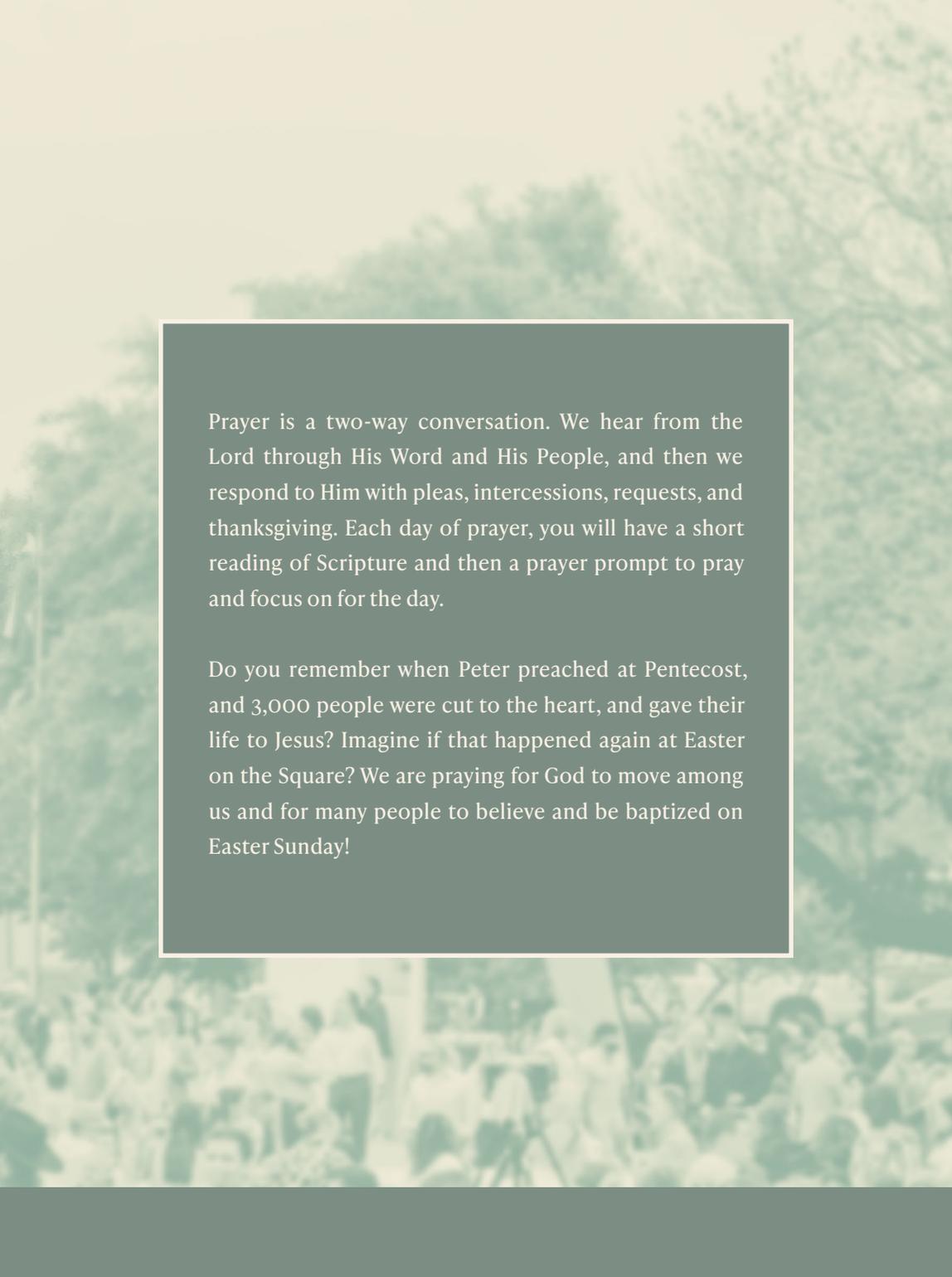




*A Praying*  
CHURCH

**14 DAYS OF PRAYER**  
IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER





Prayer is a two-way conversation. We hear from the Lord through His Word and His People, and then we respond to Him with pleas, intercessions, requests, and thanksgiving. Each day of prayer, you will have a short reading of Scripture and then a prayer prompt to pray and focus on for the day.

Do you remember when Peter preached at Pentecost, and 3,000 people were cut to the heart, and gave their life to Jesus? Imagine if that happened again at Easter on the Square? We are praying for God to move among us and for many people to believe and be baptized on Easter Sunday!

### Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

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Whenever someone is moved by the Spirit of God to serve Christ more fully, it is indeed an occasion worth celebrating. Recently, I was having lunch with a businessman at our church, and we discussed his desire for greater stewardship of his time, energy, and talents. He was asking how God could best use him to serve others. As we enjoyed the meal and conversation flowed, I asked about his work, and he shared with enthusiasm the nature of his business and his goals for himself and the company. During this portion of the conversation, he began discussing wealth management and the principles that govern appropriate fiduciary management. He spoke of the first phase, known as accumulation, in which money is acquired and saved. The next phase, known as stewardship, involves further acquisition and the management and investment of funds so that there is sufficient corpus to move into the final stage, impartation. Here, wealth acquired and stewarded over many years is used to bless heirs and is given charitably and philanthropically. The conversation reminded me of what John Wesley said about money: “Gain all you can, save all you can, in order to give all you can.”

As I listened to the man share his heart for ministry and enthusiasm for his work, it occurred to me that these three principles could apply to discipleship as well. When someone comes to know the Lord and is now following Christ, there should, in fact, be a period during which the believer accumulates spiritual truth and grows in the knowledge and grace of Jesus. But, as with wealth management, there must be a stage at which this knowledge is put to work and stewarded. Then, what has been accumulated and stewarded can be joyfully imparted to others, intentionally given away, not just frittered away. This is partly what Jesus meant when he said, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 16:25). What we need is a discipleship mentality that sees the accumulation of spiritual knowledge not as an end goal but as a starting point of stewardship, impact, and legacy. Unfortunately, many Christians never get to this point; they keep accumulating Christian information, hoping more knowledge will bring the fulfillment and contentment they rightfully long for! In reality, this longing will only be fulfilled through stewardship and impartation, not accumulation.

During this time of preparation for Easter, let us ask the Lord to move us toward stewardship and impartation, and away from simply acquiring knowledge. Grab a coffee with a neighbor or friend and share with them your story of faith in Christ. Invite them to church, or your small group! Invest in them!

In Christ,

John



*Lord, you have given us everything we need for life and godliness. Lead us, Lord, to value investing in your Kingdom more than financial investing. Please show us the treasure of the Gospel you have placed in our hands that we have the honor of stewarding. Be glorified in us, Lord! Amen.*

### **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** READ NEHEMIAH 1

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek**

God of every tribe, tongue, and nation, we pray that as the body of Currey Creek, we would have a godly burden for those in our town, our country, and globally who have not received Jesus as their savior and followed Him as Lord. Move our hearts to prayer that your Kingdom come here and to the ends of the earth.

#### **Prayers for Myself**

Lord God, show me what my godly burden is. Please begin to break my heart for the things that break yours and show me where you desire to bring the light of the Gospel and Kingdom restoration. Strengthen my hands for the work you are calling me to.

### **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** READ PSALM 96:7

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek Adults**

The adults of Currey Creek represent many families. Lord, I pray that the adults of Currey Creek will lead their families by worshiping you for your glory and for your strength. Help us focus on you, not on ourselves or our circumstances. May we honor you with our worship and praise you for who you are – Glorious and Strong.

#### **Prayers for Myself**

Lord, you are worthy of all my worship and praise every day. Help me to worship and praise you every day for who you are and what you have done. Help me also to trust you every day for what you are doing.

## Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> READ TITUS 3:3-7

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### **Prayers for Currey Creek Students**

Father, free our students from the pressure to keep up, impress, or save themselves. Expose the lie of self-sufficiency. Give them the courage to acknowledge their need and to embrace the saving work of Christ.

Let them know the joy of being justified by grace – not by performance – and renewed by Your Spirit.

### **Prayers for Myself**

Father, remind us that we are saved not because of anything we offer, but because of Your mercy. Guard us from subtle pride in our own maturity or performance. Teach us to walk in humility – resting in grace rather than striving to prove ourselves.



## Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

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Last fall, I had the opportunity to do some fly fishing in Vermont with a friend. We had never fished the picturesque waters of the Walloomsac River, with its covered bridges and stunning fall foliage, so we hired a guide to lead us on our expedition. We quickly learned that following our guide was essential, for he knew what the fish were feeding on, the casting technique necessary, the precise placement of the fly needed, and the pitfalls of the river's hidden terrain. We were completely dependent on him to succeed. We would need to follow our guide's instructions, depending on his expertise, as he helped us catch trout in an area we had never fished before.

Jesus's disciple John writes of Jesus, "By this we know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" (1 John 2:6). Wilder and Jones write, "The Gospels were never meant to be merely informational; they were to be transformational, ...cultivated through imitation." This is why Jesus spoke simply to the first disciples, telling them, "Follow me." But what does this following of Jesus entail? That question is answered by understanding how Jesus followed the Father through submission, dependence, and service.

In the garden of Gethsemane during Jesus's final hours before the crucifixion, he prayed that his Father would deliver him out of the horror he knew he would face. Yet, he prayed a prayer of submission, saying "...yet not my will, but as you will." The disciples learned that following God meant submitting to him first. If we are to follow Christ, we must begin by submitting to his leadership and instruction.

Luke states Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (Luke 4:1) After Jesus's temptation we read that "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit" (Luke 4:14). In Luke 4:16-21 Jesus chose from a passage in Isaiah which states "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news..." Jesus, in his human nature, completely depended upon the Holy Spirit's enablement for all supernatural empowerments. If this is true of Jesus, how much more so for us! It is simply impossible for us to live the Christian life and follow Christ without God empowering us with the Holy Spirit. Let us ask our good Father for this indispensable gift!

Finally, we see in Jesus the posture of a servant and identity of a slave who washes others' feet (John 13). Jesus modeled service as both an example to those who would follow him and as fulfillment of the scriptures that the Messiah would be a suffering servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). Jesus was not simply providing a principle to apply in our lives; he was giving us a pattern to follow!

On that crisp Fall morning of fishing, we were being asked to submit to our guide's leadership, depend upon his instruction, and allow ourselves to be served. This Easter, as we pursue Jesus, taking up the cross into resurrection life, may our Christ-centered followership be marked by submission, dependence, and service.

In Christ,

John



*Lord, may my joy be found in following you! I often try to go it alone and end up making a mess of things. May I hear your command to follow you and rest in your leadership, protection and provision. Amen.*

### Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> PSALM 78:1-8

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek Kids**

Lord, you have given us precious children to raise, that they may know and love you. Would you give ear to our parents as they make your truths known to this next generation? Help them hold high your glorious deeds, your might, and the wonders you have done for their children to see. May our children come to love you and set their hope in you alone, King Jesus.

#### **Prayers for Myself**

Give me a heart overflowing with the wondrous works you have done, Father. Lead me to join the call to make much of you to the next generation. Create in me a steadfast heart and a faithful spirit to proclaim your truths and walk out this life in you where it is not hidden, but for all to see.

### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> GALATIANS 6:2

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek**

Father, many in our church are hurting, grieving, or walking through difficult circumstances. I pray that we, as a church body, would be the hands and feet of Jesus and walk alongside them. Jesus, may Currey Creek be a place where burdens are shared, compassion is practiced, and no one carries pain alone because Your love is made visible through our care for them.

#### **Prayers for Myself**

Lord, forgive me for the times that I see my brother in need, and don't respond in obedience. Jesus, give me a listening heart, gentle words, and the courage to come alongside those who are hurting, so they feel seen, prayed for, and supported in Your love. May I show mercy and compassion as you have shown me, and transform my heart and mind to love others as you do, Jesus.

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** READ 1 PETER 2:1-12

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**Prayers for Currey Creek**

God, would we as individual members of the Body of Christ desire to see those who have not yet received mercy. May we long for and desire that those who are not yet part of the people of God would join the holy nation and holy priesthood and proclaim your excellencies!

**Prayers for Myself**

God, help me to see myself as part of the spiritual house that you are building, as part of the holy nation that you have called to live as a sojourner and exile. Help me to proclaim your excellencies to all who I encounter. May you be on my mind so that your words are on my lips.

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** ACTS 2:42

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**Prayers for Currey Creek Adults**

Lord, we pray that all our groups meet with intention. We pray that our groups can be intentional about studying God's word, being in fellowship with one another, sharing meals, and praying for one another.

**Prayers for Myself**

Lord, please use me in the group(s) I am part of. Help me be intentional and committed to meeting with a purpose, as we see in Acts.



### Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

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Shooters are interesting creatures. There are those for whom a certain level of accuracy is adequate, and those who expect a degree of precision and consistency measured with a micrometer. I recently came across a rifle the owner said was just not living up to its accuracy potential. The owner had tried many different types of ammo and had the rifle barrel and scope replaced at the manufacturer's expense, yet the gun simply would not produce consistent results. Two shots would be closely grouped, but then the rifle would 'throw' the third shot, and the size of the group would enlarge to an unacceptable size. I communicated this information to a gunsmith familiar with the rifle's brand, and he suggested bedding the rifle. Bedding a rifle involves removing the action from the stock, mixing an epoxy-based compound that hardens overnight, applying a release agent to the action, and carefully reinserting the action into the stock until the epoxy hardens as hard as a rock. When completed, the action rests on a perfect bed or foundation, which enhances the rifle's accuracy by reducing vibration when fired due to shifts within the stock. The inaccurate rifle has now been bedded and returned to its owner, and I am awaiting confirmation that the proposed solution was successful. The only way to know if the plan was successful is to put the rifle through its paces and fire it. If not, we are only dealing with the theoretical.

In Matthew 7, Jesus addressed the crowd by telling the story of the wise and foolish builders. He states that those who hear his words and ignore them are like a man who builds his house on a foundation of sand. When trouble comes, the house falls because it is not bedded or established on a firm foundation. On the other hand, those who hear Jesus's words and practice them are like someone who has built his house on the rock, a firm foundation. When storms hit a house on a firm foundation, it stands because it is properly founded or bedded.

Like the inaccurate rifle in my illustration, we can check different components, replace this or that, and expect more. But if the foundation isn't firm, all we will be doing is chasing secondary issues without addressing the root cause. Notice in Jesus's story that the storms hit both houses with the same ferocity, but the difference lies in the foundation. Jesus teaches his disciples that the sure foundation to withstand the storm

is the implementation of his word in their lives. Until Jesus's words are put into practice, we are only dealing with theory. We can say we believe these things to be real and true, but we do not really know they are true until we practice these teachings and a storm hits.

Are you established on the rock and practicing Jesus's teaching? This Easter, I pray that you will live out the teaching of Jesus that he is the resurrection and the life. That we can come to him when we are weary and heavy laden and will find rest. That he who drinks of Christ will never thirst again!

In Christ,

John



*Lord, I do not want to live my life trying to navigate its shifting sand. Establish me, O' God, in Christ and his word that I may be immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.*

### Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> MATTHEW 21:12-14

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek Students**

Father, forgive us for approaching the church casually, as consumers. Cleanse our hearts of self-reliance. Make us a people of prayer and deep dependence on You.

#### **Prayers for Myself**

Father, shape our student ministry into a house of prayer. Guard students from seeing faith as an image or activity. Draw the broken and needy – and let them find healing in Christ.

### Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> MATTHEW 19:13-15

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#### **Prayers for Currey Creek Kids**

We ask for child-like faith to trust what you say and to live our days reflecting that trust, Father. We pray for our parents today that they will receive encouragement as they strive to bring themselves and their children to Your feet daily. As parents disciple their children, Lord, would you stir in the children's hearts a deep hunger and thirst for you? Would you raise up future men and women who love you and live lives surrendered before You?

#### **Prayers for Myself**

I praise you for being a God that I can come to just as I am. Thank you for recognizing the value of child-like faith and encouraging me to trust you to provide what I cannot and to approach your throne with a heart full of dependence and gratitude. Would you give me the courage to live each day knowing I have a Father who loves me and who is always ready for me to come and sit at His feet.

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** MATTHEW 25:31-46

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**Prayers for Currey Creek**

Jesus, may Currey Creek be a place where strangers are warmly welcomed, needs are noticed, and every person who walks through our doors experiences Your love through our presence, compassion, and care. Father, for those who have never entered a church, let Currey Creek be a place where they experience your presence, and would you remove any hindrances that might keep them from following you.

**Prayers for Myself**

Jesus, help me see each person as You do. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. May I lavishly love others and practice hospitality to everyone I meet. Only you, Father, can show me how to value others above myself.



# HE IS *Risen!*

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

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While on a trip last fall to visit one of our mission partners in Syracuse, New York, Darla spotted a sign indicating that the exit to Cooperstown was just down the road. Cooperstown is home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and it was an unexpected opportunity we could not pass up. To my surprise, Cooperstown was not at all what I expected. It is a small town tucked away in a beautiful semi-rural setting. The Hall of Fame is incorporated into Main Street and looks like it is just another part of a Norman Rockwell-esque main street. For some reason, I had pictured a large city with the Baseball Museum as a stand-alone structure surrounded by parking. Inside the museum, the history of baseball is recounted on multiple floors through small displays of important artifacts and paraphernalia. The Hall of Fame itself is a collection of alcoves displaying the inductees' bronze plaques. Each plaque is identical in size, and the groupings are generally by year of induction. Interestingly, the first class of inductees, names like Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb, contains only 25-27 words, while recent inductees usually range from 85-90 words. Even then, how does one summarize an entire career with a few words on a 16x11" board? The whole affair is subtle, and there is almost a reverence for the 351 inductees, the space, and experience. Why would Major League Baseball decide to honor its best in such an understated way? I think it is because they view the game as bigger than any one individual.

Tucked away in the book of Hebrews is what some describe as the Hall of Fame of Faith. When you think about how many have lived by faith over the centuries, to have such a short list (less than 20 individuals) and such an understated description of their lives seems intentional, even though my heart is stirred with each reading of Hebrews II. Perhaps the author of Hebrews knew that if we focused on the individuals, we would tend to deify them as some do with baseball's heroes. Each of the people listed in Hebrews had faults and sin issues. What distinguished them was not their perfect morality and sterling life, but their faith in the one the Hebrews seek to magnify, Jesus. Christ Jesus is bigger and more important than any one believer. While we can celebrate and even marvel at the faith of our forefathers, what is most important is the object of our faith, the Lord Jesus Christ.

While it is exciting to see the Baseball Hall of Fame and its inductees, it is not as exciting as the game itself. While reading Hebrews II is stirring, it is not as stirring as walking by faith with Christ himself! My prayer for you this Easter is not merely to attend an Easter service but to experience Easter itself through the gospel. Not just reading about the resurrection but experiencing the resurrected life through faith in Christ. Not just reading about the new creation but becoming one!

In Christ,

John



*Lord, may my life be characterized and lived out by faith! May those around me see that Jesus Christ is the object of my faith. May my words concerning Jesus Christ give testimony to his saving grace in my life. Amen.*

*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, his executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth.*

*When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.*

*“One Solitary Life,”*

*Dr. James Allan Francis*





## EASTER WEEKEND CALENDAR



### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> • 5:00 & 6:30pm

### **PRAYER ON THE SQUARE**

Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> • 10:00am

### **EASTER IN BOERNE**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> • 9:30am

### **BAPTISMS ON THE SQUARE**

Call the church office for more information and to meet with a pastor.



**CURREY CREEK**  
CHURCH

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