

## 2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you” (Mark 5:19).

As we continue to look ahead to the 2025 National Conference that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, we embrace the theme of “This is My Story.”

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” In Jesus’ prayer in John 17 He said, “I have finished the work you have given me to do” (v. 4). The work was to prepare a team of disciples who would tell His story to the nations. Their disciples would, in turn, tell their story around the world and down to the present generation. The ministry of making disciples is no less important than the ministry of evangelism. In fact, the two ministries are really a part of the same thing. It is engaging people where they are, discipling them to trust Jesus, and then continuing to disciple them until they are doing the same with their friends.

### MAY PRAYER FOCUS — MAKING DISCIPLES

A part of your story includes the people who invested in your journey to Christ and with Christ. Some have been blessed with more intentional discipling relations, while others had multiple voices speaking into their lives throughout their walk with Jesus. There are some who regrettably were never discipled. If we weren’t discipled, we may struggle to know how to disciple the next generation. The Missionary Church, as well as many other Christian organizations, has begun to realize the need to do a better job of making disciples. A part of the task is teaching people “how” to make disciples, but perhaps a greater challenge is helping people grasp the idea that we can all make disciples. While a part of your story is about the people who invested in you, the other part is about your investment in others.

PRAY FOR THESE KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH:

- National Day of Prayer – May 1
- North Central Region Conference – May 2
- Central Region Conference – May 12-13
- Vinya Regional Conference – May 20-22

### WEEK #1 – May 1-7

This week, pray for the leadership of the Missionary Church – for Rodney Arnold; pray also for Regional Directors and members of the MLC/GOC as they lead the Missionary Church to focus on the multiplication of disciples.

Praise the Lord that we have leaders who are more interested in making disciples and planting new churches than simply adding numbers to the rosters. Praise the Lord for leaders who have a passion for making disciples of Jesus.

Pray for our leaders, that they will not be distracted from the mandate given to us by Jesus in Matthew 28. Pray that we will see a multiplication of disciples over this next year.

Allow the Holy Spirit to use the following Scriptures and prayers to inform your prayers for our national leaders. Your prayers matter more than you will ever realize.

#### **Thursday, May 1**

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that we have leaders who have been born again and who are living as fully devoted followers of Jesus. We praise you that we have leaders who are fully committed to leading others to not only experience the new birth, but who are also committed to equipping people to walk as followers of Jesus. We pray for our leaders, that when the work becomes challenging, you will remind them that they are new creatures in Christ.

#### **Friday, May 2**

“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

**PRAYER:** Father, we pray for our leaders, that you will continually purify their hearts that they might always be vessels of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master. We pray they will continue to grow in their faith and become more like Jesus. We pray you will keep them prepared for every good work.

#### **Saturday, May 3**

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for leaders who recognize that they serve under your authority. We praise you that they are on mission, because you have given them — and the rest of the church — a mandate to make disciples. We pray you will use our leaders to call and equip the church to obey all that Jesus has commanded us. Keep the focus of our leaders on making disciples.

#### **Sunday, May 4**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**PRAYER:** Lord, once again, we praise you for leaders who have been made new by the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray you will continue to shape them into your image. We pray you will grant them special grace as they work with professing Christians who are not walking as Jesus walked. We pray you will continue to fill the hearts of our leaders with hope as they trust you for more people to be transformed in the image of Jesus. Give them courage to look for the new things you are doing to make disciples.

### **Monday, May 5**

“At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did” (Acts 9:36).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for disciples throughout the Missionary Church who are full of good works and charitable deeds. We praise you for leaders who model the life of discipleship. We pray for our leadership, that they will not only continue to walk as Jesus walked, but that they will also be an encouragement to those who are new to the journey.

### **Tuesday, May 6**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for leaders who love one another. We pray you will guard these relationships. Keep the enemy from sowing discord and division. Guard their hearts from jealousy or envy. We pray that their love for one another will be evident to the broader church so that we are all challenged and encouraged, as disciples of Jesus, to love one another.

### **Wednesday, May 7**

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’” (John 8:31-32).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who recognize the authority of your Word. We praise you for leaders who are committed to obeying your Word. We pray they will continue to be students of Scripture, not so they can teach, but so that they can abide and grow in you as your disciples.

## **WEEK #2 – May 8-14**

This week, we encourage you to pray for Bethel University – for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet, and staff, that God will grant them opportunities to invest in the lives of students so that they might walk as Jesus walks.

Pray for students who are new to the journey with Jesus. Pray that God will put people in their lives who will help them grow deeper in their walk with Jesus. Pray that God will give them an appetite to know Him better.

Pray for the transition of leadership at Bethel as Dr. Bellefeuille steps into retirement. Pray that the focus on making disciples will not be lost in the transition. Pray for the new president that he/she will fully embrace the Missionary Church commitment to make disciples.

Allow the Holy Spirit to use the following Scriptures and prayers to inform your prayers for Bethel University. Your prayers matter more than you will ever realize.

#### **Thursday, May 8**

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him” (Matthew 9:9).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you that we have a university with faculty and staff who are fully committed to inviting students to follow You. We pray you will keep their eyes open to those students you are calling into some form of ministry. We pray you will equip them to walk along side those students to help them explore their call to ministry.

#### **Friday, May 9**

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him” (Matthew 4:19-20).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that we have professors and staff at Bethel University who are fishers of men. We praise you that we have university leaders who continue to challenge students to make disciples. We pray students will catch a vision for being fishers of men, regardless of their vocation. Multiply students who have a heart to speak into the lives of others.

#### **Saturday, May 10**

“‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves’” (Matthew 23:15).

**PRAYER:** Father, we pray for faculty and staff, that you will guard their hearts and minds. Give them hearts that follow hard after you. Keep them aware of the example they set before students. We pray they will know the significance of their role as mentors and disciple-makers. Fill them with your Spirit. We pray there will be no hypocrisy found among them.

#### **Sunday, May 11**

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for the faculty and staff at Bethel University. We praise you for their commitment to excellence and for their desire to equip another generation. We pray that as they teach from their specific disciplines, that they will also be mindful of the privilege they have of instilling Biblical values into the hearts and minds of students. We pray you will use them to equip the next generation to teach others to follow Jesus in whatever vocation they pursue.

### **Monday, May 12**

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).

**PRAYER:** Father, it is a sobering thought to consider that a disciple who is fully trained will be like his teacher. Remind each of us of the importance of setting an example that is worthy of emulation. We pray for the faculty and staff, that they will be mindful that how they live matters as much as what they say. We pray you will help them to live in such a way that they can say with the Apostle Paul, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

### **Tuesday, May 13**

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for the faculty and staff who have presented themselves as living sacrifices to the Lord and who serve sacrificially at Bethel. We praise you for faculty and staff who are not conformed to the world, but are being transformed and are living examples of fully devoted followers of Jesus. We pray that as they continue to present themselves as living sacrifices, students will be moved to surrender fully to the Lord and that you will bless these faculty members.

### **Wednesday, May 14**

“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him” (John 2:11).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you that because of this miracle in Cana, your disciples believed in you. Lord, sometimes we need miracles—signs and wonders—to encourage faith. We pray that faculty and staff will walk with a sense of expectancy, looking for those amazing things that you do to bring students to faith. We pray you will use them to help students see the places where God is working.

## **WEEK #3 – May 15-21**

The focus for this week is praying for pastors. Praise the Lord for pastors who are committed to making disciples of Jesus. Praise the Lord for his call on their lives.

Pray for these leaders, that God will encourage them daily as they give leadership to the church and to the community. Pray they will not become weary. Pray the Lord will surround them with wise counselors and with men and women who will hold them up in prayer. Pray that God will grant them the privilege of seeing disciples to the fourth generation.

Pray for protection from the enemy as they lead the church to be a disciple-making community. Pray that the leadership will embrace the mission of making disciples and that they will work with pastors to equip the body.

**Thursday, May 15**

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me’” (Luke 9:23).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for our pastors. We praise you for your call on their lives. We praise you that they model so well what it means to deny self and follow you. Many have sacrificed so much because of their love for you and because of your call. We pray you will keep them encouraged and that you will give them the boldness they need to call others to deny themselves and follow Jesus.

**Friday, May 16**

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we thank you for your Word. We praise you for pastors who are committed to the authority of Scripture and who faithfully teach the Word. We pray you will continue to give them insight so that they might rightfully divide the Word of truth. We pray that they will rely on the Scriptures to equip the Church to be complete and equipped for every good work.

**Saturday, May 17**

“To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:2).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for the pastors, youth leaders, and others who poured into each of us so that we might develop as disciples of Jesus. We pray for each of our pastors, that you will put Timothys in their lives. We pray that you will give each of our pastors eyes to see the potential in this next generation. Guard them from being so busy running the organization of the church that they have no time for the Timothys.

**Sunday, May 18**

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” (Luke 9:24-25).

**PRAYER:** Lord, you know the tactics of the enemy. We pray for every pastor, that you will guard their eyes and hearts. We pray they will not be tempted by the lures of the enemy. We pray their greatest desire will be for you. We pray they will lose themselves in their relationship with you. Keep them from envy or any desire that would diminish their relationship with you.

**Monday, May 19**

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we pray for each of our pastors, that they will be imitators of you and that their lives will be a reflection of who you are. We pray they will walk in love just as Christ loved us. We pray that their walk with you will be an example, especially to new believers. We pray their love for you will open doors and give them the spiritual authority to speak into the lives of those who need and desire to be disciplined.

### **Tuesday, May 20**

“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple’” (Luke 14:25-26).

**PRAYER:** Lord, this is a hard saying, and yet we know that following you requires our undivided commitment. We praise you for those who have passed the test—who have had to make choices between following you and being loyal to family. We pray your blessing on them. We also pray for our pastors, that as they lead the church to make disciples, they will have the boldness to declare the cost of following you. Forgive us for the times we have not prepared new believers for the cost of discipleship.

### **Wednesday, May 21**

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we pray for every pastor and leader, that they would be able to say with the same confidence as Paul, “Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.” We pray that our pastors will be imitators of Jesus, so that others will learn from them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Keep our pastors from living anything less than a true imitation of Jesus.

## **WEEK #4 – May 22-28**

As we continue our focus on making disciples, we want to pray for each local church, that there would be a broader commitment to making disciples of Jesus. We praise the Lord for churches that are discipling people from pre-Christian to multiplication. We praise the Lord for the passion for making disciples that many are developing.

Pray that every Missionary Church will become a disciple-making community. Pray that as we make disciples, we will see transformed communities and transformed cities and a transformed nation.

### **Thursday, May 22**

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Corinthians 4:1).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Lord, that you have entrusted the church to be a steward of the mysteries of God. We are humbled that you have charged us with sharing the mysteries of the Gospel with others. Keep the church from treating that charge lightly. Equip the people of the church to faithfully teach those mysteries to each new generation of believers, who will in turn teach another

generation. Remind us that we are stewards of these mysteries. They are not to be kept to ourselves but taught to others. Help us not to fail the next generation.

### **Friday, May 23**

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

**PRAYER:** Father, it grieves us when we see believers walking in disobedience—those who ought to be teaching others how to obey all that you have commanded. We pray for our churches, that we will regularly examine ourselves. Give us the courage to confess and repent of anything that is not of you, so that we do not hinder the work of discipleship. Help us put aside our personal pride, so that we can be used of you to make disciples.

### **Saturday, May 24**

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:8).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that you have made us to be fruit-bearers. Forgive us for our barrenness. Remind us that it is only as we abide in you that we can bear fruit, and that if we abide in you, we can bear much fruit. We pray you will increase our desire for you so that we can multiply fruit to the third and fourth generation. Keep us from being satisfied with the status quo. Give us a longing for those opportunities to build and invest in those relationships that will result in abundant fruit.

### **Sunday, May 25**

“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation and inaugurate him in their sight’” (Numbers 27:18-19).

**PRAYER:** Thank you, Lord, for this picture of discipleship. We pray for our churches, that our people will be more interested in helping someone mature in faith than in holding a position. We pray there will be more and more people looking for the next generation to commission and bless for the work of ministry—not just for vocational ministry, but also for marketplace ministry. Make us champions of the new believers who are growing in their faith, and prepare us to send them out to make disciples.

### **Monday, May 26**

“But again he [Peter] denied with an oath, ‘I do not know the Man!’” (Matthew 26:72).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for your grace. We praise you that the later part of Peter’s story is that he was restored. Lord, we know that making disciples can be discouraging. Those we disciple sometimes make poor choices. Some put a pause on their journey with Jesus. We pray for the church, that it will be a place filled with grace—a place where people can be restored and where they can begin their journey again. We pray the church will be less concerned about where those struggling disciples have been and more interested in where they are going and how we can help them follow Jesus more faithfully.



## **Tuesday, May 27**

“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples’” (Luke 11:1).

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you for giving us glimpses of the priority of prayer in the life of Jesus. We pray for the church, that it would become a house of prayer. We also pray that we would be faithful to teach the next generation of believers to pray. We know we cannot teach what we do not know, so we ask that you continue to teach your church to pray.

## **Wednesday, May 28**

“Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes” (Matthew 14:19).

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you that we have been recipients of your bread. We praise you that we have seen it multiplied as you have fed others, and we have had the privilege of watching them grow in faith. We pray for those who feel they have nothing to contribute to making disciples. Give each one the heart of a little boy who gave all that he had, and you used it to feed thousands. Today, Lord, we give you all we have so that you can multiply disciples.

## **PERSONAL BROKENNESS**

In these last three days of the month, we focus on our personal work of making disciples. Who are the people God has placed in your life? Are there pre-Christians who need you to walk with them until they trust Jesus? Are there new believers who need you to come alongside to encourage, teach, or hold them accountable? Are there growing believers who need you to challenge them to become disciple-makers?

As you reflect on this theme of making disciples, allow the Lord to open your eyes to see the people He has placed in your life.

## **Thursday, May 29**

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we long to see the number of disciples multiplied in our day—in our community, in our nation, and around the world. We want to be a part of what you are doing to multiply disciples. Forgive us when we have lost that focus. Open our eyes to see the opportunities to join in what you are doing. Give us the courage and the resolve to make this a priority.

## **Friday, May 30**

“Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi’s house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him” (Mark 2:15).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Lord, that you were willing to eat with tax collectors and sinners. Remind us that discipleship begins with those who are far from faith. Give us the courage to engage those who don't think as we think or believe as we believe. Forgive us for keeping only to ourselves and to our own little band of believers. Open our hearts to engage the pre-Christians in our lives.

### **Saturday, May 31**

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you’” (John 20:21).

**PRAYER:** Father, when we think of Jesus, we are reminded that His work was to equip disciples to make disciples. He said in John 17 that He had completed the work you gave Him to do. Now He says He is sending us, just as you sent Him. Lord help us embrace this work of multiplying disciples. Give us the same resolve that Jesus had. Keep us from being distracted from this most important work.

## **BEFORE WE LEAVE**

WHERE ARE YOU IN THE MATTER OF MAKING DISCIPLES?

- Are you comfortable conversing with “tax collectors and sinners?”
- Can you name someone in whom you are investing?
- Are those you have disciplined making disciples?