small things done in great love will change the world, one person at a time...

* this is the 7th series of KeyVerses; see also 1st series: *Believer – 35 Basic KeyVerses*; 2nd series: *Believer – 35 God KeyVerses*; 3rd series: *35 Jesus KeyVerses*; 4th series: *35 Spirit KeyVerses*; 5th series: *35 Good News KeyVerses*; 6th series: *35 God's Word KeyVerses*; 7th Series: *25 Jesus KeyVerses*

Series #8: KeyVerses about Prayer from the Gospels – Jesus' teachings and example, English

Names of those getting the series (move name down one day at a time)

1. John Doe, started Jan 1/11
- 2.
- 3.

More verses below, for a second Series

Letter to start the series:

We're starting a new KeyVerse series on prayer, (name).

And not just verses about prayer from any/everywhere in the Bible.

No, this series will use Jesus' practice of and teaching about prayer.

We'll study under the Master, and catch his heart for listening and talking the Father.

Seven weeks of motivation about prayer... great!

Week 1

Day 1: Mark 1.35

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. (Mark 1.35)

Why should you pray, (name)? The best answer isn't, because it's God's rule. No, because Jesus did! He modeled a new way to live, always listening to God, talking to God. It's a good habit to start your day like Jesus did. How? Get up, find some get-alone time, and talk to God. Tell God you want to be like Jesus, praying and listening, day by day.

Day 2: Luke 5.16

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. (Luke 5.16)

Jesus was busy teaching and healing, with crowds following him. Still, he found time get alone to pray. Prayer was vital to him – it should be for us too, (name). Look for ways today to get by yourself and talk to God. This is how to live intentionally, using your free minutes to walk and talk with God.

Day 3: Luke 11.1

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 11.1)

When we become a Christian, we start praying. It’s like little children, they start talking. God is our Father, we talk to him confidently. Then, like Jesus' disciples, we want to learn more about prayer. It’s good to say, *teach me to pray, Jesus*. For sure, all of us should be students of prayer. Perhaps you can read a book this year on how to pray. Or study some prayers in the Bible. Make it your goal to learn to pray, (name). Sometime God will use you to teach others how to pray!

Day 4: Luke 10.21

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.” (Luke 10.21)

Here’s another glimpse of Jesus praying. When his disciples returned from a successful ministry project, Jesus stopped in the middle of a conversation and gave thanks to the Father. You can copy how Jesus prays, (name). Be thankful. Make prayer a conversation between two people. Put emotion into it. Tell God what you're learning about him. This is how Jesus prayed - let's do the same.

Day 5: Luke 18.1

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. (Luke 18.1)

Prayer can get discouraging, (name). You ask God to do something, but it doesn't happen right away. Maybe God is answering "no" or "slow", instead of "go". It's hard for us to wait, so we give up. *Don't give up!* That's what Jesus is saying. For sure God listens and responds. He has his own timetable, but he'll answer and help you. If we give up praying Jesus encourages us, start again. Let's, today.

Week 2

Day 6: Luke 22.41-44

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. (Luke 22.41-44)

This was the most serious prayer Jesus made. He knew he would suffer on the cross the next day. He'd be separated from the Father when he became our sin-substitute. It was horrible to consider, (name)! Jesus wanted to avoid it, but prayed to do God's will, not his own. Sometimes we face hard choices too. Will we follow our own plans, or God's? Ask the Father to make you strong, so you can say, Not my will, but yours be done.

Day 7: Matthew 6.5-6

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that's all the reward they'll ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. (Matthew 6.5-6)

We can pray for show, or pray from the heart. If we try to impress others with our prayers, we will, but God will ignore us. The best prayer is from your heart,

(name), what you say when you're all by yourself, alone with God. Practice this today – just you and God, talking together, like lovers do.

Day 8: Matthew 6.7-8

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! (Matthew 6.7-8)

Lots of religions have chants and memorized prayers to the gods. But you don't need this, (name). God is personal. He's watching and listening. He knows your needs. Prayer isn't complicated. Simply ask him and thank him. And expect him to answer. He will!

Day 9: Matthew 6.9

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6.9)

Here's the first sentence of the famous prayer Jesus taught his disciples, (name). Use it to guide your thoughts as you pray. First, before giving God your requests, connect with him. He's your Father - wow! Mine too. He's in heaven yet at the same time, right beside you. Maybe others curse him, but you now revere him. That's a good way to start praying, talking to God about himself.

Day 10: Matthew 6.10

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6.10)

We live on a rebel planet right now. Everyone wants to be a little king, in charge of their own little kingdom. That's why our relationships are damaged and broken. Now that you're a Christian, (name), you don't want your own way, you want God's way. You want a world where he's King, and goodness and love rule, like in

heaven. Use this prayer each day to ask for God's will to be done in you and around you. This is how Jesus lived – tell him this is what you want now.

Week 3

Day 11: Matthew 6.11

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Give us today the food we need... (Matthew 6.11)

Before we started following Jesus, we didn't ask God for food or give thanks. Now we can ask him for our daily needs, (name), because we're learning to depend on him. God wants you to do life together with him. That's how Jesus lived, and you can too. Today remember that God's concerned about everything in your life, the small as well as the large. As you go through your day, talk to him today about your daily needs.

Day 12: Matthew 6.12

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] ...and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. (Matthew 6.12)

Only Jesus is perfect. All the rest of us still struggle with sin. We decide to live independent of God in actions, words, thoughts and relationships. That's what sins are, (name). What to do? Hide and pretend we don't have sin? No. We should ask God to forgive us, and give us power to hate and fight sins. God promises to forgive us and clean us up. And because he forgives us, we shouldn't dam up his life within us by not forgiving others. No! Take time today to say sorry to God for sins in your life, and ask forgiveness.

Day 13: Matt 6.13

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6.13)

We're all weak, compared to the evil spiritual forces against us, (name). That's why Jesus trained us to pray each day, to resist evil and temptation. You can depend on God, he'll help you, make you stronger. He did this with Jesus all through his life.

He'll do it for you. Make this your prayer today, God, protect me from the evil around me.

Day 14: Matthew 7.7-8

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Keep on asking, and you'll receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7.7-8)

Sometimes the truth is so simple, we miss it. God's gifts often come because we ask and seek them. Jesus is reminding us to think like children. That's what kids do, ask, seek, knock with their parents. They don't mind asking over and over, because they know their mom and dad love them. God's a Father, we are his children, (name). He wants us to depend on him enough to ask, seek and knock. Don't miss this simple truth, k. As you go through your day, remember to ask.

Day 15: Matthew 9.37-38

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Matthew. 9.37-38)

Here's an important prayer Jesus wants us to make, (name). Pray that God will give us more and more believers who want to help others find him. Just like God sent someone to you, so you could hear about Jesus, ask him to send workers to others, so they get the same chance. And when you pray this, tell God you want to be part of the answer to the prayer!

Week 4

Day 16: Matthew 17.14-15

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water." (Matthew 17.14-15)

Sometimes our posture in prayer, our “body-language”, shows our seriousness. This man had a great need – his son was out of control. He knelt down to pray to Jesus, he was so desperate. We’re a unity of body, soul and spirit, (name). It’s a good reminder, pray with all your being, especially with heavy burdens you bring to God.

Day 17: Matthew 18.29-20

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I’m there among them. (Matthew 18.19-20)

The harmony of Christians agreeing heart-to-heart about their concerns is very appealing to God. This is why it’s good to pray with others, (name), and have a spiritual “buddy” to pray with. Partnership in prayer is very powerful – God listens and responds. Who can you pray with this week?

Day 18: Matthew 19.13

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. (Matthew 19.13)

The disciples thought children were unimportant. They were wrong. Jesus is concerned about all ages. Such a great picture, Jesus showing love and concern for little children. We should be like him, taking time to love and pray for kids as well as adults. Ask God to give you this interest in and openness to kids, (name).

Day 19: Matthew 20.20-21

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. “What’s your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” (Matthew 20.20-21)

This mother really wants the best for her family, but her prayer is full of selfishness. She wants her sons to be above all the other disciples. We can pray for anything, (name), but sometimes God must show us what's wrong with our heart. Ask God to help you pray things dear to his heart, not just yours.

Day 20: Matthew 21.12-13

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" (Matthew 21.12-13)

For sure, Jesus wants his church to be a place for prayer for anyone who comes. He was angry because the Temple was anything but that. Ask God to help your church be "a house of prayer", (name), with prayers that please God. And tell him you want this "house" you live in, your body, to be full of prayer too.

Week 5

Day 21: Mark 9.28-29

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer [some manuscripts add "and fasting"]. (Mark 9.28-29)

There are normal, everyday prayers, and there are serious, heavy-duty ones. The disciples of Jesus weren't in "spiritual shape", so their prayers weren't able to help a needy family. It's a reminder that prayer is work, sometimes hard work. Ask God to get you in shape, (name), so you can pray heavy-duty prayers if you have to, as well as daily ones.

Day 22: Luke 6.12

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. (Luke 6.12)

Before Jesus picked 12 men to be his disciples, he prayed all night. He's giving you an example that some decisions take serious prayer. When you face those times, (name), ask God to help you stop eating or stop sleeping, to have more time to pray. This is what serious Christians do, on occasion.

Day 23: Luke 20.46-47

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be severely punished." (Luke 20.46-47)

Such a strong warning from Jesus, that our actions should match our prayers, (name). These men Jesus referred to were great at fooling people, but not God. Let's not even try! Let your prayers be secret and sincere. Then God will help you live like Jesus, not like these hypocrites.

Day 24: Luke 11.13

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. (Luke 11.13)

I love this teaching of Jesus! God is the best Father ever, and he'll give us the best, if we ask him. What's the best God could give you, (name)? More than money or good health, God wants to give you himself! His Spirit within you. Ask him today for more and more of his Spirit. Then ask him tomorrow, for more!

Day 25: Luke 18.42-43

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

And Jesus said, "All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too. Luke 18.42-43

So many rich ideas about prayer in this Jesus-story, (name)! Prayer requires faith, not just words. Let's seriously depend on God, like the blind man. When we have an answer from God, we should thank him. Let's! And follow Jesus because of his kindness to us. Oh, one more idea: we want others to be touched by answers to our prayers! Let's imitate this blind man, full of faith and thankfulness.

Week 6

Day 26: Luke 18.37

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

They told him [a blind beggar] that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Luke 18.37-38)

Sometimes prayer is desperate, (name). For this man, it's the only time Jesus comes close to him. He doesn't want to miss it. He's respectful – Son of David – and passionate – have mercy on me! That's a good way to pray when you're in great trouble.

Day 27: Luke 22.31-32

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers. (Luke 22.31-32)

The last night he was with his disciples, Jesus said this to Peter. Jesus called him Simon (his old name), because Peter was going back to his old way of living, full of lies and fear. Jesus prayed strongly for him, like we should for our friends. Jesus also gave him hope: Simon, you'll return to God and help others. Let's be like Jesus, (name), praying for those who left their Christian faith behind. Who knows? God might be kind enough to turn them around, like what happened to Simon Peter.

Day 28: Matthew 27.46

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

At about three o'clock [on the cross], Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" (Matthew. 27.46)

These are the saddest words you'll ever read in a prayer, (name). Sad, because God the Father breaks the love relationship he's had from eternity with Jesus, when Jesus takes our sin. Now Jesus is all alone, in the dark. This should happen to us, but Jesus took our place. The saddest prayer of abandonment, yes. At the same time it's the best love, the deepest love, expressed in a prayer of Jesus. He's willing to be rejected, so we can be adopted by God. So amazing!

Day 29: Luke 23.47

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

Then [on the cross] Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"
And with those words he breathed his last. (Luke 23.46)

All alone, in the dark, suffering, ready to die. Still, Jesus trusts in his Father, (name). He gives you an example, no matter what your circumstances, you can trust God. If God worked out his plan of love through Jesus' suffering, he can work it out in your life. Today call God "Father" and tell him you want to trust him, no matter what's happening to you and around you.

Day 30: John 10.27

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10.27)
Jesus is reminding us, he'll talk to us, like a shepherd talks to his sheep. How? That's up to him and you. But you'll know, just like a sheep recognizes the shepherd's voice. Ask Jesus to teach you how to listen better, (name). And tell him you want to follow him today.

Week 7

Day 31: John 11.41-42

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

So they rolled the stone aside [from in front of the grave]. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they'll believe you sent me." (John 11.41-42)

This is how Jesus prayed before calling Lazarus back from the grave. It's so confident and comfortable! So full of love and warmth and thanks. We can see Jesus is always in conversation with his Father. Make that your goal for prayer to encourage you: intimacy and an ongoing conversation with God.

Day 32: John 12.27-28

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! 'Father, bring glory to your name'."

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again." John 12.27-28

Jesus is preparing to go to the cross. Such a struggle within, to do what the Father wants! Sometimes you'll have this struggle too, (name), your way or God's way. Jesus chose to bring glory to God, no matter what it cost. Ask God to help you make choices that please him. Like Jesus did.

Day 33: John 14.13

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] You can ask for anything in my name, and I'll do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. John 14.13

To ask in Jesus' name is to pray like he'd pray. When you pray like this, (name), Jesus promises he'll grant your request. It's good to evaluate your prayers, asking, Is this how Jesus would pray?

Day 34: John 14.14

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! (John 14.14)

When we get to heaven, one question Jesus might ask us is, why didn't you let me bless you like I wanted to? He really wants to answer your prayers, (name)! What can you ask him for, today?

(Letter to introduce the next series)

This is the last KeyVerse about Prayer, (name). I hope you've enjoyed learning more about how Jesus prayed, and taught us to pray. I hope you can pray with more confidence, naturally, from your heart! Tomorrow we'll start a new KeyVerse series about "doing life together". This is what Christians get to do, have Jesus as a companion, and other Christians like brothers and sisters. If you're too busy to read them, let me know, k. I won't send the new series.

Day 35: John 16.24

A KeyVerse about Prayer to encourage you:

[Jesus] You haven't done this [prayed in his name] before. Ask, using my name, and you'll receive, and you'll have abundant joy. (John 16.24)

Some Christians are miserable. Others are grumpy. Lots of them are worried and afraid. How come so few have abundant joy? Jesus says, it's because they aren't praying, aren't enjoying his answers to prayer. Ask God to teach you how to pray like Jesus, (name). Then you'll go through life full of joy!