

DECEMBER, 2021

# PRAAYER

## @ Home

Discipleship for the whole family.



**TERRELL**  
FIRST BAPTIST

Church Family,

This is such a busy time of year. There are gifts to be bought, parties to attend and other traditions and gatherings with family and friends. Remember the lonely people around you. There is such a thing as being alone in a crowd. You never know what the person next to you in line at the grocery store is facing today. You don't know what the person that cut you off in traffic has just been told. Be compassionate and show the love of Jesus to them. Invite someone to come and sit beside you at church. There is no easier way to invite people than to one of the many activities that we have at our church this month.

While your time is precious right now, this devotional is more important than any other devotional this year. As you are reading it, please ask the Lord.. if not for me, who for? Please take this in prayerfully and personally and use it to further the Kingdom of God.

As we are winding down the year, we try to negotiate our time to fit everything in. I am so grateful that our church family prioritizes Jesus and puts Him first. Thank you for being faithful in your attendance and with your tithes and offerings. We realize it isn't always easy. God sees. He knows. He watches over you and will bless you in ways that you can't even imagine!

After God, prioritize yourself. Eat healthy, take time to relax. Enjoy your family. Unplug from technology for a little while. Get outdoors and enjoy God's gift of creation. Do good to others in and around Terrell. I will be happy to help connect you with volunteer opportunities within our church and in our community. Remember our elderly and shut ins. A simple phone call, visit, or even a shared meal would mean the world to them.

If you need to talk to someone or need assistance, please reach out to Brother John, myself or anyone on our staff. Our contact information is on the last page of this packet.

Your church staff is praying for you!

Ryan

# PRAYER @HOME

DISCIPLESHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



## The most important day of your life...

I recently read an article about the 10 most important days in history. It was a very interesting read. But it got me to thinking about how perspective plays into their "top 10" and did those 10 days really affect me personally?

Then I began to ponder what my personal top 10 days would be, days that changed the trajectory of my life. Of course, my Salvation would be #1. The day I married Molli. The day I surrendered to full time Christian service. The day I joined this wonderful church to serve our Lord and you. Then I interrupted my top 10 list to then think about how even those 4 things changed my life.

I think about the time as a little 5 yr old boy that I knelt by my bed with my dad and asked Jesus to come into my heart and be my personal Savior. That influenced who I was, where I went, and what I did. Jesus changed my life.

I remember praying for God's will for my life and for a wife that would be supportive of that call. God's calling led me to a church, where I met Molli. When I asked her to marry me, I took her to downtown Dallas to a fancy pants restaurant. We went on a horse-drawn carriage ride through the city and we stopped at First Baptist, Dallas, where I grew up. I took her by the hand to the beautiful water fountain and I explained to her that it was at that church where I grew up and prayed so many times, asking God to send me a helpmate. He answered my prayers through her and I asked her to marry me. She didn't realize at the time all she would have to put up in agreeing to be my wife. I love and appreciate her. She has changed my life.

I remember meeting Pastor Lowrie for the first time. The minute I shook his hand, it struck me that he was a man of integrity, the top thing I was searching for in a leader and mentor. Last December, Brother John called to update me on the interview process. He didn't realize when he called, I was quite sick with covid and on my way to the ER. He told me he would pray. It was in that moment, God spoke to my heart that one day He would lead me to Terrell. You guys have my heart. I have prayed for you long before you knew my name. It is an honor to work alongside you. This church is a blessing. You have changed my life.



## What about Jesus?

What would you say is the most important day in the life of our Lord? He did so many things that changed lives and our world. Everyday was important. He performed miracles. He spoke truth and hope. Many would say the day He rose again after dying on the cross for our sins was the most important day, some say the day of the crucifixion, while others might say that it all started with the birth of Jesus.

Even though we don't believe that Jesus was born on December 25th, that is the day that we set aside to celebrate His coming to the earth to begin the process of hope of salvation.

## What about you?

What is the most important day/days of your life?

You may be like me and have several that can all be eventually linked back to one event. I hope for you that it would be your salvation. You may have attended church all of your life. You may be a Sunday School teacher, sing in the choir, a deacon in the church. You may be a city leader. You could be the kindest person in Terrell.

You still need Jesus.

If you were to stand before God today and He asked you why you deserve to be in Heaven, there is only 1 answer that will secure you an eternity in Heaven with Him. If you cannot recall of a specific time that you made that decision, please reach out to us so we can show you how you can be sure. TODAY IS THE DAY to know for sure. And the Bible teaches us that when we do that, we are eternally secure. Forever.





# WHY IS CHRISTMAS A BIG DEAL FOR CHRISTIANS?

John 3:16, that is why.

This is the most well-known verse in the Bible. It sums up what it is all about. Christmas celebrates the beginning of our HOPE IN JESUS. Christmas begins our story in Jesus.

Want to share  
the Gospel in  
a quick and  
unique way?

Ask someone you  
come in contact  
with if they have  
ever heard the  
Christmas story in 1  
sentence?  
They will likely say  
they have not.  
Quote John 3:16.  
Then read their  
reaction and go  
from there. God will  
lead you how and  
what to say.

## If you are not a Christian:

The Bible is God's word, literally. It is God speaking to you and to me.

In the Bible, in the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16 it says:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

God is saying here that He loves you and He wants a relationship with you. Who is He saying this to? The entire human race. You may say but you don't understand, I am not a good person- God loves you and wants you. You say I have abandoned my marriage- God loves you and wants you. You say I have a problem with addictions that control me- God loves you and wants you. You say that I have anger or anxiety or depression- God loves you and wants you. He knows you and He loves you and wants you, regardless of any fault.

You want proof of that? Look at the next phrase- He sent His only begotten Son. God sent Jesus to come to the earth, to live a sinless life. Jesus went to the cross willingly to pay the punishment for your sins and mine. The Bible teaches us that Jesus rose from the dead on the 3rd day and went back to Heaven with God.

By nature, we are sinners and don't deserve to be in God's Holy presence. He loves you and made a way for a relationship with you. But you have to receive the gift by believing in Him and by doing so you will not perish. What does that mean? Perish means to be separated from God. One day you will stand before God. If you have believed on Him and asked Him to be your Savior, you will live with Him in Heaven. If you have not believed on Him, your rejection alone will send you to an eternity in Hell.

There isn't a magical formula and certain words that must be said. It is the attitude of your heart. It is simple as ABC

**Admit** to God you are a sinner

**Believe** that Jesus is Lord, that He came and died on the cross for your sins

**Confess** your sins to God and ask Him to be your Savior.

If you have just prayed this prayer, stop what you are doing now and contact us and tell us that you prayed and say "now what?". We will guide you how to live a full life in Jesus.

Growing up, we got all kinds of presents, but there was always one "BIG present". Something we usually longed for and that would rock our world.

Kids are fun to watch at Christmas. There is excitement in giving a gift that you know they are going to love and an amazement that has no words to describe when they choose to miss the "big present" and play with the box that it came in instead. As adults, we can miss our "big present" too...

## If you are already a Christian....



Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 **but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.**

**How do we "know" God?  
Pursue Jesus with all of  
your heart.**

**Wake up, read your Bible,  
sit in His presence and  
listen for Him speaking  
to your heart.**



As Christians, we often think of eternal life, our "big gift" as only starting in Heaven. Eternal life begins now, here on earth. It is meant to be enjoyed. Our future in Heaven is huge, but it is not the only thing eternal life is. It is about our relationship here with God, HE IS the "BIG PRESENT". When we are born again in Christ, our eternal life begins.

John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent"

We begin to unwrap our "Big present", eternal life, by pursuing a personal, intimate, relationship with Jesus.

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# Our Church Family

The end of the year is a great time to reflect on things that we have, things to be grateful for and for moving ahead. I am beyond grateful for you, for your support for me and my family. It is because I care about you that I want what is best for you.

We have talked a lot recently about Moses and Aaron. God knew when He created them that they would need each other. As a church family, God has connected us. We need each other. Sometimes I am the Aaron to your Moses and sometimes you are my Aaron. It is Biblical that we belong to a local church community, not just in name, but in life. That is why I am so passionate about our church family and life groups. It is us connecting with one another, you encouraging and reaching out to others and others doing the same for you, learning more about Jesus and developing that relationship with Him. Never stop pursuing God.

So when you wake up in the morning, no matter the circumstances, you have contentment and joy because of the hope of eternal life. Not just in the future, but you have eternal life today amid covid, amid a job loss, amid reversals in life, amid separations or deaths. He is the answer to get through this life with contentment and joy. He uses our church family to encourage and love one another.

During this blessed season, I hope to see you. When I see you sitting in your place on Sundays and Wednesdays, it is an encouragement to my heart.

Merry Christmas! May God richly bless you and your family!

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## Would you pray?

For the unsaved to be shared the Gospel  
For our church to be "the light" to our city  
For Pastor Lowrie as he prays for God's vision for 2022 in our church  
For those who are hurting and those in need  
For our church family, to bind our hearts together in HIM  
For God to use you to bless those around you  
For revival in our church and our city

## How can we pray for you today?



# BIBLE STORY



This month's Bible story is about Jesus coming to the earth as a baby, a perfect baby. Read about it in Luke 2.

Allow the kiddos to re-tell the story. I imagine many of them know it well! It is great to teach your kids to confidently speak about the Lord and it will bless your heart beyond measure!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE  
CHRISTMAS HYMN?  
I LITERALLY COULD NOT PICK  
ONLY ONE. HAVE A FUN TIME  
WITH YOUR FAMILY SINGING ALL  
OF YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS  
HYMNS.



Parents, if you have not already... please teach your children the books of the Bible. It is so important for them to know how to locate the books of the Bible. If you need any assistance, please see our children's minister, Ms Carol. She will be glad to help you!

# GOD'S GIFT TO US!







# RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY

**P** Our pastor always welcomes you to come to him to ask for prayer.  
**R** [John@FBCTerrell.org](mailto:John@FBCTerrell.org)  
**A** Our staff prays for our church family and any prayer requests given to the church. You can reach us at  
**Y** [FBCTstaff@gmail.com](mailto:FBCTstaff@gmail.com) or go online to [FBCTerrell.org/prayer](http://FBCTerrell.org/prayer)  
**E** Did you know we have a prayer ministry? Gloria Willams heads that up for us. **For more info,**  
**R** <https://fbcterrell.org/ministries/prayer-ministry>



## DISCIPLESHIP

*you belong.*

**TERRELL FIRST BAPTIST**  
Life Groups for every age and every stage

Visit us at [FBCTerrell.org](http://FBCTerrell.org) to view all of our ministries or contact [Ryan@FBCTerrell.org](mailto:Ryan@FBCTerrell.org) for more information on Life Groups.

**FBC kids**

TRAINING OUR FUTURE LEADERS.

**S T U D E N T S**

**@Home**  
*Building Strong Families*  
**Marriage & Family**

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

**Tuesdays, 6:15 pm**  
Meets on the Main Campus,  
403 N. Catherine St.