

GENERATIONS

For the Gospel. For the City. For the World.

**PRAYER
GUIDE**

SEPTEMBER 2018

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRAYER GUIDE IS TO HELP UNIFY Immanuel Baptist Church in prayer as we seek to grow personally in our relationship with God and ask Him to speak to us about how He wants to use each of us in advancing His Kingdom “for the Gospel, for the city and for the world.”

*“The fervent, effective prayer
of a righteous person can
accomplish much.” James 5:16*

For three weeks, we will focus our praying on three areas, faith, obedience, and love. Each day, the guide will help us personally to grow in our relationship with the Father, through Jesus and to be unified in our praying for Kingdom advance. The daily guide has three parts:

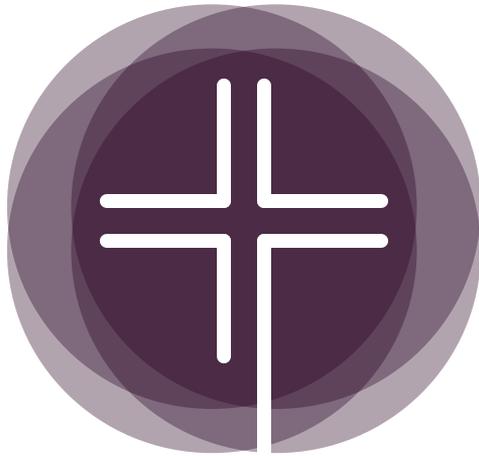
FOCUS – on a specific area.

READ – the selected Bible verses several times. Use the version we have chosen, or feel free to read them in the translation you prefer. Go to bible.com or youversion.com for more access.

PRAY – the prayer provided each day. Then, using this as a guide, continue to pray what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart and mind. Listen for His voice.

Kingdom advance calls us out of the norm to open our minds to God's agenda. Of necessity, God is calling us corporately and individually to a "praying life" described in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all things give thanks."

As a church, Immanuel has a rich history of loving, learning and sharing the Gospel. Based on what we see God doing now, we sense His continued call to our city, our neighbors and the world. We must lead with love and be a church full of mercy. To do this, we must be a church of prayer and great faith. Begin to pray today that God would stir up faith in your heart to see Him do something impossible in your life and in the life of our church. It will take every one of us, joining our faith and action together, to see God miraculously provide Kingdom advance in our city, and world.



WEEK ONE:

FAITH

Hebrews 11 says, “without faith, it is impossible to please God.” This week’s prayer time is focused on growing our faith. To advance the Kingdom and reach more people than ever, we must start with firm, grace-filled, bold faith. Take this week to ask God to stretch and grow your faith like never before!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 (DAY 1) FOCUS:

Unshakeable Faith

Read: Matthew 17:20 “You don’t have enough faith.” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.” (NLT)

Pray: Dear God,

Help me to have an unshakeable faith that takes God-sized risks in my family, job, community and church. Help me expand your Kingdom and not put a limit on what you can do, because I know that you want to do an amazing work through my life and make a mark on eternity through ME...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 (DAY 2) FOCUS:

A God-First Faith

Read: Matthew 6:30-33 “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wild flowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he will attend to you? Take pride in you, do His best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way He works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how He works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.” (Message)

Pray: Father God,

Today I am choosing to put you first in my life. Help me live the God-First Life and to trust you for all of my needs so that I can walk in your blessing and BE a blessing in my home, city and the world...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 (DAY 3) FOCUS:

Bold Faith—Greater things.

Read: John 14:12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” (NLT)

Pray: Lord God,

I believe that Jesus was a miracle maker when He walked the earth and I believe what Jesus said in John 14. Help me have faith to see “greater works” done through my life because Jesus made a way. God, use my life to impact the world around me and point people to Jesus...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 (DAY 4) FOCUS:

Grace-Filled Faith—Getting a God-Perspective.

Read: Matthew 19:26 “Jesus looked at them intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But, with God everything is possible.’”

Pray: Father,

I am easily distracted by the things of the world. Help me take “impossible” out of my vocabulary because I know that even when it’s impossible for me, NOTHING is impossible for you. Retrain my mind and eyes to see like you see, to walk in obedience and faith knowing that you will make a way when it seems like there is no way...

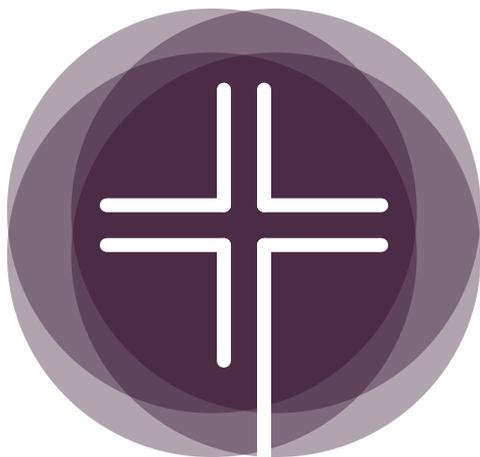
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (DAY 5) FOCUS:

Victorious Faith—Faith Wins the Victory

Read: Hebrews 11:33-34 “By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.”

Pray: Dear God,

Fan the flame of faith in my heart so I can be a champion for your Kingdom. Help me believe that you are a BIG God. You are the God that turns my weakness into strength, the God that helps me see the battle has already been won, that shuts the mouths of lions and raises the dead to life. There is nothing that you cannot do and I am praying, according to YOUR WORD, that you would raise up a faith in my life to see the miraculous in my family, my life, my job and my church so that You will be glorified...



WEEK TWO:

OBEDIENCE

God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called! Pray this week that God would give Immanuel Baptist Church the strength to walk in obedience and follow where He is leading us. In order for God to create a culture of Kingdom advance, we are called to take new ground, receive the ones He is sending and praise Him for letting us join Him in this good work. We seek to make Heaven more crowded.

Being able to embrace the promise that God has put before us means that we have to let go of some things we are holding on to. Ask God to reveal to you, the blessing of obedience as we move forward "for the Gospel, for the city, for the world."

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (DAY 6) FOCUS:

Worship

Read: Psalm 117:1-2 “Praise the Lord, all nations; laud Him, all peoples. For His loving-kindness is great toward us, and the Truth of the Lord is everlasting. Praise the Lord!”

Pray: Lord God, Creator, Sustainer, Lord of all things, Help us this week to praise You in all things, at all times. Let the meditations of our hearts turn to Your praise early and late. We acknowledge your sovereignty, your power and your great love. You, alone, are worthy of our worship. We lift up your praise in obedience, in response to Your faithful presence. Be glorified in us today...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (DAY 7) FOCUS:

Service

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the child of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Pray: Almighty God, Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I commit all my ways to You today. I pledge my life to your keeping. I pledge my life to your service. May this day be for me a day of obedience and of love, a day of happiness and peace. May all my walk and conversation be in tune with the Gospel of Christ...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 (DAY 8) FOCUS:

Purity

Read: Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Pray: Father,

Today, let the light of your Presence shine clearly through me. Let no corner of my self be unilluminated by Your precious Light. Let there be nothing within me to darken the brightness of the day. Let the Spirit of Him whose life was The Light shine unfailingly until the end of this day. Thoughts, words, deeds...let all of my life reflect your perfect purity...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (DAY 9) FOCUS:

Generosity

Read: Proverbs 11:24-25 “The world of the generous gets larger and larger, the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.”
(Message)

Pray: Heavenly Father,

Today I stand here full of your blessings. Life abundant and eternal, liberty and love from your heart all bless my heart and my life. You have not withheld your generous Spirit from me. All I have and all I am is yours. Every good gift is from you. Father, all I have, I put back into your hands. Use it for your glory and your eternal good. Advance Your Kingdom, and let me be a part...

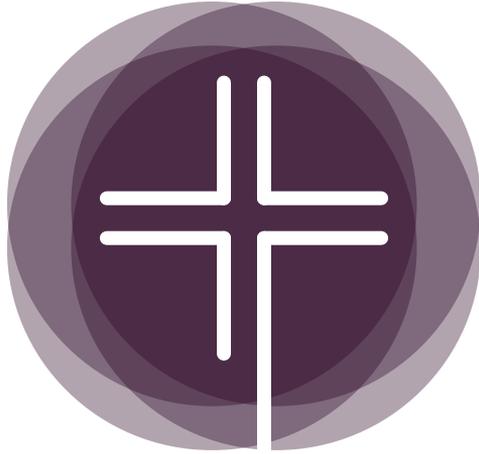
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (DAY 10) FOCUS:

Unity

Read: 1 Peter 3:8-9 “Summing up: be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you—no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that’s your job, to bless. You’ll be a blessing and also get a blessing.”

Pray: Dear Lord,

Thank you for the Body, the church, for Immanuel Baptist Church. As Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one with You, let us be one with each other, in You. Teach us, Lord, to love fellowship with You and with each other. Take away self and give us You, Your Presence, Your Joy, Your Way. Let us walk in this world, with You, like You, because of You...



WEEK THREE:

LOVE

“God takes the initiative to pursue a love relationship with you. This love relationship, however, is not one-sided. He wants us to know Him and worship Him. Most of all, He wants us to love Him.”
Henry Blackaby

Our prayer focus this week is “love.” Make a point this week to express your love for the Father, in the name of Jesus, in the power of the Spirit. As we love the Father, we can love each other and those whom we come into contact with. All our lives must be love-filled. Our relationships, our thoughts, our words...all we are must be saturated with love. Use this week to love in all circumstances, all people, all ways.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 (DAY 11) FOCUS:

Love is God's gift to us, through Jesus

Read: Ephesians 2:4-8 “But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. So that in the ages to come, He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of your selves, it is the gift of God.”

Pray: Dear God of love, mercy and grace, author of joy and peace, giver of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior, We praise you today for loving us enough to take us into your family. We thank you for letting us love you and know you. For pursuing us and keeping us by your faithful Word. Help us to love you more and to share the love you give us with a watching and needy world. Give us humility, Dear Father, to initiate and respond in love. Let our first thought be of you today and all our actions reflect you. Thank you that your love is free, but not cheap...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 (DAY 12) FOCUS:

God's Love Does not Come Without a Price

Read: 1 John 3:16

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the Truth.”

Pray: Father God, author of love and mercy,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior from sin. Thank you for what it cost Him to suffer and to die that cruel death, all for us, for each of us. Thank you for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives to guard, guide and comfort us in all things.

By your grace we are saved to life eternal and life abundant. Help us never to take for granted all you have done for us. Give us boldness and courage to speak from the overflow of grace in our lives and to witness to the difference a life full of You makes. Let others see Jesus in me, Father, I pray. Open my heart, my hands and my resources as I hear you directing me. As you freely give, let our family do also. And, cheerfully and with excitement...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (DAY 13) FOCUS:

God Wants us to Show His Love to Others

Read: John 13:34-35 "By this shall all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. A new commandment I give to you. That you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

Pray: Dear Lord, Way, Truth, and Life,

Thank you today for our salvation and relationship with you through Jesus. Thank you that we are not called into this life of faith to stand alone. Lord, open our mouths, open our hearts, open our lives to those you bring into our path. Give opportunities for conversation, bring understanding, bring patience, bring the presence of your Spirit to each experience today. Let all our deeds today be with love. Help us to lead out with the love you give us and want us to share...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (DAY 14) FOCUS:

Love Changes Things

Read: Colossians 3:12-15 “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called and be thankful.”

Pray: Father of All,

Thank you today and always for your love. You give it freely and fully. You never hold back. You love us first and draw us to yourself. You let us love you and others you bring into our lives. Your love makes us whole and so much more like you. Today, Father, help us to be clothed in righteousness that puts us in fellowship with you through the salvation that Jesus provides. Help us to want to “put on love.” ...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (DAY 15) FOCUS:

Love Overcomes the World

Read: 1 John 5:1-4 “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Pray: Dear God of All,

Thank you for your abundant and eternal life plan for us. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your purpose and plan for each of our lives. You have placed us in the world, not to be “of the world”, but to be “in the world.” Your Word teaches us that the world can not overcome our faith. You are all powerful and all present in all our lives. You are the beginning of our faith and its completion. Keep us from the ways of the world. Help us to choose you every day...



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