VENTURE CHURCH

12-Day

Prayer Guide

Above & BEYOND

MOVING FORWARD | WITH PURPOSE | IN FAITH

Hey Venture Family,

Thanks for joining us in studying the Bible and praying/fasting about the Above and Beyond Initiative. We are excited to move forward with purpose and in faith!

*This prayer guide is designed to be used for 12 days – **beginning Monday, Oct. 24**. We'll wrap up on **Friday, Nov. 4th** – the same day as the 24-hour prayer/fast marathon celebration.*

- Chris

Chris Woolard

Venture Church Pastor

24-Hour Prayer/Fast Marathon

To cap off our 12 days of prayer we are having both a 24-hour prayer marathon and a day of fasting together **from 7:00pm on Thursday, Nov. 3 until 7:00pm Friday, Nov. 4**.

Scan the QR code below to sign up for a 30 minute slot.

OR visit **JoinTheVenture.com/AboveAndBeyond** to sign up

We also encourage you to fast from food (in whatever way you choose) during the entire 24-hour period. For example: Instead of eating at meal times take time to meditate, pray, and worship.

Then . . . 24-Hour Prayer/Fast Celebration

Please join us on **Friday, Nov. 4 from 6:30-7pm** as we wrap up the 24-Hour Prayer/Fast Marathon by spending the final 30 minutes praying together at the new building location (76 Darlington Avenue).

Above & BEYOND

Above & BEYOND

JoinTheVenture.com/AboveAndBeyond

How to use this Prayer Guide

Family/Friends

This guide is best done with your family or a friend. The daily readings are very short but the intentionality is what will make it powerful! Set aside 5-10 minutes each day where you will meet with your family, get on the phone with a friend, or gather with someone and do the following:

1. **READ**
   Read the scripture aloud. You may also find it helpful to look it up in the Bible and read the surrounding verses to better understand the context. YouVersion is a great Bible app available on all platforms that's easy to use.

2. **REFLECT**
   Read the reflective thought below the Bible passage and ask yourself or discuss with your group how the passage applies to your life.

3. **PRAY**
   Talk with God. Have a conversation with Him like you would a friend. Listen as much as you speak.

4. **APPLY**
   After reading through the day's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Day 1

✓ Check once complete

Monday, Oct. 24

A Conversation with the Creator

READ

1 John 5:14-15

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

REFLECT

During the next twelve days, we'll be asking God to let us see things the way He sees them, to understand how much He loves those that are still far from Him, to become passionate about the unlimited potential Venture has through the power of His Holy Spirit. What do you see as your role in helping our church live out that potential?

PRAY

Thank God for being there even though you can't see Him. Acknowledge His amazing power. Pray that His will is done in the lives of the people of Venture and the community surrounding our new space on Darlington Avenue.

Pray that each of us will not only fulfill the potential that we have but also seek God's power to go above and beyond for His Kingdom.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down 1 specific way you want to go above and beyond in your faith in the next 12 days.

Notes:

Day 2

✓ Check once complete

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Making Prayer a Daily Conversation with God

READ

Matthew 6:6-8 (NIV)

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

REFLECT

God longs for you to spend time with Him and for you to be brutally honest with Him. He hears us and cares. This study is about cultivating a heart that remembers to pray. Take a minute to just honestly talk to your Creator. Ask yourself, "If I was meeting up with a trusted friend: How would I greet them? How would I thank them for things they may have done for me? What would I ask them to help me with?" God wants to hear from us just like that.

PRAY

Ask God to teach you how to pray more faithfully and honestly. Practice being still and hearing from Him. Thank God for Venture and ask Him to show you how you can help fulfill its mission to be a church for people who don't go to church.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down 1 specific prayer you have for Venture Church as we are in our Above and Beyond Initiative. Commit to praying for that daily for the rest of this week or longer.

Notes:

Day 3

✓ Check once complete

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Consecration. It's a Big Deal.

READ

"Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." ***Joshua 3:5 (NIV)***

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." ***Psalm 51:10 (NIV)***

REFLECT

"Consecration" is about preparing yourself for special and higher purposes. Similar to a person training as an athlete might change their diet and get more sleep, we can spiritually make intentional choices to set ourselves apart for God's service in special seasons of our lives. This always includes repentance (turning your heart away from sinful things and towards God's holiness).

God wants us to come to Him in humility; to repent and ask forgiveness for those things we do and think that are opposite of His ways. He hears the plea of a sincere heart that wishes to become loyal.

At Venture we have a higher purpose; higher than just having a more comfortable, convenient, or "cool" place to come each week. We are driven by the idea of people that are far from God finding their way home. If we're to make steps in that direction, we must start with repentance in our own lives.

PRAY

Ask God to clearly show you those areas of your life where you aren't following His ways. Ask Him to forgive you and to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind". Pray for God to work in the hearts of all those that currently attend Venture; that He would show us our brokenness and give us His vision for a better way. Ask Him to keep front and center the purpose for which He is shaping our church.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 4

✓ Check once complete

Thursday, Oct. 27

Notes:

We are Representatives of God in this World

READ

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

This is how many people know this passage.
Let's read it again in the New Living Translation:

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy." Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

REFLECT

In this passage, Jesus was teaching his followers about prayer. And in it, He begins by acknowledging the holiness of our God by saying that even the mention of His name is to be sacred. We must do everything in our power to represent God's name well. It's wild that He trusts us to represent His good name to those that don't yet follow Him.

Our actions either glorify His name or give Satan another opportunity to distort how others view Jesus. Here's the point: Let's hold on to what is right and be an accurate example of Jesus to our corner of the world. May His will truly be done here and now through Venture Church!

PRAY

Thank God for trusting you with such a huge responsibility. Ask Him for the strength and wisdom to represent Him well. Ask Him to let those in your life who are far from Jesus see Him through your relationship with them. Commit to using your time, money, and talents to being a tangible expression of Jesus in their lives and making Venture into a place where they can bump into Jesus.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down the names of a few people (2-5) who you have influence over and to whom you can represent God. Ask yourself if you could be more intentional about that.

Day 5

✓ Check once complete

Friday, Oct. 28

What is Lighting Your Path?

READ

Psalm 119:104-106 (NIV)

"I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws."

REFLECT

God has given us the amazing gift of the Bible to understand who He is. We need to spend time reading it and internalizing it. Doing so is one way we get to know God, what He wants us to do, and His vision for our lives. Being a follower of Jesus isn't a "religious status" or a title. It's a journey! And as we go through our own spiritual journey, following Jesus (God in the flesh) we are transformed and equipped to make a difference in the world around us.

PRAY

Thank God for the Bible and the chance to connect with Him through it. Ask Him for the courage to follow the path that it outlines for your life. Ask Him to give clarity on where your steps should take you and to light your path so that you can lead others to His light.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down some other "guides" that you may be allowing to light your path and commit to looking to the Word of the Lord as your number one guide instead.

Notes:

Day 6

✓ Check once complete

Saturday, Oct. 29

Notes:

A Source of Hope, Encouragement, and Patience

READ

Romans 15:4-5 (NIV)

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had."

REFLECT

There are a lot of challenges before us today. As a church, the Above and Beyond Initiative is pointing us to moving forward with purpose and in faith. In our individual lives there are countless ways we can be challenged to live as God Chasing, Grace Shaped, Love Agents. On top of those goals we face obstacles, temptations, and apathy that keep us from doing any of that.

To live out our potential we need hope, encouragement, and patience.

It's awesome that the Bible is full of stories of broken ordinary people stepping out in faith to do things they never thought possible.

If you're not already doing it, commit today to getting into a regular habit of reading God's Word. Because God is faithful, the result will be more hope, more encouragement, and more patience.

PRAY

Thank God for the hope, encouragement, and patience that come from reading the Bible. Ask Him to help you to be faithful in reading and applying it to your life. If you don't know much about the Bible and need help learning how to get started, please shoot an email to info@jointheventure.com and someone will reply to you this week to share some resources.
Continue to ask God what steps you need to take to be faithful in your actions, finances, and relationships.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Day 7

✓ Check once complete

Sunday, Oct. 30

Learning to Step Out in Faith

READ

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

REFLECT

Faith. People talk about it a lot. Faith is "that thing you trust in through times when you don't have answers." If you read through the rest of Hebrews chapter 11, you'll read story after story of people that did crazy things based on a confidence in things they couldn't see. Their faith was that trusting God would get them through anything they faced.

Faith always leads to action. And when they acted God showed up. God responds to faith. When we have faith in His Word, we can pray believing that He hears every prayer, whether spoken or unspoken.

PRAY

What is God asking you to do? What step of faith is he asking you to take? Ask Him. And if you know… step out!

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 8

✓ Check once complete

Monday, Oct. 31

Finding Joy Through Faith

READ

1 Peter 1:7-8 (NIV)

"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy."

REFLECT

Joy is a mark of true faith in Jesus. In another passage, joy is called the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life. Have you experienced that joy – a joy that is greater than your circumstances – a joy that only God can give you?

When we meet with Jesus by praying, reading the Bible, and pursuing other spiritual disciplines like fasting and giving, we can experience that kind of joy. Let God fill you today. Joy does not come from our circumstances or what we possess; it comes from who we trust!

PRAY

Ask God to help you keep your focus in the right place. Ask Him to help you put self-interests aside and go all out serving Him and others so that you can be filled with His "inexpressible joy". Ask Him to help Venture Church experience this kind of joy as we surrender ourselves to His faithful leading in every area of our lives.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 9

✓ Check once complete

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Others First

READ

Mark 10:44-45 (NIV)

"... and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

REFLECT

These parts of Christian living are sometimes the scariest to embrace but always lead to the most joy. When you consider that Jesus left a perfect home in heaven for a life on an imperfect earth, you have to wonder why. What motivated Him? Well, you did. He came for you.

Did He come to be served? No. He came to be a servant. He came to sacrifice His life for us.

So when we are called to put others first as a primary virtue of our faith, it comes from a place of US imitating HIM.

Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). What is he asking of you? Are you willing to go there?

PRAY

Thank Jesus for coming to Earth to serve you and ask Him for the strength to serve and love others as He did. Ask Him for a clear vision of how you can help others through serving at Venture. Ask Him to help your response to His love and service be the same, to love and serve.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 10

✓ Check once complete

Wednesday, Nov. 2

This is Love

READ

1 John 4:10-12 (NIV)

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is made complete in us."

REFLECT

Did you catch that? The best way for people that are far from God to see Him is for those of us who are followers of Jesus to love each other. As imperfect and messed up as we are, He still uses us to be His representatives. If Venture Church is going to be anything meaningful, we must sacrificially love others with a humble attitude.

PRAY

Thank God for the people in your life who have shown you His love; those people that were part of your journey to something better - to freedom. For many of us, those people have been people we've bumped into at Venture.

Pray that God would continue to lead us to be a church that passionately, recklessly, and sacrificially shares His message of freedom with the hurting world around us in a relevant way.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 11

✓ Check once complete

Thursday, Nov. 3

Greater Things

READ

Luke 5:26 (NIV)

"Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, 'We have seen remarkable things today.'"

REFLECT

Many times, to see God do great things we must ask and expect Him to do great things. This is part of Faith. Have you seen God do great things in your own life or in the lives of others? It is an amazing thing to see God work in our lives.

Let's expect God to work in a remarkable way through this Above and Beyond Initiative. The things we are about to see in the next few weeks are only a taste of what He has in store for our ministry together.

PRAY

Ask God to prepare and strengthen you in the coming day, and to help you to surrender your life completely with a believing and faithful heart. Seek help to be strengthened by His word and ask to be ready for greater things to be done.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

Day 12

✓ Check once complete

Friday, Nov. 4

Generosity

READ

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

REFLECT

When someone presents our church leaders with a need, we regularly ask ourselves, "how can we be hilariously generous right now?" We don't want to be stingy or fearful in how we love people through the resources God has blessed us with. God loves it when we give quickly when an opportunity presents itself.

All we have belongs to God and He calls us to be good stewards of these resources. Generosity flows naturally from the hearts of those who love Him. Think of how you can cheerfully give as an act of gratitude for God's love and mercy.

PRAY

Ask God to direct you about what to give, and how to give courageously, creatively, and consistently. Thank God for the gift He has given of his Son, and how He has made an eternal difference in your life. Ask God how you can make an eternal difference in your living and your giving.

APPLY

After reading through today's prayer guide, write down any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Jesus or to your involvement in the Above and Beyond Initiative.

Notes:

MOVING FORWARD WITH PURPOSE IN FAITH

12-Day
Prayer Guide

VENTURE CHURCH

Above & BEYOND