

“Praying with Purpose: 31 Days with Jesus”

Over the next 31 days we will focus our attention on Jesus - who He is and His impact on our lives and the life of our church. You are encouraged to use a notebook or journal to record what God shows you. On some days you will be asked to write down a scripture, quote, or thought of your choosing on an index card to give to someone with whom you come in contact (school, work, shopping, etc.). This will hopefully encourage them and open the door for sharing Jesus. For those who can, we will meet at 4:30 on Wednesdays and Sundays starting August 7 in the Smith SS room to pray together for God’s working in our lives and the life of our church. There is power in prayer only because of the power of the God to whom we pray. Thanks for being a part of this journey. Get ready for great things!

Day 1: Thursday, August 1 “Give Him the Name *Jesus*”

Pause: Luke 1: 26-33

Ponder: What comes to mind when you hear or speak the name of Jesus? Why have you committed to these 31 days of prayer? What do you hope to have happen?

Pray: Ask God to help you be completely honest with Him as you pray. Praise Him for who He is. Thank Him for what He has done in your life. Trust Him for what He is going to do in your life. Ask for God’s guidance for **Mike, Luis, Jamie & Families** as they lead us.

Day 2: Friday, August 2 “How Can This Be?”

Pause: Luke 1: 34-38

Ponder: Think of a time when you sensed the power of God “come upon you” and perhaps, like Mary, thought “How can this be?” Why do you think God chooses to reveal Himself in such real ways?

Pray: Thank God for His dominion over everybody and everything. Be brave enough to give Him permission to release His power in your life so that He can do through you whatever He desires. Pray for our **Office Staff & Custodian**.

Day 3: Saturday, August 3 Kindred Hearts

Pause: Luke 1: 39-44

Ponder: Has God ever provided someone to share your joy or understand the unique place in which you find yourself? How will you allow God to use you to be that person for someone else?

Pray: Praise God for His comfort that enables you to comfort others. Pray for our **Deacons & Families**.

Day 4: Sunday, August 4 Mary's Song

Pause: Luke 1: 46-55

Ponder: Don't dwell on your own shortcomings today. If someone were to really look inside, what evidence of God's work would they see in you? How is your life different than it was before Jesus?

Pray: Allow your heart to rejoice in the Lord today. Pray that God would never let you get over the wonder of God providing The Way for someone like you to know Him and serve Him. Pray for our **Sunday School/Bible Study Leaders**.

Day 5: Monday, August 5 Good Time to Celebrate

Pause: Luke 2: 1-7

Ponder: What do you love most about celebrating the birth of Christ? Have you ever allowed the secular nature of Christmas to cheapen your worship?

Pray: Ask God for the boldness to speak of His glorious splendor and wonderful works. Pray for **Parkview Christian School, Personnel, School Board, Students, and Families**.

Day 6: Tuesday, August 6 Perfect Timing

Pause: Galatians 4: 3-7

Ponder: What has God shown you in your own life about His perfect timing? Does His sovereignty over everything & everybody make you feel confined & restricted or does it make you feel secure & at rest in His will? What does this tell you about the coming of a new pastor?

Pray: Praise the God who works out everything in agreement with His will and who meets you in your deepest need...just when you need Him most. Pray for **Eufaula City Schools, The Lakeside School, Barbour County Schools, Personnel, Students, School Boards, & Families**.

Day 7: Wednesday, August 7 Heaven Came Down

Pause: Luke 2: 8-14

Ponder: Who are the "all people" in your world? How might the "glory of the Lord" look around those with whom you share the Good News?

Pray: Thank God that His Good News is for all people. Acknowledge that you deserve death & shame but are now presented before God as holy, faultless, and blameless (Col. 1: 21-22). **Index Card Day!!!**

"Jesus paid it All, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow"

"O Praise the One Who Paid My Debt, Who Raised This Life up from the Dead!"

Day 8: Thursday, August 8 A Night of Nights

Pause: Luke 2: 15-20

Ponder: What would have to change in your life for you to experience more times of “treasuring” your blessings and “meditating” on the goodness & greatness of God?

Pray: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14). Pray for the **Youth & Children Ministries/Leadership** of our church.

Day 9: Friday, August 9 Covenant and Redemption

Pause: Luke 2: 21-24

Ponder: Are there any religious customs, disciplines, or traditions that give you warm feelings of nostalgia, but they have lost their true spiritual significance?

Pray: Tell God how grateful you are that, in the consistent honoring of His Word, He causes your relationship with Him to grow and deepen. Pray for **Food Bank Ministry & All Involved**.

Day 10: Saturday, August 10 Listening and Answering

Pause: Luke 2: 41-47

Ponder: What are some questions you have for Jesus right now? How assured are you that He is listening? What do you think it will require for you to be receptive to “His understanding and His answers?”

Pray: Pray that you would come before Jesus in perfect trust, knowing that He always lives to intercede for you (Heb. 7: 25). Pray for the **Pregnancy Resource Center, Volunteers, and Client Families**.

Day 11: Sunday, August 11 What It’s All About

Pause: Luke 2: 48-50

Ponder: Are you searching for Jesus? Have you lost sight of Him? Do you know someone searching for Jesus even if they don’t realize it?

Pray: Rejoice in that you are “His business.” Ask God to help you live a life that would cause others to be surprised to find you any other place than “about My Father’s business.” Pray for **Womens Ministry & Women on Missions including RAs & GAs. Index Card Day!!!**

Day 12: Monday, August 12 Picturing Jesus

Pause: Luke 2: 39-40, 51-52

Ponder: What are some qualities you admire in people that you think Jesus might have also possessed? How might His voice, His laugh, have sounded?

Pray: Thank God that Jesus was real – fully God, fully man. Ask for opportunities to give hope to others. Pray for the **Music Ministry, Luis, Choir, Musicians, & Technical Support.**

Day 13: Tuesday, August 13 Wearing Our Transgressions

Pause: Matthew 3: 1-6

Ponder: What's the purpose of confession & repentance after we've already been forgiven of our sins? In your times of repentance, what do you find the Lord doing in your heart that never seems to happen at any other time?

Pray: Ask the Lord to make you quick to return to Him, for He has redeemed you and "remembers your sins no more" (Isa. 43:25). Pray for the **Greeters, Security, and Prayer Room Ministries.**

Day 14: Wednesday, August 14 Waist-Deep in Glory

Pause: Matthew 3: 13-15

Ponder: What was it like when you first met The Christ? How does He still amaze you at times with the sheer glory and wonder and reality of His presence?

Pray: Ask God to remove the things in your life that keep you from being just as humbled and overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus as John was. Pray for the **Pastor Search Team.**

Day 15: Thursday, August 15 A Father Unlike His Son

Pause: Matthew 3: 16-17

Ponder: What is the benefit of knowing there is a heaven and knowing God's there, but not being able to physically see it for yourself?

Pray: Voice Colossians 1: 15-17. Pray for **each generation represented in our church** – that we would determine to be all that God has intended for us to be.

"I'm waiting, I'm waiting on You, Lord And I am hopeful; I'm waiting on You Lord, Though it is painful But patiently, I will wait. I will move ahead, bold and confident; Taking every step in obedience; While I'm waiting, I will serve You While I'm waiting, I will worship While I'm waiting, I will not faint, I'll be running the race Even while I wait." (Waller)

Day 16: Friday, August 16 Tempting Invitations

Pause: Luke 4: 1-13

Ponder: Why would God lead His Son into the desert immediately following His baptism? What things in your life need to be settled – one on one with Jesus – before you represent Him in public?

Pray: Use Hebrew 4:15 and 1 Cor. 10:13 as your prayer today. **Index Card Day!!!**

Day 17: Saturday, August 17 Proclaiming Provision

Pause: Luke 4: 14-21

Ponder: What have you been living with (or without) because you do not fully comprehend all that Christ has come to be and do in you?

Pray: Proclaim to God that you are “no longer a slave” ...that He has called you out of the darkness! Pray for our **nation, President Trump, VP Pence, Cabinet members, Congressmen, Supreme Court and all those having influence over them.**

Day 18: Sunday, August 18 Shooting Stars

Pause: Luke 4: 22-30

Ponder: How was the mood of the people able to go from admiration to fury so quickly? How is it possible that meanness at church can sometimes exceed anything that occurs in secular surroundings?

Pray: Tell the Lord how much you desire a spirit of unity in our church – unity that comes from Christ. **Mike, Luis, Jamie, & Families** need to know that you are **standing in the gap** for them today.

Day 19: Monday, August 19 The Enemy's True Colors

Pause: Luke 4: 31-37

Ponder: What does Satan want most? How has he used his demons to divert your attention? How has he used his demons to divert the attention of our church?

Pray: Ask the Lord to fight for you and our church. Ask that He would help us discern the Voice of Truth in the midst of all the noise & distraction Satan hurls at us. Pray for the **Pastor Search Team**. They are an important link between the Pastor to come and PBC, but it's not all up to them. Jesus is the Vine, we are all branches – wonderful, useful branches, but still branches. Apart from Him we can do nothing!

“I'm waiting, I'm waiting on You, Lord And I am peaceful; I'm waiting on You, Lord Though it's not easy, no But faithfully, I will wait; Yes, I will wait. And I will move ahead, bold and confident, Taking every step in obedience While I'm waiting, I will serve You While I'm waiting, I will worship While I'm waiting, I will not faint – I'll be running the race Even while I wait.” (Waller)

Day 20: Tuesday, August 20 House Calls

Pause: Mark 1: 29-34

Ponder: What would it be like if you could only meet with Jesus at church? How can you have more Jesus in your home?

Pray: Tell Jesus how desperately you want Him to come to you, take your hand, and help you up so that you can serve Him. Pray for **Alabama, Gov. Ivey, Lt. Gov. Ainsworth, State Representatives & Senators, Judges, and all those having influence over them.**

Day 21: Wednesday, August 21 Jesus in the Morning, Jesus in the Evening

Pause: Mark 1: 35-39

Ponder: Is there a certain time of day when you find your time with the Lord particularly sweet and meaningful? Do you desire Him more than anything?

Pray: May you never be satisfied to give Him your second best. Pray for **Mayor Tibbs, City Councilmen, Police Department, and Fire Department.**

Day 22: Thursday, August 22 Fighting for First Place

Pause: Matthew 4: 23-25

Ponder: What worthy activities or pursuits often lure you away from abiding in God? Is what you want always consistent with who He is?

Pray: Plead with the Lord to help you make the most of the time left to you. You don't want to mistake **activity for purpose**. Pray for the **County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department. Index Card Day!!!**

Day 23: Friday, August 23 Lessons from a Fish Tale

Pause: Luke 5: 1-11

Ponder: When was the last time I was "amazed" at something Jesus did through me, knowing there was no other explanation for it? Do I get excited knowing Christ could save the world through visions and dreams if He chose to, but rather, He delights in asking me to join Him?

Pray: Come before the Lord and acknowledge that you don't just commit sin, but, apart from God, you ARE sin. Your problem is not just what you do or don't do; it's who you are without His nature in you. Abide in Him and He will abide in you. Pray that all **those standing in pulpits this Sunday** will proclaim the Word with boldness and love, especially **Brother Mike and the Pastor who is to come**. Pray for the churches in **Eufaula and Barbour County**.

Day 24: Saturday, August 24 Healing for All the Right Reasons

Pause: Luke 5: 12-16

Ponder: How much like the leper are you? Are you convinced (first of all) that Christ can do absolutely anything? And secondly, are you also seeking His purposes in everything? Are you more desirous of His work and will being done through your life than you are to be healed of your hardship or handicap?

Pray: Desire an abundance of His peace and truth. Pray for your **SS teacher**.

Day 25: Sunday, August 25 Forgiveness Accepted

Pause: Luke 5: 17-26

Ponder: Do you have a hard time accepting forgiveness – either God’s or anyone else’s? How can unbelief in God’s ability to forgive your sin be as serious as the actual sin itself?

Pray: Praise God that He has restored His righteousness in you and that you did not get what you deserved. Pray for an **outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit** in your place of worship today.

Day 26: Monday, August 26 Sitting By and Finding Fault

Pause: Luke 6: 1-11

Ponder: Can you recall a time when you attended a Bible study or church service that profoundly affected a few of the people you were with, while others in attendance were completely unmoved? Could the difference be that some were sitting by rather than sitting under God’s Word?

Pray: Tell the Lord you will actively engage yourself in every message you hear or read from now on knowing that by doing this, you will never hear or read another ineffective message. Pray for your **Home and Family, Friends, and Neighbors**.

Day 27: Tuesday, August 27 Even God Was Amazed

Pause: Luke 7:1-10

Ponder: How often do you think God is pleased with what He sees in His people? Is He pleased with what He sees in our church?

Pray: Pray for clean hands and a pure heart to stand before Him - to be someone that God would respect and esteem. Pray for each **committee in our church and the work each performs**. Ask God to bless the **Pastor who is to come in a big way today and his church**. Pray that we are **The Church** that God wants us to be – daring to do the hard things – excited about being used for His Kingdom!!!

Day 28: Wednesday, August 28 Compassion without Restraint

Pause: Luke 7: 11-17

Ponder: Are you convinced Jesus is kind? Is it possible that Jesus has to exercise great restraint in healing because His natural desire every time He encounters need is to fix it? Are you convinced God is sovereign?

Pray: Praise God that through His touch or spoken word He can span the great gulf that exists between our power and His, between His compassion and ours. **Index Card Day!!!**

Day 29: Thursday, August 29 Faith and Doubt inside the Four Walls

Pause: Matthew 11: 2-5

Ponder: Have you known Christ long enough to witness His marvelous works? Have you heard testimonies of His intervening power, yet after such evidence, your faith was greatly shaken because of something He didn't do for you personally?

Prayer: Express your gratitude to Him for having mercy on those who doubt. Ask that He help you be a person of faith even when your feelings would toss you back and forth. Call out the name of **someone you know who is lost**. Give them one of your index cards when the opportunity arises.

Day 30: Friday, August 30 Falling Forward

Pause: Luke 7: 23-30

Ponder: Are you one who doesn't let the perceived activity or inactivity of Christ trap you or make you stumble? If so, can you see the Hand of God at work directing divine purpose, or blessing, in all your affairs?

Pray: Ask the Lord Jesus to continue equipping you to live in a manner worthy of His gospel. Pray for our **Church and the Pastor Search Team** – that we stand firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith. Pray for the **Pastor who is to come and the church where he is serving now**.

Day 31: Saturday, August 31 At Home in a Pharisee's House

Pause: Luke 7: 36-38

Ponder: Do you value religion and ritual over relationship with the Savior? Are you honest and courageous enough to look inside your heart and see?

Pray: Express your desire to hold your faith in Christ without showing favoritism. Thank Jesus for the fact that He is willing to reach into anyone's life, no matter how sinful they are or how sinless they think themselves to be. **Index Card Day!!!** (Do you know a "Pharisee" who needs hope?)

