

GOD IS GOOD

Today you can rejoice, no matter what is going on around you; no matter what is happening in your home, your city, your country, your world. *Because today is the day that the Lord has made.*

Psalm 118:24 (ESV) This is the day that the Lord has made; let us **rejoice** and be **glad** in it.

Where are you emotionally today? What are the emotions that you are bringing with you today into your conversation with God? Maybe you're feeling happy. Maybe you're feeling sad. Maybe you're a little anxious or fearful. Maybe you're just tired. Maybe you're excited. Maybe you're content. Maybe you're really upset about something. What is the emotion that you're bringing with you this morning?

God is looking to interact with the *real* you today; so bring the *real* you to Him this morning as you start to engage God in prayer. Tell Him this morning where you are coming from.

Good morning, God. It's good just to be taking some time to be still and to engage with you. And Lord, here is what I am feeling today...

Tell God just how you are feeling today.

Father, I am so glad that I can come to you just as I am today. Lord, I ask you for your help today. Help me to meet with you as I pray. Thank you, Lord.

PRAISE HIM

Now refocus your heart as you continue in prayer; look to the goodness of your God.

Psalm 34:8 (ESV) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Our God is *good*. Our God is so *good*! Lift this simple prayer to God.

*God, I praise you because you are **good**.*

Just let your mind settle there for a minute. Think about what God would be like if he *wasn't* good. What would the world be like? What would your life be like?

Tell Him what it means to you that *He is good*.

GIVE THANKS

The Bible calls us to be thankful and to express our thanks.

Psalm 106:1 (ESV) Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord for he is *good*, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Give thanks to God now for two things that God blessed you with yesterday.

Take a moment and tell God thank you for those two blessings you experienced yesterday.

REQUESTS

As you continue in prayer today, the reality is that you have needs and you need your God to meet your needs. The beautiful thing is that he tells you to *ask*.

Matthew 7:7 (ESV) “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.”

We are told to make requests, to *ask* of God. This morning focus in and ask in regard to your family. Think of two or three of your family members. For each one, think of one thing that God could do to bring more that is good into their lives. What would God desire to do in their lives today?

Ask Him to do those things today.

Heavenly Father, I ask that you would be at work in my family's lives. Lord, for this first family member I ask that you would move in a powerful way.

Tell God what you would ask of Him for that first person in your family.

Pick the second person in your family; ask God to be moving in a specific way in their life today, as well.

If you want to spend more time praying for other family members, do that now.

YIELD

Continue in prayer now giving yourself and your day to God.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, said these words referring to Jesus.

John 3:30 (ESV) “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

May that be your prayer today; that your role in the story of history today would be to make much of Jesus and to point to Jesus. If that means that you fade into the background, that's fantastic.

Remember that this is *His* world and *you* are *His*. And this is *His* day. Give it all back to him right now.

Lord, I want to make today all about you. Please help me to make much of you, first in my heart today. And then please set up divine appointments so that I can point to you and make much of you for the sake of those around me. Jesus, may you increase and may I decrease today. All for your glory and for the good of the world.

Are there other conversations that you need to continue to have with God? Do you need to spend more time in praise or share a few more things that you are really grateful for from yesterday? Maybe there are more things about your family that you want to bring before God in prayer. Maybe you just want to

spend more time turning today and yourself over to Him right now. Maybe you just want to sit in the stillness and just rest in His presence for a little bit today.

What's the conversation that you need to have next with God?

As you step into that conversation, just know that God is *big* and God is *good* and is *God is with you* as you go through the day.

As you continue to pray, consider these areas of your life and talk to God about them...

Family, Friends, Church, Work, Yourself

OUR GOD IS THE GREAT GOD

Start your day with acknowledging *who* it is that you are even talking to. Stop and think about the fact that the God you are about to engage with is the same God that *spoke* creation into existence.

PRAISE HIM

Genesis 1:3 (ESV) And God said, "Let there be..."

And there was. The God that you are about to talk to is *the Great God*. The Great King above all others, in whose hand all of creation fits.

Psalm 95:2-6 (ESV) Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a **great God**, and a **great King above all gods**. In his **hand** are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us **worship** and **bow down**; let us **kneel** before the Lord, our **Maker!**

Your response to such a God is this - it's simply to worship, to come before Him and to bow down before our Maker. Start your morning with this prayer:

*God, this morning, I worship you because you are the **Creator**, I worship you because you are my **Maker**, you are the **Great God**, the **Great King**, you are **above all others**, there is **no one like you**.*

As you continue to pray, tell God what it means to you that all of those things are true.

Now tell God what it means to you that He is all of those things!

GIVE THANKS

Psalm 95:2 (ESV) Let us come into his presence with **thanksgiving**.

Take a moment and think about yesterday and think of two ways that God blessed you.

What two blessings did God bring into your life yesterday?

Take a moment and say thank you to God for those blessings.

Now turn your attention to praying for our leaders.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **for kings**, and **all who are in high positions**, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

The statement “for kings and all who are in high positions” means for all those who are in authority and given the responsibility of leadership in our lives. We have so many leaders, but this morning we will point out a few to pray for. Certainly, you don’t need to limit your prayer to those that we are going to mention right here. You can continue to pray for other leaders as the Lord guides you.

Pray for the President, Vice-President, Governor, Mayor, Pastors

God, I just want to pray right now that you would give our President God-given wisdom, that you would be his strength, that you would protect him, Lord.

I also want to pray for our Vice-President. Lord, I pray the same, for wisdom for him, I pray for strength and I pray that you would protect our Vice-President, as well.

Lord, for our Governor, I pray that you would give him wisdom beyond his own wisdom, give him strength, Lord, and that you would protect him even now.

Lord, I pray for our Mayor and for all that he has got to decide. I pray that you give him decision making ability, give him that wisdom. God, I pray that you would strengthen him and that you would protect him.

Lord, I want to pray for our pastors. Lord, I pray for our pastors at North. I pray for wisdom, I pray for strength and I pray that you would protect them, Lord. And I pray for all the pastors in this valley today. God I just pray that they would be able to make the decisions they need to make. God, that you would empower them with a strength beyond their own, and God that you would keep them safe and you would protect them from the enemy today.

If you want to continue to pray for these leaders or other leaders, please continue to do so now.

YIELD

As you continue to pray, start the day by giving it to God and giving yourself to Him.

Romans 12: 1 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the **mercies** of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

God has shown us such great mercy by sending his son to die on a cross to take our sin on himself so that we could have new and eternal life. The only response that we can have to this is to simply say, “Here’s my life. I owe you everything.” Start today with that prayer.

God, you gave everything for me. How can I not give everything I have back to you? I desire to honor you with everything I think, say, or do today. Help me to live for you, Lord. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

You are encouraged to continue your personal conversation with God now. As you do, if you want to go back and spend a little more time praising God for who he is or thanking God for a few more things from yesterday. Maybe you want to bring more of your personal requests to Him right now. Maybe you

want to continue to pray for your leaders. Whatever it is that God has put on your heart, continue in conversation with Him this morning.

As you continue to pray, consider these areas of your life and talk to God about them...

Family, Friends, Church, Work, Yourself

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

Today is another day to love and serve our great God.

PRAISE HIM

Start this morning by asking God for help praying this morning.

Good morning, God. Would you please help me to pray today? I need your help to focus my mind and to connect with you today. Thank you for helping me to pray this morning! It's in your name that I pray, Jesus. Amen.

You probably have some ideas about what today is going to hold. But the reality is there's going to be things come along today that you are not expecting or are not prepared for. But there has *never* been a single day that God has been surprised because *God knows everything*.

Psalm 139: 1-4 (ESV) Oh Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

There is *nothing* that your God does not know. And that means he knows *absolutely everything* about you. The bible also teaches that God loves you in an *incredible* way.

John 3:16 (ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God knows everything and *God knows everything about you*. And here's the thing...he still loves you. That's pretty amazing. He *knows everything* about you and he still loves you; loves you enough that he would send his own son to die for you.

Start out your day today by praising God for who he is.

*God, I praise you that **you know everything** and that you are a God of love. And that even though you know all about me, good and bad, you still love me.*

Tell God now what that means to you!

GIVE THANKS

Psalm 9:1 (ESV) I will give thanks to the Lord with my **whole heart**; I will recount **all** of your wonderful deeds.

When the psalmist says "with my whole heart" that means not just saying thank you with your mind, but letting it come out of your heart; it's realizing that if the Lord didn't *give* you that blessing, *you wouldn't have it*. Secondly, that we don't deserve what he has given to us.

Then the psalmist writes, "I will recount *all* of your wonderful deeds". You may not have time to recount all of them this morning, but spend some time today to do a little more than you typically do. Think of five things that you are thankful for and give thanks for those.

God, I want to thank you for all you've done for me. Specifically, today I am grateful for these five things...

As the five things come to mind, tell God "thank you" for each one of them.

REQUESTS

1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for **all people**.

Every single person needs prayer. This morning, who would God have you pray for specifically? Take a moment and think of two different people that you know God wants to bring good into their lives and that you need to pray for them. Who would those people be? Who is the first person God is bringing to mind this morning? _____ What good might God desire to bring into their life? Ask God to bring that good into their life right now.

Who else is God bringing to mind? _____ What good might God desire to bring into their life? Ask God to bring that good into their life right now, as well.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV) But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

As you continue to pray this morning for others, do you feel that someone is against you or that someone is harboring something against you? Pray for that person now.

God please show _____ your love and your grace in a great way today.

YIELD

James 4:7 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

God, today I want to submit myself to your will. Help me to seek your will above my own. Whatever you want to do in me or through me today, have your way.

You are encouraged as you continue to pray today to spend more time in praise or in giving thanks to God. Or maybe there are other people that you want to bring before God and ask for him to bring more that is good into their lives. Maybe you have some personal needs that you want to lay before the Lord right now.

As you continue to pray, consider these areas of your life and talk to God about them...

Family, Friends, Church, Work, Yourself

GOD IS UNCHANGING

Today, be reminded and encouraged that although it is a brand-new day and it's different than yesterday, *Jesus is the same*.

PRAISE HIM

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV) Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday** and **today** and **forever**.

As you enter this new, uncharted day, remember that Jesus hasn't changed. He's the same as he was yesterday. You can look to him, you can lean on him, you can trust in him and you can expect him to guide you and lead you and use you today for his sake.

Praise him today that he is *unchanging*.

*Lord, I praise you because you are **unchanging**. I praise you that I can count on you, because your promises stay the same and you never fail.*

Tell Jesus what it means to you the he is *unchanging*.

GIVE THANKS

In the book of Philippians, the apostle Paul is writing to the church at Philippi, and he expresses this gratitude that he has for the people there.

Philippians 1:3 (ESV) I **thank** my God in all my remembrance of **you**.

Do the same today; stop and think about the people that God has put in your life that have deeply impacted your life and have made a difference in your life and that you are grateful for them. Think of two people right now in particular; one that is in your family and one that is outside of your family. Tell God "thank you" for them and be specific about why you are grateful for them today.

Thank God for that family member that came to your mind and tell Him why you are so grateful for them. _____

Next, thank God for that person outside of your family that came to your mind and tell Him why you are grateful for them, also. _____

REQUESTS

Colossians 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the **church**. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Jesus is the head of the **church**. The church is **His**. The church is **His body**. And that is **me and you**. As followers of Jesus, **we are the body of Christ, His church**. Take a moment and pray for our church. Pray for our church to grow in our love for God.

Now pray for our church to grow in our ability to love each other, especially in the season that we are in right now.

Next, pray for our church to stay connected to each other.

Finally, pray for our church to have a greater impact in the world, especially in the season that we are in right now.

YIELD

John 14:15 (ESV) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. "
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Living a life of obedience is Jesus' love language. Every time you obey him, you are, in effect, saying, "I love you" to him. Start off this day bowing your knees and choosing to live in obedience to him.

Lord, I choose to obey you today. When I am tempted to turn my back on you and how you have called me to live, please give me strength to choose to follow you. Thank you, Lord.

As you continue in your time of prayer with the Lord, maybe you want to continue giving praise for the fact that Jesus is *unchanging*. Maybe there are a few more people you want to say "thank you" to God for them. Maybe you want to pray a little bit more for your church family. As you continue to pray for the things that God has put on your heart, you are encouraged to consider these areas of your life and talk to God about them....

Family

Friends

Church

Work

Yourself

GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Take a moment and just be honest about where you are at this morning. As you are walking through that honesty, just lay that out before God before you start the rest of your prayer this morning. Tell God what's on your heart and just clear your mind so that you can be receptive to what he has for you today.

PRAISE HIM

God is *always faithful*.

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, he will *remain faithful*, for he cannot disown himself.

This means that even when we are unfaithful towards God, that he *remains faithful* towards us; that his love towards us doesn't change and isn't contingent upon our behavior. Take a moment and say this prayer...

*God, I praise you because you are **always faithful**.*

Tell God what it means to you that he is *always faithful*.

GIVE THANKS

Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Think of two things from yesterday that you are thankful for. Now, give thanks to God for those two things. _____

REQUESTS

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Take a few minutes and lay down all of the things that are worrying you right now. Ask God to pick those things up for you. Sometimes, it can be easy to get overwhelmed or anxious about all the things that have to be done in a day. Sometimes it's easy to be so focused on what needs to be done that you don't get anything done. Think about the areas in your life or in your day that you are trying to control and ask God to be the one to take control of those things. Ask God to take control today.

YIELD

1 John 5:3-4 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world, even our faith.

May this be your prayer today:

Lord, I want to keep your commands today. I want to show you love and follow what you say because what you say is good for me.

You are encouraged to continue to pray and spend time with God. Maybe there are some other things that are on your heart today and you just want to spend some extra time in the Lord with that. As you continue to pray, consider these areas of your life and talk to God about them.

Family

Friends

Church

Work

Yourself