

## 30 Days of Prayer Guide - 2022

*RiverTree Canal Fulton is a people sent to practice the way of Jesus together for the good of our city.*

Thank you for joining us to pray for Canal Fulton and what it means for us to be the church here for the good of our city. RTCF has been focused on being a church for this community since it was planted in 2012. As we close the first decade of life in our church and push FORward into the future, we want to keep refining our mission so that we have clarity and focus for the faithfulness ahead of us.

Prayer is the foundation of both our abiding relationship with Jesus and our orientation as people sent on mission to Canal Fulton. This guide walks week by week through our mission statement and the Scriptural foundations from which it springs. The goal is for our church to say “YES” to the mission of our church and to identify ways we can strategically pray for the year ahead. My hope is that this journey confirms your call to be a part of the body of Christ at RTCF this year, and launches us into the year with a deeper understanding of who we are called to be for the good of our city.

God is faithful. We saw that in big ways and small in 2021, and I know we will see his faithfulness this year. My prayer is that we are also found faithful with the opportunities and people entrusted to us. Join me in praying big prayers for RTCF and Canal Fulton as we move FORward.

Drew Causey  
Campus Pastor, RiverTree Canal Fulton

## How to use this guide

We wanted to use a simple structure to guide our prayer for this month that we can use to build habits of prayer for our church throughout the year. One of the best resources we've found for daily guided prayer is an app called [Lectio 365](#). Each day, they use an acrostic of the word PRAY to structure a daily time of prayer. We will use the same pattern in our prayer guide for this month.

*On Monday-Friday, we want you to take time to P.R.A.Y.*

**Pause to be still (Psalm 46:10)** - Take two minutes or so to be quiet, still, and allow yourself to focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

**Reflect on the Scriptures (Hebrews 4:12)** - Read through the passage for the day and reflect on what it means for you as someone looking to practice the way of Jesus.

**Ask for God's help (Matthew 7:7-8)** - Ask God for his help in light of our reading, trusting that God is good and encourages us to come to Him and ask, seek, and knock.

**Yield to God's Will (Luke 22:42)** - Yielding to God's will means committing to join God in our world by echoing Jesus' prayer, "Not my will, but your will be done." This could include yielding ourselves, our time, our opinions, our sense of entitlement or control, our possessions, our mistakes, and more in prayer.

On **Saturdays and Sundays**, we spend specific time reflecting on our weekend reflection questions that will help us pray for our church and our city this year.

At the end of this document, there are six questions that you can use to reflect and process what God might be saying to us as we prepare for our first ever RTCF **Prayer Summit**. The Summit meeting will be on Thursday, February 10th at 6:30PM at Speakeasy . Please join us for a night of prayer and strategic conversation about our church in 2022.

Enjoy this guide, and may the Lord meet you in the quiet place!

## For Families

Discipling the people in our household is a unique challenge and responsibility. For this reason, we decided to include two resources for you to turn this prayer guide into a discipleship tool in your household.

After each week, you'll find **Family Discipleship Moments**, which are weekly resources for you to use with kids to expand this prayer guide into fruitful conversation. Each Discipleship Moment has Scripture that we use during the week and questions or a small lesson that you can walk through together.

We also have **Family Discussion Questions** below to help you process what you are learning about Jesus, his mission, and what it means to be the church in Canal Fulton around the table. Pick a night of the week to have a deeper conversation about what you are learning and to process what it might mean for you, your family, and our church.

### **Family Discussion Questions for kids 4 years old through 4th grade:**

- What did we learn about in our prayer time today?
- Do we have any questions about what we learned?
- Is there anything we should stop doing, start doing, or keep doing because of what we've learned?
- What is one next step we can take in light of this conversation?

### **Additional Family Discussion Questions for students in 5th grade and above:**

- What did we learn about in our prayer time today?
- After today's prayer time, is there anything we need to ask, research more, pray about, or discuss together?
- What is one thing you sense God is saying to you?
- Is there a word, question, or theme that we believe God is saying to us?
- Is there any word, phrase, or idea you think God might be speaking to our church or our community?
- Is there anything we should stop doing, start doing, or keep doing because of what we've learned?
- What is one next step we can take in light of this conversation?

## **A Prayer to Begin**

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way,  
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless  
until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

God will make this happen,  
for He who calls you is faithful.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NLT*

## Week One - Monday

*...a people sent...*

### Pause

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

*Pause and pray.*

### *A prayer of approach:*

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

### Reflect

Read [Psalm 103](#).

What has God done for us? We are the people of God today because God has done great things for us. We see this most clearly in the person and work of Jesus. As we begin this journey together, we want to remember the amazing things God has done for us and what that tells us about who God is, for it is his work that tells us who we are to be and what we are to be about in this life.

What does this text say to you today? How has God blessed your life so far?

*Pause and pray.*

### Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, help me to remember and keep remembering all of the amazing things you have done for me. I want to keep your goodness and faithfulness ever before me.

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Lord, I yield to the call of God on my life, to be yours completely, and to live in my world as someone sent for their good and your glory. Amen.

## **Week One - Tuesday**

*...a people sent...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## **Reflect**

Read [Genesis 12:1-3](#).

The word *bless* is an interesting word in the world of Scripture. When God created everything, he then blessed his creation. Blessing is the byproduct of being in right relationship with God. Of being yielded to his reign over our life. The blessing of God includes his protection and provision for the one who is blessed. After the Fall, God's redemptive activity in the world always includes bringing people back into relationship with Him, which means that blessing is a part of knowing God.

When God called Abram to follow him to a land he'd never seen before, He promised that Abram and his family would be blessed, but also that he and his family would be a conduit of blessing to the entire world. Abram's commitment to follow God would bring him and his family into God's protection and provision, but would also become a source of protection and provision to the nations of the world. God's promise was to Abram and his people, but would never stop there. God seeks to bless the entire world; his people were to become the vehicle for it.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, what does it mean for my life to be yielded to your reign? Show me the blessing of being yours, and make my life a blessing to those around me.

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Lord, I yield to the call of God on my life, to be yours completely, and to live in my world as someone sent for their good and your glory. Amen.

## **Week One - Wednesday**

*...a people sent...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## **Reflect**

Read [Luke 4:14-21](#).

I love it when Jesus makes it clear as to what He's up to in the world. Jesus reads from Isaiah 61, letting the people know that he has one clear task ahead of him: to usher in the day of the Lord's favor. His blessing. His reign. The Spirit rests upon him and sets him apart for this very purpose. And when God's reign is ushered in by Jesus, it is good news for the poor, the blind, the imprisoned, and the oppressed. Their world changes for the better. They go from cursed to blessed, from death to life.

And it begins *today!* Jesus says what was once promised is now here because He is here. He came to usher this day into our day. If we are to be a faithful church in Canal Fulton, we have to realize that Jesus is bringing blessing into the world right now. His reign over us is meant to be the place where this is most clearly seen. We are to live as evidence that the good news is both true and near to our city. And this means we must let the good news transform us in ways that show us to be blessed - meaning that our lives testify that Jesus came to liberate, heal, and make the world that he loves whole again.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Holy Spirit, come and show me: in what ways do I need good news from You? In what ways do I need to be liberated? Is there anything to which I am blind and needing sight? Bring me into your blessing and favor today, both for my sake and the sake of those around me.



## Yield

Lord, I yield to the call of God on my life, to be yours completely, and to live in my world as someone sent for their good and your glory. Amen.

## Week One - Thursday

*...a people sent...*

## Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## Reflect

Read [1 Peter 2:9-10](#).

“Once you were not a people...”

Yesterday, we reflected on the amazing things God has done for us in Jesus. One of those things is that he redefines us into something we were not. He gives us a new identity as his chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. He defines us not by our own works but by his redemptive work in Jesus. This is an incredible truth!

And yet we also see here that it is not only *\*that\** we were chosen that matters, but *\*why\** we were chosen. There is a purpose in God’s making a people his own: that people is set apart “that we might declare the praise of Him who called us out of

darkness and into his marvelous light.” The family name comes with the family business, and as a people who have “received mercy”, we must recognize that the God who made a people out of us wants to do the same out of the people in our world.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, help me to see not just *what* you have done for me, but *why*. And help me to see myself through the identity you have given me.

## **Yield**

Lord, I yield to the call of God on my life, to be yours completely, and to live in my world as someone sent for their good and your glory. Amen.

## **Week One - Friday**

*...a people sent...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and Pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## **Reflect**

Read [John 20:19-22](#).

God so loved the world that he sent his Son to us. This is amazing news. And like we read yesterday, Jesus came to bring blessing, healing, and wholeness to all peoples in all places. Yet here, we hear Jesus tell his disciples that in the same way He was sent by the Father, He was sending them into the world. Jesus' disciples were invited to join Jesus in his sent-ness! He breathed the Holy Spirit upon them that they might join into the work Jesus was doing in the world: bringing blessing and life to the world that God loves.

At its root, the word *mission* means to *send*. Jesus is the Sent One from God, and as we reflected over the past few days, we are the ones who are blessed by all he was sent to do. Yet as a disciple of Jesus who has the Holy Spirit, you are not just tasked with holy things to do; you are invited to join Jesus in his *sent-ness*; not just to benefit from Jesus' mission, but to join into Jesus' mission for the blessing of the world. This is why we were made "a people". And *everyone* who is joined to Jesus by faith is also joined into his mission, for Jesus is forever the Sent One doing what His Father sent him to do.

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, what does it mean for me to be a sent person like you? Holy Spirit, come and bring conviction about the ways in which I resist the sending of God in my life. Help me not to fear or disqualify myself from the call of God over my life. For I know I am hidden in Jesus, and just as he is sent, so too I am sent because I am in him.

## Yield

Lord, I yield to the call of God on my life, to be yours completely, and to live in my world as someone sent for their good and your glory. Amen.

## Family Discipleship Moments - Week One

[Genesis 12:1-3](#) - Retell these verses in your own words, then ask your kids to do the same. Allow them to ask questions. If you don't have an immediate answer, research it together.

[1 Peter 2:9-10](#) - What does it mean to be God's chosen people? How can we share God's goodness with others?

[John 20:19-22](#) - What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? It means we are given power through God's being; and because of that, we are entrusted with the special task of telling others about what Jesus did.

- You will NEED dominoes (or books) for this lesson.
- Help kids line them up in a long row, and ask for predictions of what might happen if one were to fall over...then invite a child to start the chain reaction and watch the dominoes topple in a row.
- Explain how when we accept Christ and share His love, others will know Jesus because they see us living differently and we can tell them about Jesus.

## Weekend Reflection Exercise

Each week, we spend our weekends in worship together and in prayer seeking the Lord for ways we can specifically pray for our mission in 2021. The following questions are prompts for you to use to pray, listen, and discern what you sense the Lord leading us to ask of him in 2021. We will get together at our Prayer Summit on February 17th at 6PM to talk about what we sense the Lord saying in these areas and build a strategy for praying well for our church and our city in 2021.

### Listen First

Spend 2-3 minutes in silence, clearing your mind and heart and focusing on the nearness of God.

*Pause and pray.*

## **Give Thanks**

Spend a few moments naming some of the things about who God is and what God has done (or is doing) that you are thankful for.

*Pause and praise.*

## **Reflect**

As you reflect on your week, is there a word, phrase, or question that has been resonating in you as you pray? If so, spend some time listening and asking the Lord what He wants to reveal to you about it. Jot down things that seem important so that we can hear them at the Summit.

## **Four Areas of Intercession**

We have four areas of prayer that we are asking you to pray about for the Prayer Summit. As you pray for each of these areas, spend some time in silence listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit. It could come as a verse that comes to mind, a name, a question, or an idea. Write down the things that come up as you pray.

**People** - Spend some time asking the Lord to send people our way that we need for present and future ministry. *Who do we have? Who do we need?*

- Ask the Lord to send us people who are willing to be discipled.
- Ask the Lord for people willing to use their spiritual gifts and who are hungry to be developed and released to do so.
- Ask the Lord for people with specific desires to be sent into specific neighborhoods or networks in our city.

**Wisdom** - Spend some time asking the Lord for his wisdom in these strategic areas of ministry. How can we be faithful in these areas of ministry in 2021?

- *Kids Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their own children? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the kids? How can we reach kids in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we serve kids in Canal Fulton?
- *Student Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their kids? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the students of our city? How can we reach students in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we equip kids to handle life at their age? How can we equip them for the future?
- *Discipleship* - Who should we invest our discipleship energy into? What are the best ways for us to make disciples in Canal Fulton?
- *Villages* - Where and to whom do we need to launch Villages in our city? Who do we have who has a specific call and heart for a people in Canal Fulton?
- *Worship Gatherings* - Who do we have? Who are we missing? How can we create accessible opportunities for people to discover the way of Jesus through RTCF?
- *The Rock* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? Who do we have (or who do we need) to live on mission there?
- *Speak Easy* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? How can we build lasting and transformative community through our space there?

**Opportunities** - Spend some time asking the Lord to grant us opportunities to join Him in his work. *How can we join Jesus in his mission in Canal Fulton?*

- Ask the Lord to open doors for his church to announce and demonstrate the good news in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and other spaces in our city.
- Ask the Lord to do miraculous things that display his power and goodness to our city.
- Ask the Lord to bring us people of peace that open doors to people and networks that will never come to church.
- Ask the Lord to awaken us to the harvest around us.
- Ask the Lord to make our next steps of obedience clear.

**Stewardship** - Spend some time asking the Lord how we can best be fully given to Christ and his mission in 2021. *Who do we need to be this year? What does my life need to look like to join Jesus on mission in 2021?*

- Lordship - Pray that our people will yield to the Lordship of Jesus in every area of their lives.
- Heart - Pray that God would deepen our love for his presence through worship, prayer, Scripture, and community.
- Humility - Pray that God would humble us and teach us to empty ourselves in service of Jesus and our neighbors.
- Faith - Pray that God would increase our faith and give us opportunities to step out and trust in his goodness and provision.
- Courage - Pray that God would give us boldness and courage to join him in every circle of relationship we have.
- Generosity - Pray that God would give us the courage to be free with our time, energy, and resources for the good of our city.

## **Final Reflection**

At the end of your time of prayer, ask the Lord to highlight to you what is most important for us to continue praying about or discuss at the Summit.

Conclude with this simple prayer that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 -

Our Father in heaven,  
    may your name be kept holy.  
May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
    as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the food we need,  
and forgive us our sins,  
    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
And don't let us yield to temptation,  
    but rescue us from the evil one.  
Amen.

## Week Two - Monday

*...to practice the way of Jesus...*

### Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

### Reflect

Read [Psalm 86:8-13](#).

The psalmist praises God for who God is and what God has done. That's a great place for us to begin our week looking at what it means to practice the way of Jesus. We will never join Jesus in his way if we don't stop and reflect on the ways we have seen His love and power to deliver in our own lives. The trust we need to follow Him forward with our whole hearts will grow as we remember the ways we have seen his faithfulness in our lives so far.

What does this text say to you today? What is one way you have seen God's faithfulness in your life?

### Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*



God, open my eyes to see your power, love, and faithfulness in my life. Reveal to me the ways you have been and are now at work in my world.

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

There is no better way to live my life than in the way of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Not my will, but yours be done in my life. Lead me in the everlasting way. Amen.

## **Week Two - Tuesday**

*...to practice the way of Jesus...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

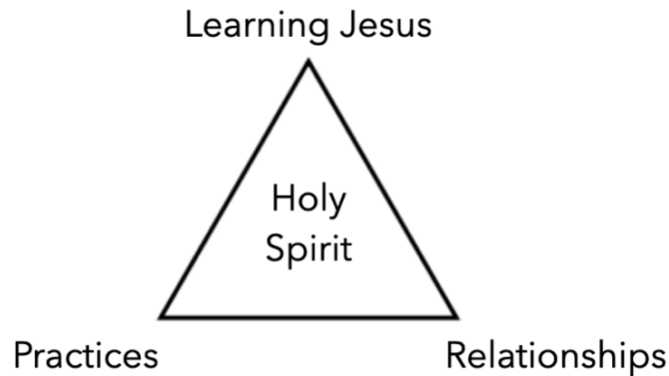
## **Reflect**

Read [Matthew 11:28-30](#).

Come to me, learn of me, and you will find rest. What an incredible invitation from Jesus to his disciples! And in a world where most people's lives are both full and empty, busy and unfulfilled, the way that Jesus invites his disciples into is so different from what most people are experiencing. It seems almost too good to be true. Yet, as any of us who have walked with Jesus for any amount of time can attest, Jesus' way is just better than any other way we've found.

The image of the yoke here is a reminder to his people that Jesus invites us to join him on the path. Yokes are for two, not one. And they represent the specific way of living that Jesus calls his disciples to embody. This means centering our learning, our practices, and our relationships around the presence of Jesus, adopting his way by walking in communion with him everyday.

## **Intentional Formation in the Way of Jesus**



At RTCF, we believe that Jesus' way is better than any other way of living, and that the only way to take up his yoke is to join him and welcome the changes that come as we intentionally seek to learn of Jesus, practice his way, and to do so together.

### **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Jesus, what is one area of my life where I need to learn your way over the way I've been living? What is something simple I can do to walk in your way today?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

There is no better way to live my life than in the way of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Not my will, but yours be done in my life. Lead me in the everlasting way. Amen.

## **Week Two - Wednesday**

*...to practice the way of Jesus...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## **Reflect**

Read [John 15:1-8](#).

The key to practicing the way of Jesus is Jesus himself. No one has ever lived like Jesus without Him. This is why he reminds his disciples that “apart from (Him) you can do nothing” (v. 5). The good news is that you have been grafted into Jesus, connected to Him by Him in a way that naturally gives you life. And the more alive you are living, the more fruit will naturally come from your life.

The evidence of walking the way of Jesus is fruit. Fruit is the evidence of both a disciple's connection to Jesus and the life that it gives. Jesus encourages his disciples to seek to bear fruit in the world. Yet he also underlines this fact: the key to being a fruit bearing disciple is Jesus and your connection to Him. When you abide in Jesus, fruit happens.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, I desire to bear fruit. Are there any areas of my life that need pruning so that I can bear more fruit in the future?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

There is no better way to live my life than in the way of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Not my will, but yours be done in my life. Lead me in the everlasting way. Amen.

## **Week Two - Thursday**

*...to practice the way of Jesus...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

## Reflect

Read [Philippians 3:7-14](#).

Jesus puts everything in life in perspective. And choosing the way of Jesus will mean that certain things become more important to us, while other things become less important. Paul sees that Jesus is the one truly valuable thing, and his reign over every aspect of his life is the only way to truly live. And as Paul teaches the church in Philippi, when you deeply treasure the way of Jesus, anything that keeps you from the way of Jesus is not only not worth it, but it's "garbage".

I also appreciate Paul's confession in verse 12. Paul isn't practicing the way of Jesus perfectly. But he knows that ahead of him is something that God both calls him to and has promised him: the inheritance of the saints that comes from running the race of faith. And he wants that, to the point where he's willing to lay down whatever stands in the way and put his past behind him in order to have it. And all of this is possible because Jesus himself wants us to walk in his way more than anything. We know this because Jesus came, died, and was raised.

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Is there anything in my life keeping me from running full speed the race ahead of me?

Is there something in my life that I treasure more than pursuing Jesus' way for my life?

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

There is no better way to live my life than in the way of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Not my will, but yours be done in my life. Lead me in the everlasting way. Amen.

## Week Two - Friday

*...to practice the way of Jesus...*

### Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen.

### Reflect

Read [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#).

Paul uses the metaphor of an athlete training for a race to underscore an important truth about practicing the way of Jesus: you don't just wake up an Olympian - you train to become one. Eugene Peterson calls the process of becoming like Christ "a long obedience in the same direction." At RTCF, we refer to these training exercises as practices - things we intentionally do to train ourselves in the way of Jesus.

Spiritual transformation has the Holy Spirit at its core, but also involves learning, practices, and relationships. What we learn, what we do, and who we are in relationship with are things God uses to shape us to become more like Christ. We must be intentional about pursuing all of these things in our lives, building our schedules and using our resources and energy toward this end. But perhaps the most important aspect of this is the relationships around you for this process. It is easier to train together than by yourself. This is why Paul charges the church to run in this way, not just individuals.

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, help me run the race you've called me to run. Who do I need to have in my life to encourage me and help me train in the ways of Jesus? Bring me those people, Lord, and help me to courageously walk with them.

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

There is no better way to live my life than in the way of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Not my will, but yours be done in my life. Lead me in the everlasting way. Amen.

## Family Discipleship Moments - Week Two

[Matthew 11:28-30](#) - You will NEED a 5 pound bag of flour, sugar, or something else about that weight.

- ASK: How much do you think this weighs? Do you think you could pick this up? Do you think you could pick it up and hold it with your arm straight out to the side of you like this? (Demonstrate it.) You might be able to hold it for a minute or two, but do you think you could hold it all day? No way! The longer you hold it, the heavier it feels.
- Help kids identify burdens they or others around them might have. Here are a few examples: trouble with your school work, trouble with a sibling or friend, an illness, or feeling guilty about something you have done. Burdens can be very heavy to hold onto alone.
- Help kids understand they don't have to carry their burdens alone. In today's scripture, Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Then he went on to say, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Jesus is our helper. Sometimes we hold on to our burdens and try to carry them ourselves, but Jesus will help us, if we will let Him

[John 15:1-8](#) - Retell these verses in your own words, then ask your kids to do the same. Allow them to ask questions. If you don't have an immediate answer, research it together.

[Philippians 3:7-14](#) - Who do we find our strength and hope in? Jesus should be first in our hearts and minds. Instead of trying to find our identity and worth in the things that we do, we need to find our strength and place our hope in Christ alone.

## Weekend Reflection Exercise

Each week, we spend our weekends in worship together and in prayer seeking the Lord for ways we can specifically pray for our mission in 2021. The following questions are prompts for you to use to pray, listen, and discern what you sense the Lord leading us to ask of him in 2021. We will get together at our Prayer Summit on February 17th at 6PM to talk about what we sense the Lord saying in these areas and build a strategy for praying well for our church and our city in 2021.

### Listen First

Spend 2-3 minutes in silence, clearing your mind and heart and focusing on the nearness of God.

*Pause and pray.*

### Give Thanks

Spend a few moments naming some of the things about who God is and what God has done (or is doing) that you are thankful for.

*Pause and praise.*

### Reflect



As you reflect on your week, is there a word, phrase, or question that has been resonating in you as you pray? If so, spend some time listening and asking the Lord what He wants to reveal to you about it. Jot down things that seem important so that we can hear them at the Summit.

## Four Areas of Intercession

We have four areas of prayer that we are asking you to pray about for the Prayer Summit. As you pray for each of these areas, spend some time in silence listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit. It could come as a verse that comes to mind, a name, a question, or an idea. Write down the things that come up as you pray.

**People** - Spend some time asking the Lord to send people our way that we need for present and future ministry. *Who do we have? Who do we need?*

- Ask the Lord to send us people who are willing to be disciplined.
- Ask the Lord for people willing to use their spiritual gifts and who are hungry to be developed and released to do so.
- Ask the Lord for people with specific desires to be sent into specific neighborhoods or networks in our city.

**Wisdom** - Spend some time asking the Lord for his wisdom in these strategic areas of ministry. How can we be faithful in these areas of ministry in 2021?

- *Kids Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their own children? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the kids? How can we reach kids in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we serve kids in Canal Fulton?
- *Student Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their kids? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the students of our city? How can we reach students in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we equip kids to handle life at their age? How can we equip them for the future?
- *Discipleship* - Who should we invest our discipleship energy into? What are the best ways for us to make disciples in Canal Fulton?
- *Villages* - Where and to whom do we need to launch Villages in our city? Who do we have who has a specific call and heart for a people in Canal Fulton?

- *Worship Gatherings* - Who do we have? Who are we missing? How can we create accessible opportunities for people to discover the way of Jesus through RTCF?
- *The Rock* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? Who do we have (or who do we need) to live on mission there?
- *Speak Easy* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? How can we build lasting and transformative community through our space there?

**Opportunities** - Spend some time asking the Lord to grant us opportunities to join Him in his work. *How can we join Jesus in his mission in Canal Fulton?*

- Ask the Lord to open doors for his church to announce and demonstrate the good news in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and other spaces in our city.
- Ask the Lord to do miraculous things that display his power and goodness to our city.
- Ask the Lord to bring us people of peace that open doors to people and networks that will never come to church.
- Ask the Lord to awaken us to the harvest around us.
- Ask the Lord to make our next steps of obedience clear.

**Stewardship** - Spend some time asking the Lord how we can best be fully given to Christ and his mission in 2021. *Who do we need to be this year? What does my life need to look like to join Jesus on mission in 2021?*

- **Lordship** - Pray that our people will yield to the Lordship of Jesus in every area of their lives.
- **Heart** - Pray that God would deepen our love for his presence through worship, prayer, Scripture, and community.
- **Humility** - Pray that God would humble us and teach us to empty ourselves in service of Jesus and our neighbors.
- **Faith** - Pray that God would increase our faith and give us opportunities to step out and trust in his goodness and provision.
- **Courage** - Pray that God would give us boldness and courage to join him in every circle of relationship we have.

- Generosity - Pray that God would give us the courage to be free with our time, energy, and resources for the good of our city.

## **Final Reflection**

At the end of your time of prayer, ask the Lord to highlight to you what is most important for us to continue praying about or discuss at the Summit.

Conclude with this simple prayer that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 -

Our Father in heaven,

    may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,

    as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need,

and forgive us our sins,

    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation,

    but rescue us from the evil one.

Amen.

## Week Three - Monday

*...together...*

### Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

### Reflect

Read [Psalm 145](#).

Generations telling generations about the goodness of God - this is such an amazing way to explain how worship becomes a community storytelling process. Stop and think: how would you tell the story of God's goodness and faithfulness to someone in your world who's not heard your story? Take a few moments and reflect on some of the lines of this psalm and how you have seen them to be true in your own life.

### Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, give me an opportunity to tell the ways I've seen this Psalm to be true to someone in my world. Who should I share it with?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Thank you for making me one with You and with your church through the work of Jesus. Help us to live in unity with you and one another for the good of our city. Amen.

## **Week Three - Tuesday**

*...together...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## **Reflect**

Read [John 17:20-23](#).

John 17 is often called the High Priestly prayer. It is a passage that records one of Jesus' final prayer times with his disciples before his crucifixion. In this prayer, he underlines the unity that He has with the Father, the unity that his disciples have with him, and the unity that those who believe as a result of his disciples' mission (meaning us) have with him as well. While there is a lot to unpack in this prayer, one clear point we do not need to miss is that the unity we have, both with Jesus and with one another, is a gift given to us by Jesus himself.

This week, we are praying about what it means for us to be on mission *together*. The foundation of the church is Jesus and the identity we now have with him because of what He has done. The gracious gift of Jesus is that he takes “not a people” and makes them a people through his grace. This is true for us as individuals - we are saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8) - but also for us as a community - we are saved together through a communal grace we share in Jesus. We are given a one-ness in Jesus that we don’t have to work for, but we do have to receive and work out of. We are already one with one another if we have been made one with Christ. This makes unity something we must fight to live out, but not something we fight to establish. That has already been done.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, what does it mean for me to be one with you? Are there ways I strive to become one with you in ways you have already accomplished for me? What does this mean for my relationship with others in the church? How can we live in this unity together in Canal Fulton?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Thank you for making me one with You and with your church through the work of Jesus. Help us to live in unity with you and one another for the good of our city. Amen.

**Week Three - Wednesday**

*...together...*

## Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

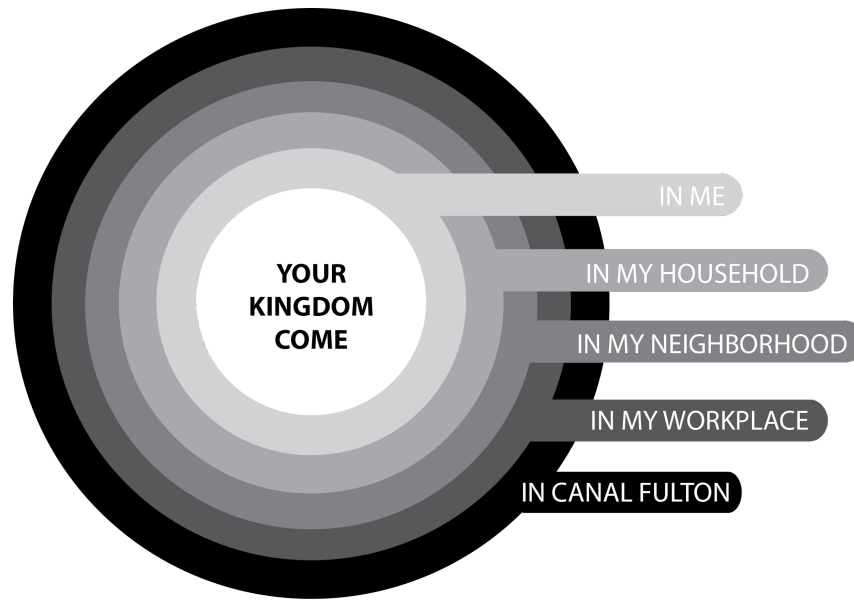
Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## Reflect

Read [Acts 2:42-27](#).

Learning, practices, and community- all centered around the presence of God. The building blocks of lasting change were all present here in the early church. We sometimes think that the miraculous life of the early church was happening in some revival setting, but it really took place in the everyday circles of their life. They were learning, practicing the way of Jesus, and doing so together in their households, at their jobs, and in the common spaces of Jerusalem. This wasn't the product of church services; this was the product of the church being the church in every space of life everyday.

At RTCF, we often use these concentric circles to talk about the spaces in which we live our lives. These are the spaces in which we live as people sent by Jesus, the spaces where our learning, practices, and community collide.



Take a moment and reflect on this passage in light of the circles. What would change in each of these circles if your life looked more like the church in Acts 2? What would stay the same?

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, how can my life look more like the life I see in the church in Acts? What needs to stop, start, or continue to see that happen?

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

Thank you for making me one with You and with your church through the work of Jesus. Help us to live in unity with you and one another for the good of our city. Amen.



## Week Three - Thursday

...together...

### Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

### Reflect

Read [Ephesians 4:1-16](#).

There is a beautiful unity that the church has in Jesus Christ, and we are all welcomed to contribute to that unity through grace-gifts given to the church by Jesus himself. All of the gifts given to the church are given with both the church's unity and maturity in view. That means that all of us (and yes - this means you) are given gifts for the sake of those around you. These are gracious gifts from God meant to build up the church for the good of the world around us.

At RTCF, we want to help people identify the gifts they have been given so that those gifts can be exercised and cultivated for the good of the church and our city. Each one of the gifts mentioned in this passage are specific leadership giftings that help our church navigate our mission as we seek to join Jesus in his redemptive work in Canal Fulton. A healthy church community should always be leaning into the unity it has by offering its diverse gifts to one another.

### Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

God, what gifts have you given me? How can I offer my gifts to both my church and my city more readily? And are there people who I need to learn from to help me grow in unity and maturity with Christ and his church?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Thank you for making me one with You and with your church through the work of Jesus. Help us to live in unity with you and one another for the good of our city. Amen.

## **Week Three - Friday**

*...together...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### ***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## **Reflect**

Read [Colossians 3:12-17](#).

A healthy relationship with Jesus naturally overflows into healthier relationships with the people around us. Paul's instructions to the church in Colossae remind them that because of what has already happened to them in Christ, there is a natural putting off of some ways of life and a clothing of oneself with the way of Jesus. Love, forgiveness,

encouragement - these are the ways of Jesus that only make sense if they have been made one with him (and one another).

At the same time, this passage makes it obvious that this way of living isn't just going to happen - the way of Jesus is a daily choice. Unity is given freely, and yet must be lived into in order to be seen in the world. Love is theirs, and yet they must choose to love, serve, and forgive in order for this love to be seen. The church must choose to act in the name of the Lord Jesus - bringing every action, word, motive, and relationship into alignment with him - and in doing so live in the unity they have been given.

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, is the unity I have with you on display in my relationships? Are there any ways that my words, actions, motives, or relationships need to change to better reflect the relationship I have with you?

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

Thank you for making me one with You and with your church through the work of Jesus. Help us to live in unity with you and one another for the good of our city. Amen.

## Family Discipleship Moments - Week Three

[Acts 2:42-27](#) - You will NEED Paper and markers

- Point out trees in your yard. What happens to the trees in the fall? (The leaves fall off.)
- ASK:: Do you know what is happening? As the leaves fall, so do seeds that make it possible for new trees to grow. If these trees never gave up their leaves,

we wouldn't have any new trees that come up. Our giving is a lot like that tree. When we give, we scatter our blessings to others and in turn, those people are able to bless others.

- Give kids paper and markers. Encourage/help them to draw a large tree with leaves or seeds on the ground around it. Have them write in gifts that God has given them that they can use to bless others with.
- SAY: God hasn't given us gifts for us to keep to ourselves. We are to use everything God has given us to bring Him glory!

[Ephesians 4:1-16](#) - Take this spiritual gifts quiz together and discuss where you can use your gifts to serve others this week. [Click here for the quiz.](#)

[Colossians 3:12-17](#) - Retell these verses in your own words, then ask your kids to do the same. Allow them to ask questions. If you don't have an immediate answer, research it together.

## Weekend Reflection Exercise

Each week, we spend our weekends in worship together and in prayer seeking the Lord for ways we can specifically pray for our mission in 2021. The following questions are prompts for you to use to pray, listen, and discern what you sense the Lord leading us to ask of him in 2021. We will get together at our Prayer Summit on February 17th at 7PM to talk about what we sense the Lord saying in these areas and build a strategy for praying well for our church and our city in 2021.

### Listen First

Spend 2-3 minutes in silence, clearing your mind and heart and focusing on the nearness of God.

*Pause and pray.*

### Give Thanks

Spend a few moments naming some of the things about who God is and what God has done (or is doing) that you are thankful for.

*Pause and praise.*

## **Reflect**

As you reflect on your week, is there a word, phrase, or question that has been resonating in you as you pray? If so, spend some time listening and asking the Lord what He wants to reveal to you about it. Jot down things that seem important so that we can hear them at the Summit.

## **Four Areas of Intercession**

We have four areas of prayer that we are asking you to pray about for the Prayer Summit. As you pray for each of these areas, spend some time in silence listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit. It could come as a verse that comes to mind, a name, a question, or an idea. Write down the things that come up as you pray.

**People** - Spend some time asking the Lord to send people our way that we need for present and future ministry. *Who do we have? Who do we need?*

- Ask the Lord to send us people who are willing to be discipled.
- Ask the Lord for people willing to use their spiritual gifts and who are hungry to be developed and released to do so.
- Ask the Lord for people with specific desires to be sent into specific neighborhoods or networks in our city.

**Wisdom** - Spend some time asking the Lord for his wisdom in these strategic areas of ministry. How can we be faithful in these areas of ministry in 2021?

- *Kids Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their own children? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the kids? How can we reach kids in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we serve kids in Canal Fulton?
- *Student Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their kids? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the

students of our city? How can we reach students in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we equip kids to handle life at their age? How can we equip them for the future?

- *Discipleship* - Who should we invest our discipleship energy into? What are the best ways for us to make disciples in Canal Fulton?
- *Villages* - Where should we launch/relaunch Villages first? Who do we have who has a specific call and heart for a people in Canal Fulton?
- *Worship Gatherings* - Who do we have? Who are we missing? How can we create accessible opportunities for people to discover the way of Jesus through RTCF?
- *The Rock* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? Who do we have (or who do we need) to live on mission there?
- *Speak Easy* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? How can we build lasting and transformative community through our space there?

**Opportunities** - Spend some time asking the Lord to grant us opportunities to join Him in his work. *How can we join Jesus in his mission in Canal Fulton?*

- Ask the Lord to open doors for his church to announce and demonstrate the good news in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and other spaces in our city.
- Ask the Lord to do miraculous things that display his power and goodness to our city.
- Ask the Lord to bring us people of peace that open doors to people and networks that will never come to church.
- Ask the Lord to awaken us to the harvest around us.
- Ask the Lord to make our next steps of obedience clear.

**Stewardship** - Spend some time asking the Lord how we can best be fully given to Christ and his mission in 2021. *Who do we need to be this year? What does my life need to look like to join Jesus on mission in 2021?*

- *Lordship* - Pray that our people will yield to the Lordship of Jesus in every area of their lives.
- *Heart* - Pray that God would deepen our love for his presence through worship, prayer, Scripture, and community.

- Humility - Pray that God would humble us and teach us to empty ourselves in service of Jesus and our neighbors.
- Faith - Pray that God would increase our faith and give us opportunities to step out and trust in his goodness and provision.
- Courage - Pray that God would give us boldness and courage to join him in every circle of relationship we have.
- Generosity - Pray that God would give us the courage to be free with our time, energy, and resources for the good of our city.

## **Final Reflection**

At the end of your time of prayer, ask the Lord to highlight to you what is most important for us to continue praying about or discuss at the Summit.

Conclude with this simple prayer that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 -

Our Father in heaven,  
    may your name be kept holy.  
May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
    as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the food we need,  
and forgive us our sins,  
    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
And don't let us yield to temptation,  
    but rescue us from the evil one.  
Amen.

## Week Four - Monday

*...for the good of our city...*

### Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

### Reflect

Read [Psalm 67](#).

There is a relationship between blessing and the world around us that becomes amazingly explicit in certain passages in Scripture. As we discussed on day one of this prayer guide, to be blessed by God is to benefit from God's protection and provision. It is the by-product of being in right relationship with God, something that Jesus secures forever for his people through his own death and resurrection. We are blessed. We are



a people who have received mercy. And just as Abraham was blessed to bring blessing to the nations, we see here that the psalmist connects blessing with the good of the nations. When we are blessed, they see and know the saving power of God through us.

This means that it should be good news to our surroundings that God is blessing us. Our city should directly benefit from and better know Jesus because Jesus is regularly and actively blessing his people. Many translations of Psalm 67:7 reads a “so that” relationship into the last part of this psalm: God blesses us *so that* the nations will fear him”. God’s blessing has missionary intentions: he blesses you for the sake of the world around you. As you count your blessings, consider who else those blessings may be intended for.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, how have you blessed me? Help me not to miss your blessings today. How can these blessings be good news for other people?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Lord, all you have done for my good is also done for the good of my world. Help me to love my neighbor and my city like you do, seeking their good no matter the cost. Amen.

**Week Four - Tuesday**

*...for the good of our city...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

**A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## **Reflect**

Read [Jeremiah 29:4-13](#).

At this point in the story of the people of God, they have been exiled from the Promised Land and enslaved by the Babylonians because of their deep, continuous unfaithfulness to God. Yet God sends the prophet to them to remind them that even when they are unfaithful, God remembers and is faithful to keep his promises. He has a hope and future for them, but it won't come in the way they think. They think God will come rescue them out of Babylon, but God has a different plan. He wants them to bless Babylon. And He uses this amazing phrase to help underline this reality:

“Work for peace and prosperity of the city to which I sent you in exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

The temptation the people of God have always faced is to neglect the place they are and hope for the place they want to be. To neglect today and hope for tomorrow. To neglect the Earth and just hope for Heaven. Yet here we see that God sent his people into exile precisely because he wants the good of Babylon now, not just the good of the future Jerusalem. And the challenge He gives his people is to work for the peace (wholeness) and prosperity (good) of the city where he sent them, not just hold out for some better future down the road. They were in Babylon for its good, whether they realized it or not.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?  
(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, what does it mean for me to work for the peace and prosperity of Canal Fulton?  
How can you make my city more whole and less broken? More like the future Heaven  
than our current Earth?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Lord, all you have done for my good is also done for the good of my world. Help me to  
love my neighbor and my city like you do, seeking their good no matter the cost. Amen.

## **Week Four - Wednesday**

*...for the good of our city...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered  
senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

## **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand  
my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## **Reflect**

Read [Mark 10:42-45](#).

The way of Jesus is the humble, low way, not the way of power and prestige. This seems counterintuitive, as we would think the best way to see our city change would be through force or persuasion. Yet Jesus models a way of seeking the good of others through service that we cannot forget. The fight for the good of our city will come when we seek its good above our own, seek the good of our neighbors and our enemies over those who we love or who are like us. It will place us in the places and among the people who seem furthest from the Kingdom, because that's who Jesus came to serve.

## **Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, who in our city needs to be served the most? Where are the lost, forgotten, and neglected in our city? How can we better fight for their good?

*Pause and pray.*

## **Yield**

Lord, all you have done for my good is also done for the good of my world. Help me to love my neighbor and my city like you do, seeking their good no matter the cost. Amen.

## **Week Four - Thursday**

*...for the good of our city...*

## **Pause**

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

***A prayer of approach:***

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

**Reflect**

Read [2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2](#).

Being redeemed by Jesus and being sent by Jesus are two sides of the same coin. And as an ambassador of Jesus in the world, to fight for its good is to extend the invitation of God to the world to which you are sent. The good news is not that our church loves our city; it is that God Himself loves our city and wants its good. Ambassadors of Jesus are to embody this reality AND announce it to our world. We are the evidence of the good news and the extension of the invitation of God to those around us.

God is FOR Canal Fulton. If they are to see that, we must fight to be a church that not only seeks the good of our city, but announces the good of the Kingdom to those around us. We are benefactors of Jesus, but we are also representatives of Jesus. Never one and not the other. And as such, we re-present to others what God has done in and for us. We show and tell of the good news of Jesus for the good of our city.

**Ask**

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, is there any part of me that is hesitant to speak of the good news of Jesus to others? Who around me needs good news that only You can bring? How can I be an ambassador of You in my world?

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

Lord, all you have done for my good is also done for the good of my world. Help me to love my neighbor and my city like you do, seeking their good no matter the cost. Amen.

## Week Four - Friday

*...for the good of our city...*

## Pause

*As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still. To breathe slowly, to recenter my scattered senses upon the presence of God.*

*Pause and pray.*

### **A prayer of approach:**

Holy Spirit, our teacher, as I dive into your Word, come and awaken my heart, expand my mind, and shape my life today. Amen

## Reflect

Read [Revelation 21:1-5](#).

When Heaven finally comes to Canal Fulton, there will be a clear difference between that day and our world right now. The centerpiece of that day will be the presence of God among His people, not in part, but in complete communion and glory. Yet we also see the effects of this reality in what becomes part of the past when Jesus is fully in the present: no more tears, no more death, no more sorrows, and no more pain. "All these things are gone forever!" Amen!

If we were to ask, "Where could our city look more like Heaven?", perhaps we could use these things as markers of opportunities for the church. Where there is death, or tears, or pain, or sorrow - it is there where things are not what they will be. And perhaps it is in those places - whether they be in us, in our houses, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, or in any other place in our city, that we should

begin the work of joining Jesus. For it is there, if anywhere, where He will surely make all things new.

## Ask

Is the Spirit of God stirring anything in you as you reflect and pray?

(This could be a question, a word or phrase, or perhaps an obedient step to make)

*Pause and pray.*

Lord, if you are making Canal Fulton new, and are already at work doing so, where should we join you? How can we fight for the good of our city, especially where there is pain, sorrow, tears, and death?

*Pause and pray.*

## Yield

Lord, all you have done for my good is also done for the good of my world. Help me to love my neighbor and my city like you do, seeking their good no matter the cost. Amen.

## Family Discipleship Moments - Week Four

[2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2](#) - Retell these verses in your own words, then ask your kids to do the same. Allow them to ask questions. If you don't have an immediate answer, research it together.

[Mark 10:42-45](#) - You will NEED post it notes and pens. Have everyone in your family write down one thing they need help with this week. Stick these on the refrigerator and have each family member complete a task for someone else this week without being asked or wanting recognition in return. After all tasks have been completed talk about how serving each other made you feel. Can you continue this activity in weeks/months to come?

[Revelation 21:1-5](#) - How would Canal Fulton look differently if Heaven was in it? What would change about your neighborhood? What would change about your work/school? What would change in your household?

## Weekend Reflection Exercise

Each week, we spend our weekends in worship together and in prayer seeking the Lord for ways we can specifically pray for our mission in 2021. The following questions are prompts for you to use to pray, listen, and discern what you sense the Lord leading us to ask of him in 2021. We will get together at our Prayer Summit on February 17th at 7PM at the Speak Easy to talk about what we sense the Lord saying in these areas and build a strategy for praying well for our church and our city in 2021.

### Listen First

Spend 2-3 minutes in silence, clearing your mind and heart and focusing on the nearness of God.

*Pause and pray.*

### Give Thanks

Spend a few moments naming some of the things about who God is and what God has done (or is doing) that you are thankful for.

*Pause and praise.*

### Reflect

As you reflect on your week, is there a word, phrase, or question that has been resonating in you as you pray? If so, spend some time listening and asking the Lord what He wants to reveal to you about it. Jot down things that seem important so that we can hear them at the Summit.

### Four Areas of Intercession



We have four areas of prayer that we are asking you to pray about for the Prayer Summit. As you pray for each of these areas, spend some time in silence listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit. It could come as a verse that comes to mind, a name, a question, or an idea. Write down the things that come up as you pray.

**People** - Spend some time asking the Lord to send people our way that we need for present and future ministry. *Who do we have? Who do we need?*

- Ask the Lord to send us people who are willing to be discipled.
- Ask the Lord for people willing to use their spiritual gifts and who are hungry to be developed and released to do so.
- Ask the Lord for people with specific desires to be sent into specific neighborhoods or networks in our city.

**Wisdom** - Spend some time asking the Lord for his wisdom in these strategic areas of ministry. How can we be faithful in these areas of ministry in 2021?

- *Kids Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their own children? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the kids? How can we reach kids in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we serve kids in Canal Fulton?
- *Student Ministry* - How can we equip parents to disciple their kids? Who can we add to our volunteer roles that would impact this ministry for the good of the students of our city? How can we reach students in Canal Fulton who will never walk into our church? How can we equip kids to handle life at their age? How can we equip them for the future?
- *Discipleship* - Who should we invest our discipleship energy into? What are the best ways for us to make disciples in Canal Fulton?
- *Villages* - Where should we launch/relaunch Villages first? Who do we have who has a specific call and heart for a people in Canal Fulton?
- *Worship Gatherings* - Who do we have? Who are we missing? How can we create accessible opportunities for people to discover the way of Jesus through RTCF?
- *The Rock* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? Who do we have (or who do we need) to live on mission there?

- *Speak Easy* - How can we leverage this space for the good of our city? How can we build lasting and transformative community through our space there?

**Opportunities** - Spend some time asking the Lord to grant us opportunities to join Him in his work. *How can we join Jesus in his mission in Canal Fulton?*

- Ask the Lord to open doors for his church to announce and demonstrate the good news in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and other spaces in our city.
- Ask the Lord to do miraculous things that display his power and goodness to our city.
- Ask the Lord to bring us people of peace that open doors to people and networks that will never come to church.
- Ask the Lord to awaken us to the harvest around us.
- Ask the Lord to make our next steps of obedience clear.

**Stewardship** - Spend some time asking the Lord how we can best be fully given to Christ and his mission in 2021. *Who do we need to be this year? What does my life need to look like to join Jesus on mission in 2021?*

- **Lordship** - Pray that our people will yield to the Lordship of Jesus in every area of their lives.
- **Heart** - Pray that God would deepen our love for his presence through worship, prayer, Scripture, and community.
- **Humility** - Pray that God would humble us and teach us to empty ourselves in service of Jesus and our neighbors.
- **Faith** - Pray that God would increase our faith and give us opportunities to step out and trust in his goodness and provision.
- **Courage** - Pray that God would give us boldness and courage to join him in every circle of relationship we have.
- **Generosity** - Pray that God would give us the courage to be free with our time, energy, and resources for the good of our city.

## Final Reflection

At the end of your time of prayer, ask the Lord to highlight to you what is most important for us to continue praying about or discuss at the Summit.

Conclude with this simple prayer that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 -

Our Father in heaven,

    may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,

    as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need,

and forgive us our sins,

    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation,

    but rescue us from the evil one.

Amen.

## 2022 Prayer Summit

We believe that God is speaking to us about who we are to be and how we can join Him in 2022. One of the ways we want to process this is through a gathering we are calling our **Prayer Summit**. At the Prayer Summit, we are going to spend some time praying together, listening, and reflecting on what God has been revealing to us over the last four weeks. We are looking for some common themes, verses, and insights to help us pray and plan well for 2022. Here's the agenda for the night:

### Agenda for the Prayer Summit

- Gathering and Praise
- Listening Prayer
- Small Group Discussion of the questions below
- Regather for Group Reports and Synthesis
- Thanksgiving and Closing Prayer

Everyone who comes to the Summit will be asked to pray and to share their insights to some of the questions below. We ask that you prepare for our discussions at the Summit by thinking through how you would answer the following questions:

- What were the biggest revelations (or light-bulb moments) you had as you prayed over the last four weeks?
- What are some of the themes, ideas, Scriptures, or questions you came away with through this time of prayer?

- Did the Lord give you any specific insights or raise any questions in the four areas of intercession we made (People, Wisdom, Opportunities, Stewardship)?
- If we are going to practice the way of Jesus well, what does RTCF need to stop doing? Start doing? Continue doing?
- If you were going to fight for the good of our city in one specific way, what would you do?
- If RTCF were to ask the Lord to answer one prayer for us this year, what should we ask of Him?