

Invitation to Prayer  
Advent and Christmas 2015  
Moms, Tots & Beyond



*Behold*



For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,  
so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

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For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
has shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

## A Pattern for Daily Prayer

### Evocation

A verse or two from the psalms leads us into awareness of God's presence. You may also want to take a minute to lay before the Lord any burdens that you are bringing with you into your time of prayer.

### Reading, meditation, and prayer

Focusing on a short Scripture passage shapes our time with God.

#### *Reading*

Read the passage (perhaps more than once).

List what the passage reveals about God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

List what it tells you about yourself.

List any examples to follow, commands to obey, and promises to believe.

#### *Meditation*

What does this passage reveal about God for which I can praise or thank him?

What does it show me about my sin that I can confess and repent of? What attitudes, behavior, emotions, or idols are stirred up in me when I forget the truth in this passage?

What does this show me about my need and the needs of those in my life?

How is Jesus Christ and the grace that I have in him crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

How might this truth change my life if it were fully alive and effective in my inward being? Why might God be showing this to me now?

### *Prayer*

Pray from your meditation of this passage, *praising* God for what he has revealed about himself; *confessing* your sin and need; *interceding* with him about your pressing concerns; *thanking* him for Jesus and our salvation through him.

### **Contemplation**

Take a final moment to enjoy God and his presence.

Choose one thought from the reading or prayer time that you would like to carry with you into your day.

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This pattern of prayer is adapted from Tim Keller, *Prayer*. Keller adapted it from practices of Christians throughout the centuries.

Passages chosen for this booklet:

- Selections from Isaiah in which God speaks of hope, comfort, his lovingkindness, and the promise of a Savior who will redeem the world. Like the people of Isaiah's time, we wait in expectant hope for the coming of the Lord.
- Words about Jesus and spoken by Jesus from the gospel of John—reminders of who he says that he is.
- Passages which we have read at MTB throughout the fall of 2015, in hopes of working them even deeper into our hearts.

## Day 1

**Evocation:** Psalm 16:1-2

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 40:1-8

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 2

**Evocation:** Psalm 16:8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Luke 24:13-35

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

### Day 3

**Evocation:** Psalm 27:1

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 40:9-11

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?



## Day 4

**Evocation:** Psalm 27:4

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 1:1-1-13

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 5

**Evocation:** Psalm 27:8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 40:27-31

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 6

**Evocation:** Psalm 63:1

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Revelation 3:20

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 7

**Evocation:** Psalm 63:8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 41:8-10

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 8

**Evocation:** Psalm 121:1

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 1:14-18

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 9

**Evocation:** Psalm 4:1

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 42:1-4

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 10

**Evocation:** Psalm 18:1-2

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Romans 8:31-39

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 11

**Evocation:** Psalm 138:3

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 42:5-9

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?



## Day 12

**Evocation:** Psalm 138:8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 6:25-40

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 13

**Evocation:** Psalm 86:1-2

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 44:1-8

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 14

**Evocation:** Psalm 86:5

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Matthew 11:25-30

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 15

**Evocation:** Psalm 31:16

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 44:21-23

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 16

**Evocation:** Psalm 31:19

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 7:37-39

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 17

**Evocation:** Psalm 31:24

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 49:13-16

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 18

**Evocation:** Psalm 34:8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-13

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 19

**Evocation:** Psalm 130:5-6

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 52:7-10

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?



## Day 20

**Evocation:** Psalm 34:18

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 10:11-18, 27-30

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 21

**Evocation:** Psalm 117

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 52:13-53:6

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 22

**Evocation:** Psalm 145:3

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Luke 11:5-13

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 23

**Evocation:** Psalm 145:8-9

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 53:7-12

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 24

**Evocation:** Psalm 145:18

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 11:21-27

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 25

**Evocation:** Psalm 5:1-2

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 54:4-8

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 26

**Evocation:** Psalm 5:11

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Mark 9:14-24

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 27

**Evocation:** Psalm 84:1-2

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 55:1-5

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?



## Day 28

**Evocation:** Psalm 46:10

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** John 15:1-11

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 29

**Evocation:** Psalm 121:7-8

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 55:6-13

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

## Day 30

**Evocation:** Psalm 139:1-3

**Reading, meditation, and prayer:** Isaiah 61:1-3

Truth about God for praise and thanks

Truth about my sin for confession

Truth about my need and the needs of those I love for petition

How is Jesus crucial to overcoming my sin or answering my need?

Why might God be showing this to me now?

**Contemplation:** Take a moment to enjoy God and his presence.

What do I want to remember?

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.

“Thou Who Wast Rich” (words by Frank Houghton. Music is an old French carol)

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” v.3 (words by Phillips Brooks, music by Lewis Henry Redner)