

Sample Prayer Guide

This is a sample schedule for one hour of prayer. While the specifics (like the number of minutes per section) are only suggestions, there are concepts that should be a part of each hour of prayer: praise, confession, thanksgiving and intercession.

5 minutes 1. Watching the Lord

"Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes." (Isaiah 52:8)

- a. Praise Him, sing songs that focus on Him. See the end of this guide for praise Psalms.
- b. Stay awake spiritually and physically "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." (Revelation 16:15)

5 minutes c. Thanksgiving "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4:2)

5 minutes 2. Watching yourself

Confession "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

5 minutes 3. Watching the Word

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." (Psalms 1:2-3)

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples ... You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 15:7-8, 16)

- a. Read Scripture
- b. Pray God's Word. An excellent resource is "Praying God's Word" by Beth Moore.

30 minutes 4. Watching in Intercession

- a. Mission, vision and values of FBC. Name these and ask that they be fulfilled. Pray as God leads you. (See end of guide for these.)
- b. Church family, church ministries and church staff. About seventy percent of all prayers in the New Testament are related to the body of believers.
- c. City. "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:7)
- d. Nations. "These I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isaiah 56:7) For resources use the weekly World Outreach Prayer Focus from Sunday morning. Also "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone. Adult and children's editions are available.
- e. Unbelievers

10 minutes 5. Watching by waiting

"This is what the Lord says to me: 'Go post a lookout and have him report what he sees. When he sees chariots with teams of horses, riders on donkeys or riders on camels, let him be alert, fully alert.' And the lookout shouted, 'Day after day, my lord, I stand on the watchtower; every night I stay at my post.'" (Isaiah 21:6-8)

Listening to the Lord

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." (Habakkuk 2:1)

Psalms of Praise

Psalm 19 Praise for God's creation and for His laws.
Psalm 24 The Earth belongs to the King of Glory.
Psalm 29 God's power and glory as seen in the lightning.
Psalm 33 Sing praises to God for His power, purpose and love.
Psalm 65 Praise for God's forgiveness, power and physical blessings.
Psalm 66 Praise for God's deliverance from the oppression of sin.
Psalm 67 Praise and prayer for God's blessings.
Psalm 68 Praise for a God of power who cares about individual problems.
Psalm 78 Praise to the great Judge of the Earth
Psalm 93 Praise for God's majesty and holiness
Psalm 97 Rejoice because of God's righteousness and justice.
Psalm 98 A song of praise for the salvation of the Lord.
Psalm 99 Exaltation of the God Who is holy and just.
Psalm 103 Praise for a compassionate God.
Psalm 104 Praise for the wonders of God's creation.
Psalm 113 Praise for a Lord of Heaven Who is sensitive.
Psalm 114 How God's wonders ought to bring trembling.
Psalm 117 Praise for God's love and faithfulness.
Psalm 136 Special poem of thanksgiving for all things.
Psalm 138 Praise to the faithful God.
Psalm 145 Praise to a faithful, loving and righteous God.
Psalm 148 All creatures praise the God of creation.
Psalm 150 A call for all things to praise the Lord.

Our **mission** is to influence our friends, our community and our world to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ ... one life at a time.

Our **vision** (*If the Lord wills, this is what we will achieve and become, to His glory*)

- We will grow to where the worship of God is the focus of every area of our lives.
- We will become a House of Prayer.
- We will grow to become a church of 15,000 worshipers.
- We will saturate our community with small groups - one every 1/2 mile, open to everyone!
- After saturation of small groups in our community, we will plant churches in the outlying areas.
- We will increase our world impact by supporting the planting of churches in other nations.
- We will become an increasing influence in our public school system.

Our **values** are what *govern* our pursuit of our mission and vision.

- Love for God!
- Love for one another!
- Love for people who are lost from Christ!
- Prayer first!
- Faithfully living in biblical community with one another: small groups and large!
- By faith, enthusiastically shift to where God is working!