

SEPTEMBER, 2021

A photograph of a family praying together. In the foreground, a person's hands are clasped in prayer, wearing a brown leather watch and a black string bracelet. In the background, other family members are visible, also with their hands clasped in prayer. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

Prayer @ Home

DISCIPLESHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



TERRELL
FIRST BAPTIST

Hey Church Family,

How did September happen already? It is crazy how time flies so quickly.

Welcome to the next installment with our At Home series. The first part of this series focused on how we can pray. For the next few months, we will look at how prayer affects our lives and our church family.

Here at FBCT, our passion is to help your family grow in your Christian walk. Check out the back page of this packet for ways our church family might be able to minister to your family.

I have prayed for you this week as I was writing this, for you to be encouraged and for God's blessing and protection for your family. Thank you for taking this journey on prayer. May God bless you!

Please feel free to contact me at ryan@fbcterrell.org if you have any questions or need help. I am excited for you. Let's get started!

In Him,
Ryan

PRAYER @home

DISCIPLESHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

Scary moments...

When I was about 3 yrs old, I went with my grandad to Chuck E Cheese. Chuck E Cheese snuck up behind me and tapped me on the shoulder. I had never seen him before and wasn't expecting a big hairy rat! I was terrified. I never wanted to go there EVER again. No amount of bribing, um I mean...persuading would convince me it was a good idea.

Well, good ol mom was not going to let me live my life afraid of a costumed rat. We had conversations about costumes, we talked about how they entertain children...blah.blah.blah..... When reasoning didn't work, one day she had a bright idea. She called the restaurant manager and asked if we could go down to the restaurant and see the costume, knowing that when I saw that it was just an outfit, all would be right in my little world.

The appointed day came, she drug me down to our local CEC before it opened for the day. She pried my little fingers off of the car door and we made it inside. The manager took us to the costume closet. I distinctly remember his hand touching the door knob, my heart raced as it slowly turned. The door opened and my mom gasped as I screamed in fright. There, hanging on the back of the door, was Chuck E Cheese's head. **EPIC FAIL!**

Needless to say, the day that was intended to be a good and healing experience, turned into an even bigger fiasco.



We think we have life figured out. We develop a plan, it sounds logical. And boom, it changes on a dime.

Life can be uncertain and scary. Whether you are a 3 yr old afraid of a costume, someone facing health issues, or financial woes. It just doesn't seem to stop. Just look at the headlines any day of the week and it is always something to add to our crazy, mixed up world.

I am sure that many of us thought that covid would be a distant memory by now. Yet, it is still a disruption. Add in a earthquake or two, civil unrest, natural disasters, world conflict, things are a mess!

How do we cope when life feels heavy? What are we supposed to do with the disappointments and hardships in our lives?

Look up....

We live in uncertain times, but we need to realize that we are standing on a firm foundation. When we feel the weight of the world on our shoulders, we need to examine our hearts to find out why we feel afraid or discouraged. The answer might be quite clear but sometimes there is an underlying problem that may need to be addressed. If you are discouraged about your job, is God leading you to a new chapter in your life? Are other areas causing stress to creep in?

PRAYER is the perfect way to settle your heart and mind. Talk to God. Share with Him your fears, your concerns. Ask Him to lead your heart if any changes need to be made. Ask Him to encourage your heart in areas that are uncertain. When I have a problem, I want to go right to the solution. God **IS** the solution for all of life's concerns.

Then Look around....

When I first came to FBCT, Pastor Lowrie shared with me that the Lord had laid on his heart to emphasize prayer for 2021. That excited me because prayer is such a vital part of growing in our personal spiritual life but also in the life of our church. Little did Bro John realize, nor any of us realize, what we would face in the days and months that lied ahead of us.

If you don't remember anything else in this packet, remember this.. GOD is NOT caught off guard. 2021 has not surprised Him. Do you see He cared enough about us to give our Pastor a clear direction for us to focus on ahead of our needs? Not that we needed proof that God cares about our troubles, but that encourages me. I think about that often.

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Our church is packed with praying, caring friends. I am so grateful for you. I can personally attest to you that this staff truly cares about you. We are here for you, to pray with you, to encourage you, to help you in any way that we can. When you feel discouraged or life feels uncertain, reach out to your church family. You are not alone and you don't have to carry the weight of your burdens alone. We care.

Remind yourself...

Bible verses to encourage your heart:

Psalms 9:9

Psalms 23:4

Psalms 30:5

Psalms 34:17-18

Psalms 40:2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah 41:10

Philippians 4:6-7

I Peter 5:7

Revelation 21:4

God is faithful.

While things feel uncertain, God is the same. You survived every hard day you have ever had because of the grace and mercy of our Lord.

Write a list of ways God has been faithful to you. Refer to them when you are having a hard day. Recently, I was thinking about 2021. While covid dominates headlines every day, I was thinking about the winter storm in February. We had a 1 mo old baby in our home and heating was our concern. God provided our needs but also allowed us to help some friends of ours that were without power and had a 3 mo old baby. So we hunkered down with 4 adults, 2 tiny babies and a few dogs in our little home. While each minute ahead was uncertain and could produce anxiety, we choose to focus on God's faithfulness in the moment.

God is working, even when we can't see it.

When something doesn't happen as we had envisioned or in a timing that seems wrong to us, it doesn't mean that God has forgotten about us.

The Bible tells us that our knowledge is limited, but God's wisdom and power is unlimited. We can't understand God's ways because we don't see what God sees and know what God knows. I don't know about you, but I am very content serving a God with higher thinking than I am capable of.

God has a plan, and it is good.

It can be hard to truly believe this in the midst of trouble. Whenever I hit on hard times, I ask the Lord to use this trial for good. I have come to realize that the good might be for my benefit, or it may be for someone else. Hard times aren't necessarily a punishment to me, maybe it will encourage another in their walk. So I have learned to say "If not me, who for?" Ask the Lord to use your difficulties in life to help others. It will be a blessing to you as well as strengthen your faith.

God has prepared us a secure future.

This will put a spring into your step. Folks, what we are enduring now is only temporary. God has a wonderful, eternal future for us. Want to get excited? Read and study about Heaven. Keep the faith. He is coming soon!

If you aren't sure of your personal relationship with the Lord, if you can't remember a time and place where you accepted Christ as your Savior, please contact us TODAY. We can show you how you can have joy and security of living with our Lord Jesus for all eternity.

What would happen

if we realized the true power of prayer? That prayer changes lives and situations? Would we be more intent in our prayer life?

Will you take 1 minute every day and ask the Lord to help you demonstrate the hope of Jesus in this lost world, especially in the city of Terrell?

Will you pray that God will give you an opportunity to minister in word or deed to your "one person" that the Lord has laid on your heart?



In addition to those things, will you join our entire church family in praying for:

Pastor Lowrie, Kristi & family

For our church to be the light to the city of Terrell, our city leaders as they lead our city in these difficult days

For our families, children and students

For our church to reach the lost and the unchurched

Remember, God wants to hear from your heart. Be yourself. No fancy words. No special way. Just talk to the One who loves you the Most.

This hymn was written by Fanny Crosby in 1868. It was set to music by William H Doane in 1870. The words are so amazingly relevant today.

Pass me not, O gentle Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief
Kneeling there in deep contrition
Help my unbelief
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Trusting only in Thy merit
Would I seek Thy face
Heal my wounded, broken spirit
Save me by Thy grace
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Thou the spring of all my comfort
More than life to me
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in Heav'n but Thee?
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by
Source: Musixmatch



Lord, Thank you for not passing us by, but hearing our pleas and looking on us with grace and mercy. Help us remember that You are with us and will never leave us.

Contact me if I can pray with you ~ Ryan@FBCTerrell.org

MEMORY VERSE TIME

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:4-7

Verse 4:

Rejoice- to be happy, to be glad.
In the Lord- This takes all of the responsibility of your trouble and leaving it in God's hands.

So we are not rejoicing in what we can do,
but what God can do.

Verse 5:

Don't allow
your uncertainties
to affect your
character: kindness, goodness,
gentleness

**Our character should
be shown to everyone,
regardless of our
circumstances.**

Verse 6:

Don't waste your time and energy
worrying about uncertainties, but
praying what your true concerns are
to God. Go beyond "Help!" Tell Him
why you need something or
have fear. It will reveal a lot
to you and God will
enjoy you sharing
your heart.

Verse 7:

The peace of God that Paul is
referring to is a peace that
isn't logical. Your
circumstances haven't
changed, your heart has.
This peace will guard your
heart and keep your
circumstances from
controlling your emotions.
WHAT A PROMISE!!

This is an excellent verse for your entire family to memorize.

BIBLE STORY



It is interesting that the Bible is filled with stories from long ago. The stories aren't simple, feel good stories that aren't important. They are about people who faced uncertain times and challenges to teach us and encourage us in the world we live in today!

We can be encouraged by them, and learn from them. Remember that we too are examples for others around us in how we live and act.

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This month, I would like for you to pick the story for your family. Pick your favorite Bible character. Many have overcome uncertain times in their life. Find the story in the Bible and read aloud with your family.

Discussion questions

1. What was the uncertainty in their life?
2. How do you think they felt?
3. How did God handle their problem?
4. What would you have done in their situation?
5. How can I apply that to our life now?

The common theme in all of the stories of the Bible is that Jesus is the answer. He is the one who makes our life complete. The Bible teaches us that He is always with us. One of my favorite stories is about Abraham. He had many times of uncertainty and waiting. And in God's time, He provided for Abraham.

ACTIVITY PAGE

SING: HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS
HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS
HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS
HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS.

Vs 2 HE'S GOT THE MOMMIES AND THE DADDIES IN HIS HANDS

Vs 3 HE'S GOT THE BROTHERS AND THE SISTERS IN HIS HANDS

Vs 4 HE'S GOT THE TINY LITTLE BABY IN HIS HANDS

Vs 5 HE'S GOT EVERYBODY HERE IN HIS HANDS

DISCUSS:

BECAUSE HE HAS THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS, HE HAS ALL OF OUR JOYS AND OUR TROUBLES TOO. HE HOLDS EVERYTHING IN HIS CONTROL. HOW COMFORTING!

Object lesson:

Look down at your hands and wiggle them. How does your hands help you during the day? Eating, dressing, throwing a ball, texting, writing, mom/dad holding a baby, etc.. Hands can be very helpful. The Bible teaches us that we can be the hands of God by helping others.

Take a paper plate and put it on the top of your head. With a marker and without peeking, draw a house, a heart and a dog. Now look at your pictures. Probably looks a little silly, huh? Now lets do it again but have a helper stand by you and guide your hands. How did the pictures turn out this time?

God guides us and helps us know what to do. We can hold His hand and let Him help us every day. He can also use others in our lives to help us in times of need.

JESUS WATCHES OVER ME.





RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY

P Our pastor always welcomes you to come to him to ask for prayer.

R 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 or go online to fbcterrell.org/prayerministry

E Did you know we have a prayer ministry? Gloria Willams heads that up for us. **For more info, visit**

R fbcterrell.org/prayerministry



DISCIPLESHIP

you belong.

TERRELL
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Life Groups for every age and every stage

Visit us at FBCTerrell.org to view all of our ministries or contact 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.