

## 2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

**"For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end"  
(Isaiah 9:6-7a).**

The greatest story ever told is that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). This month we look ahead to the celebration of this amazing gift. While we may join most of the country in looking forward to the lights and gifts under the tree, plan some time to reflect on the significance of this one event that changed the world and on this One person who can change each of our lives. Where His story intersects with our story is the story that we need to tell. He is our Prince of Peace!

### DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS — GOD'S PEACE

We live in a world that is continually ruined by war. Whether it is the war in Ukraine, the Middle East, or the attacks on innocent people in parts of Africa or Asia, lives are ruined and people displaced. Even the division in our own country blinds us to what could be if Christ was truly guiding our leaders. In spite of all the ugliness in the world, those who follow Christ—even those who are being persecuted—can have peace that passes understanding. As you pray this month, celebrate the peace you have because of Jesus. Pray the Lord will use you to bring peace to others by introducing them to Jesus. Pray, too, that you can be a peacemaker when believers don't see eye to eye.

Pray for churches seeking pastors, that God will give them peace as they wait on Him. Pray that each of those churches will fully celebrate the Gift that has been given to us.

#### **Monday, December 1**

**THE GIFT OF PEACE:** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you that even when the world around us is in chaos, you give us peace. We praise you that your peace is not just the absence of conflict, but a deep, settled peace that comes from resting in you. Because of our faith in you, we are not troubled, and we are not afraid. Help us to always keep our eyes on you and not on the chaos around us. Remind us that the world can never bring us any peace that compares to the peace that comes from above.

## **Tuesday, December 2**

**HE IS WITH US:** “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that you can give us peace at all times and in every way. You give us peace with you. You can reconcile brothers. You give us peace in the middle of a storm. You give us peace when life throws us a curve. We praise you. Right now you know what is robbing us of peace. We pray that you would answer on our behalf this prayer Paul prayed for the Thessalonians. Remind us that the Prince of Peace is with us.

## **Wednesday, December 3**

**IN PEACE:** “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we are reminded that Jesus slept in the boat in the middle of a storm, while the disciples worked frantically to keep it from capsizing. We praise you for this picture of peace. We pray that, like Jesus, we will be able to lie down and sleep, knowing that you make us dwell in safety. We know that you are not asleep in the middle of our storm. Remind us to stop rowing so hard and give the oars to you, so that we can dwell in safety.

## **Thursday, December 4**

**OUR ROCK:** “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal” (Isaiah 26:3-4).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for this promise of peace if we simply hold fast to our confidence in you. We praise you that you are our eternal Rock and that we can build our lives on you. Forgive us for those times when we have been filled with fear because we focused more on the sinking sand than on the Rock, Christ Jesus. Give us strength and resolve to hold on to this eternal Rock, so that we might know your peace.

## **Friday, December 5**

**LOVE/PEACE:** “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Colossians 3:14-15).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for the love and patience you have shown to each of us. Thank you for reminding us that when our hearts are filled with your love, your peace can rule in our hearts. Forgive us for the times we have held on to offenses, and in doing so have forfeited peace. We pray you will clothe us with your love, so that we can rest in you, with your peace ruling our hearts.

## **Saturday, December 6**

**TAKE HEART:** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that you have given us the warning that those who follow you will face trouble as long as we are in this world. We praise you that you give peace, even

when it feels like the world is crushing us. Forgive us for the times we thought we could be friends with the world, in order that the world might treat us better. We pray you will continue to remind us that you have overcome the world, and that our only hope of peace is in you.

### **Sunday, December 7**

**HUMILITY:** “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, thank you for the reminder that it is only as we humble ourselves before you, acknowledge our anxieties, and confess our need of you, that you can lift us up. Forgive us for thinking we could handle the twists and turns of life on our own. Right now, as best we know how, we bring our anxieties to you, knowing that you care for us. We praise you.

### **Monday, December 8**

**SEEK PEACE:** “Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:12-14).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for your Word. We praise you that you teach us how to walk in obedience to you. Forgive us for the times when our tongues have caused more harm than good—when we have not been truthful, or when we have answered someone harshly and caused them pain. We pray you will guard our tongues. Help us to always pursue paths of peace so that your name is glorified.

### **Tuesday, December 9**

**REJOICE ALWAYS:** “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for this season as we anticipate the celebrations of the birth of Jesus. We praise you for this season of rejoicing, and yet Lord, we know that for many this is a season of sadness because of family strife, lack of resources, and a host of other reasons. Forgive us for our lack of gentleness toward others. Forgive us for focusing more on what seems to be missing in our lives than on you. Remind us that you have invited us to bring our requests—our anxieties—to you with thanksgiving, and that you will give us peace.

### **Wednesday, December 10**

**HEAVENLY WISDOM:** “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness” (James 3:17-18).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for a wisdom that is different from the wisdom of the world. We praise you that heavenly wisdom includes being peace-loving, considerate,

submissive, and full of mercy. We acknowledge that this is so different from worldly wisdom. Forgive us for the times we thought wisdom was about being shrewd and about getting the best in a deal. Remind us that your wisdom builds relationships, seeks peaceful exchanges, and glorifies you. Teach us to be peacemakers.

#### **Thursday, December 11**

**HE HEARS US:** “But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill” (Psalm 3:3-4).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for being our shield and for lifting up our heads when we are troubled and downtrodden. Forgive us for the many times we have failed to cry out to you and have missed your numerous expressions of grace and mercy. We praise you that you hear us. Today, we cry out to you. Lift us up and fill our hearts with peace.

#### **Friday, December 12**

**GOOD FRUIT:** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you that you produce different fruit in our lives than the fruit we bore before you came and dwelled in us. We confess that our fruit is sometimes bruised and not as pure as it ought to be. Teach us to seek the fullness of the Spirit, so that we might bear fruit that brings glory to you.

#### **Saturday, December 13**

**REST:** “Come to Me, all you 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” (Matthew 11:28-30).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for this invitation and the promise that is given to all of us. Forgive us for treating this invitation as a last resort. You gave your Son, Jesus, for this very purpose, that we might find rest in Him. We come to you today and take your yoke. We lay aside the load we have been carrying, and we choose to walk with you. Give us rest for our weary souls.

#### **Sunday, December 14**

**PEACE/HOLINESS:** “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for your Word. We praise you that you are a God who pursued peace with us. You sent your Son that we might be reconciled with you—that we might have peace with you. We are amazed at such grace. Forgive us for failing so frequently to pursue peace with others, just as you did with us. Lead us to be holy people who seek to reconcile with others, rather than allowing offences to rob us of your peace.

#### **Monday, December 15**

**HE BLESSES:** “The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for these promises from the Psalms. We praise you that you give strength when we are weak, and you bless us with peace when we are troubled. Forgive us for the times of ingratitude, when we are not satisfied with your peace, but instead try to fill our lives with other stuff that never satisfies and often robs us of peace. Help us rest in your strength and your peace.

#### **Tuesday, December 16**

**LIVE PEACEABLY:** “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:17-18).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that you call us to a new standard—one that loves our enemies and doesn’t repay evil for evil. We praise you because this reflects who you are. You loved us when we were your enemies—when we were far from you. Forgive us for the times we have lashed out at those who offended us. Forgive us for not taking the lead in rebuilding broken relationships. While we recognize that there are those who do not want to be reconciled, we pray we will not be named among them. Equip us with your Spirit to do all we can to live at peace with others.

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

**GOD’S LAW:** “Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble” (Psalm 119:165).

**PRAYER:** Father, this sounds so simple. We praise you for your word—for your law. We praise you that it reveals who you are and how you want us to live. Forgive us for neglecting it. Forgive us for not hiding it in our hearts. Teach us to love your law, because in living according to your word, we find peace. Your law helps us to walk in confidence, because through it we know whose we are.

#### **Thursday, December 18**

**FILLED WITH PEACE:** “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that you are the God of all hope. We praise you that you can fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you. We confess that our lack of faith has often prevented us from experiencing the fullness of joy and peace. We pray you will fill us, so that we might truly abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Friday, December 19**

**HOPE:** “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord” (Psalm 31:24).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you that you strengthen those who put their hope in you. We praise you that we can walk in confidence because of your grace and strength. Forgive us for trusting in institutions and governments, expecting that they could give us peace. Give us the resolve to put our full confidence in you so that we can walk with courage and strength.

### **Saturday, December 20**

**SONS OF GOD:** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you that you are the ultimate peacemaker. You initiated peace with us and now you dwell in us so that we might make peace with others. You didn’t say, “Blessed are the warriors.” Forgive us for frequently choosing to argue or fight, rather than finding ways of making peace. Remind us that it is when we are making peace that we most look like sons of God.

### **Sunday, December 21**

**PURSUPE PEACE:** “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” (Romans 14:19).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you again that you are the author of peace. We confess that we are often more interested in being edified than in edifying others. We would, by nature, seek to have our own way, rather than to make peace with a brother. Forgive us. We pray you will give us grace to pursue peace and the grace to put others ahead of self. Remind us that this is a reflection of Jesus, who was willing to be a sacrifice to bring us peace.

### **Monday, December 22**

**WE HAVE PEACE:** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1-2).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Father, for this season that reminds us that we have peace with you through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate this season because of the grace and mercy shown to us in a manger long ago. Forgive us for those times we have trivialized this season in attempts to be creative. Thank you that, by simple faith in this baby born in a manger, we have peace with an almighty God.

### **Tuesday, December 23**

**LISTEN:** “I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly” (Psalm 85:8).

**PRAYER:** We praise you that you speak to your children. We praise you that you speak peace. You spoke peace to the shepherds on the hills near Bethlehem. You spoke peace to Mary and to Joseph. You speak peace to your children today. Guard our hearts. Forgive us when we are prone to wander.

### **Wednesday, December 24**

**IMMANUEL:** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14); “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:23).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you that what you promised in Isaiah, you fulfilled in Matthew. We praise you that you are a God of your word. We praise you that you are Immanuel—God with us. Forgive us for failing to tell the story of Immanuel. We celebrate and worship you today because you came to dwell among us. We praise you that you are with us.

#### **Thursday, December 25**

**PRINCE OF PEACE:** “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

**PRAYER:** Once again, Lord, we praise you for this amazing gift—the gift of your Son. On this Christmas Day we celebrate this Prince of Peace. We praise you that you are King of kings and Lord of lords—the Alpha and Omega—the Beginning and the End. We praise you because you are almighty God, and we have the privilege of knowing you. Your grace is amazing. Help us to faithfully walk in your grace and in your wisdom.

#### **Friday, December 26**

**LIVE IN PEACE:** “Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11).

**PRAYER:** Father, it is your presence that we long for—because it is there that we experience your love and peace. When the glitter and lights of the season are gone, remind us that you are still very present. Make us complete; comfort us; unite us and teach us to live in peace, so that your love and peace will always be with us. We pray that the wonder of Christmas will not fade, and that the story will always be on our tongue, ready to share with any who will listen.

#### **Saturday, December 27**

**SEEK PEACE:** “He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:10-12).

**PRAYER:** We praise you that you give us the secrets of good days. You have shown us how to enjoy the fulness of life. Forgive us for chasing after possessions, positions, and power in an effort to find “the good life.” We acknowledge that we have all tried those pursuits at one level or another, and we have never been satisfied. We pray you will guard our tongues; lead us always away from evil and to good. You have told us in many places in Scripture to pursue peace, just as you pursued it with us. Teach us how to pursue peace.

#### **Sunday, December 28**

**GOD OF PEACE:** “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for the ministry of the Apostle Paul, who wrote to the Corinthians, “Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.” It is what He learned from you that He now challenges the Philippians to follow. More than anything, we long for the God of peace to be with us. We know we have failed many times to do what your word says. We have often been hearers, and even teachers, of your word, but not always doers. Teach us to be doers of your word, so that we can enjoy the presence of the God of peace.

**Monday, December 29**

**OUR PEACE:** "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation" (Ephesians 2:14).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you that Jesus is our peace. We praise you that He broke down the wall separating us from you and from others. We praise you that you have united our hearts with other believers. We praise you that you have given us a heart to follow after you. We acknowledge that there really is no true and lasting peace apart from you. As we celebrate our peace with you, give us grace to pursue peace with others in the body of Christ.

**Tuesday, December 30**

**LIFE AND PEACE:** "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).

**PRAYER:** Lord, there it is! You spell it out for us clearly. If we are to have peace, we must be spiritually minded—people who pursue you. We praise you that you don't leave gray areas. Your word is clear. Forgive us for trying to cut corners by not following you fully. We pray you will continue to cleanse us of anything that is not of you, so that we might know and walk in your peace.

**Wednesday, December 31**

**GOD OF PEACE:** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

**PRAYER:** Father, may this be the benediction for our year. Sanctify us completely! Preserve our whole spirit, soul, and body blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise you for your sustaining grace that keeps us walking faithfully with you. We praise you for your sanctifying grace that makes us more like you. We praise you for your sufficient grace that sees us through the tough times. We praise you for your saving grace that opens the door for us to enjoy all you have to offer. Bless your holy name.