

2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” - Mark 5:19

As we look ahead to the 2025 National Conference that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, we embrace the theme of “This is my Story.”

When Jesus delivered the demon-possessed man in the country of the Gadarenes, He told him to “go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” One can only imagine how much that man, who just saw a herd of swine drown in lake, wanted to simply hang out with Jesus. While that would have been good, Jesus had another plan: Tell your story!

Your story is likely the most powerful witness you have. People may debate Scripture with you, but they cannot refute your story of your encounter and journey with Jesus. Over the course of this biennium, we pray each one will have many opportunities to say to a friend, “This is my story!”

JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS — INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER

A part of your story is your journey of growing closer in your relationship with your heavenly Father. Your story includes those times when he has spoken to you though His Word or impressed something on your heart as you waited in prayer.

WEEK #1 – January 1-7

This week, pray for the Leadership of the Missionary Church – for Rodney Arnold. Pray for Regional Directors and members of the MLC/GOC that they will lead from a place of intimacy with our heavenly Father. Pray that God will grant them patience to wait on Him and give them ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. Pray that God will meet each of them personally so that they have stories to tell of their times with Jesus.

Pray for God’s presence as the MLC/GOC meet for their annual Prayer Retreat – January 20-24.

Hopefully, the following Scriptures and prayers will feed your own prayers as you pray for our national leaders. Perhaps the Scriptures will also cause you to reflect on your own story of intimacy with Jesus.

Wednesday, January 1 –

“God, You *are* my God; early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.” – Psalm 63:1

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who truly long for you – for leaders who are desperate for you. We pray for each one that you satisfy the deepest longing of their hearts. We pray that their leadership will flow from this place of longing for you.

Thursday, January 2 –

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” – Jeremiah 29:13

PRAYER: Lord, again today, we praise you for leaders who seek you – who seek until they find you – leaders who are not satisfied until they hear from you. We pray for our regional and national leaders that they will be able to rest in you. We pray that when they face those tough situations that they will seek you and that you will lead them as they give leadership to the churches.

Friday, January 3 –

“The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” – Zephaniah 3:17

PRAYER: Father, we believe that you look on our leaders and that you are well-pleased. We pray that whenever they meet, you will be in their midst. We pray that in those times of stress you will quiet them with your love. We pray that their private times with you will be times to hear your voice and be reminded that you rejoice over them with singing.

Saturday, January 4,

“So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp...” - Exodus 33:11a

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you speak to your people. To Moses, you spoke through a burning bush, and you spoke to him face to face. To others, you spoke in a still, small voice. We pray for our leaders that they will always be in a place where they can hear from you. We pray that their quiet times will be times of listening to your voice. We pray that as they retreat to hear from you, they emerge ready to return to lead.

Sunday, January 5

“I am the vine; you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

PRAYER: Lord, you know that we are focused on bearing fruit for you. We can measure how we are doing by the fruit we can count. Forgive us when we have failed to focus more on abiding in you. We pray for our leaders that you will give them the patience and the grace to abide in you. Remind them and the rest of the church that fruit emerges from people who abide in Christ.

Monday, January 6

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” – Matthew 6:33

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you have given our leaders a Kingdom focus. We praise you that they have a desire to see your Kingdom advanced. As they deal with the challenges of ministry, we pray they will never lose sight of your Kingdom. The people you addressed in this passage were worried about clothing and other things. Our leaders are burdened for the churches and for pastors. Remind them to keep their eyes focused on the Kingdom and trust you to care for all of those needs.

Tuesday, January 7

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” – Colossians 3:16

PRAYER: Lord, we pray that as our leaders dwell in you that the word of Christ would dwell in them so that their ministry to one another would flow from this intimacy with you; so that they would speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We pray their hearts will be filled with grace and that their joy of the Lord will be their strength.

WEEK #2 – January 8-14

This week we encourage you to pray for Bethel University – for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet, and staff that they will experience deep intimacy with our heavenly Father and that their leadership will flow from that relationship. Pray that they, too, will have sweet times in the presence of the Lord so that they have stories to tell of those times with Jesus

We also want to pray for students, that they will experience a deep relationship with the Lord and that they will approach their studies from that place of intimacy so that the Lord can not only prepare their minds but also their hearts.

Pray for God’s leading and blessing on these key events:

- January 7 – New Student registration
- January 17-18 – ReFuel Conference
- January 27-31 – GO Conference

Wednesday, January 8

“Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.’”
Exodus 33:15

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that we have men and women giving leadership to Bethel University who long for your presence on campus and for your presence to lead them. We praise you that we have leaders who seek after you for the welfare of the university and the students. We pray you will hear and answer their prayers. We pray that the Bethel campus will be holy ground and that students and faculty will sense your presence as they walk from building to building. We pray visitors will also sense your presence whenever they walk on campus.

Thursday, January 9

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’” – Revelation 21:3

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you have chosen to make your tabernacle with men and that you come by your Spirit to dwell in us. We pray you will tabernacle with students and faculty on Bethel’s campus. We pray they will be assured that they are your people. We pray every student will know that you are God and that they will seek you with their whole heart.

Friday, January 10

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” – Genesis 3:8

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord for the reminder that you desire to walk with us. We pray today for students who, like Adam and Eve, may be hiding from you because they are ashamed. We pray you will put people in their lives who will lead them into your presence to find cleansing and wholeness. We pray you will keep the deceiver from their door so they can pursue truth in you.

Saturday, January 11

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” – Isaiah 41:10

PRAYER: We praise you for the assurance of your presence and of your strength. We pray for those students right now who are feeling incredibly overwhelmed and alone. Would you make yourself known to them through a quiet whisper, a chapel message, or a fellow student so that they are reminded that you are God and that you will give them strength to face whatever comes their way. Lift these students up so they see you and so that the challenges seem much smaller because they have drawn close to you.

Sunday, January 12

“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.” – Psalm 73:25

PRAYER: Father, we pray that this verse would represent the desire of every student on campus. We pray that they would find that you are the only One who can satisfy the deepest longings of the soul. We pray you will give them a hunger to know you more and that they will pursue you with all their hearts. Meet them at their point of need and give them peace.

Monday, January 13

“Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.” – Psalm 51:11

PRAYER: Lord, you know that college can be tough. Students are away from home, facing challenges they have not faced before, and often feeling like they are facing them alone. We pray that in those times of desperation they will cry out to you as the Psalmist did and

seek your presence. We pray with the Psalm writer that you will not take your Holy Spirit from them, but that your Spirit will be closer than ever to them so that they do not experience depression.

Tuesday, January 14

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” – Jude 24-25

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we intercede on behalf of students who want to follow you but who are facing temptations they have not faced before. We pray you will keep them from stumbling. We pray you will work in their lives in such a way that they will see your work and glorify your name. We pray you will fill them with joy so that they can resist whatever the enemy throws at them.

WEEK #3 – January 15-21

The focus for this week is praying for pastors, that they might enjoy deep fellowship with Jesus, that their closeness with Him will fuel their ministry, and that they will lead from that place of intimacy with Him.

Pray that from these quiet times with Jesus, He will grant them wisdom and grace to lead and equip the body of Christ. Pray they will find encouragement and joy in Him.

Wednesday, January 15

“Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.” – Psalm 140:13

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that we have pastors who are upright, who dwell in Your presence. We praise you for these righteous leaders who humbly give thanks to you. We pray you will bless them and encourage them. We pray that their times in your presence will be rich and that they lead from having been in your presence.

Thursday, January 16

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” – 1 Thessalonians 2:19

PRAYER: Lord, you know that we often celebrate the wrong things. We focus on the number of people in the pew rather than the number of people in the Kingdom. We pray that out of their private times with you, pastors will emerge with a strong kingdom focus, and we pray that they will have a view of eternity – being able to imagine those who have come to faith in Christ standing in the presence of Jesus at His coming.

Friday, January 17

“ . . .The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us. . .” – Exodus 3:18

PRAYER: Lord, this verse reminds us of Moses’ encounter with you at the burning bush – you met with Him. We pray that our pastors will have stories of times when they know

beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have met with them. We pray that those encounters will be frequent and that they will lead from having met with you.

Saturday, January 18

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” – John 17:20-21

PRAYER: Father, forgive us for the times we have been more like competitors than partners in ministry. We pray that pastors will, first of all, be one with you, and then that they will be one with other pastors so that they can lead the Church to have a greater impact for the Kingdom. Oneness with others is born out of oneness with you. Unite the hearts of our pastors with your heart.

Sunday, January 19

“Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” – Zechariah 8:23b

PRAYER: Lord, while the prophecy in this passage relates to the Jews, the principle still applies. There is an attraction about your presence. We pray that it will be said of all our pastors, “God is with you.” We pray for your presence and anointing on their lives. We pray the communities where they serve will see them as men and women who have been in the presence of God.

Monday, January 20

“One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple” – Psalm 27:4

PRAYER: We pray that this verse will reflect the heart of each of our pastors – that they will have a longing to be in your presence, not just to seek direction for ministry or answers to the challenges of ministry. We pray they will long to be in your presence just to behold your beauty. Quiet their hearts so they can see your beauty.

Tuesday, January 21

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” – Matthew 16:24

PRAYER: We pray for the next generation, that you will lead them into a deep relationship with you so that they can hear your call on their lives and be willing to deny themselves, and take up their cross, and follow you. We believe there is a generation that is seeking to know you more. Lead them to a deep fellowship with you so that they hear your call. We pray their love for you will be greater than their love for anything else.

WEEK #4 – January 22-28

As we continue our focus on praying for a deeper intimacy with the Father, we want to pray for the local church, that whenever they meet there would be an awareness of the manifest presence of the Spirit – that when people walk into the building, they would sense His

presence. Whether it is a megachurch meeting in a huge facility or a micro-church meeting in a coffee shop, pray that the presence of God would be very evident.

Wednesday, January 22

“The earth shook; the heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.” – Psalm 68:8

PRAYER: Lord, Israel experienced your presence like no other nation. We pray for your manifest presence in each of our churches each time the people gather. We pray that it will be your presence that keeps them coming back because they want more of you. We pray our people will desire you more than music or sermons. Use those mediums to lead the people to experience your presence.

Thursday, January 23

“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.” – Psalm 95:2

PRAYER: Father, lead your people into your presence. Fill their hearts with thanksgiving and praise. We pray that when your people gather, they will already have been with you. We pray that corporate thanksgiving will be a magnified extension of those private times of praise and thanksgiving. Fill the hearts of our people with your Spirit so that they experience the fulness of joy.

Friday, January 24

“He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.” – Psalm 101:7

PRAYER: Lord, the greatest loss a church can experience is the loss of your presence. We pray for those churches where there has been any kind of deceit or other sin that has been unconfessed, that you will expose it and cleanse that church so that they can once again enjoy your presence.

Saturday, January 25

“Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.” – Isaiah 19:1

PRAYER: Lord, your presence destroys idols and breaks down walls. We know that the enemy loves to wreak havoc on your church. Sometimes there are idols and there are acts of disobedience. We pray that You will enter our churches, whether on a swift cloud or the wind of your Spirit, and cast out every idol and break every chain. Restore your presence to each church.

Sunday, January 26

“Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence – As fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil — To make Your name known to Your adversaries, *That* the nations may tremble at Your presence!” – Isaiah 64:1-2

PRAYER: Come down, Lord! Manifest yourself to those who have resisted you. We pray our churches will be so filled with your presence that Your adversaries will know you and will tremble and that those who don't know you will see you and find you. We pray for your presence in our churches.

Monday, January 27

“And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’” – Luke 10:41-42

PRAYER: Father, forgive us for our busyness about things that are unimportant. Give your church hearts like Mary, who wanted nothing more than to worship at your feet. We know there are tasks to be done, but those must flow from our times of worship. Teach us to linger at your feet.

Tuesday, January 28

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” – Matthew 28:19-20

PRAYER: Lord, we so often focus on the command in this passage – make disciples. We praise you for that focus in our churches. We praise you that you have told us to go and tell your story. We also praise you for the promise of presence. We cannot make disciples apart from your presence with us. Today we claim the promise and ask that your presence would go with us.

WEEK #5 – January 29-31

The last few days of this month are personal. How is your relationship with the Father? Are you abiding in Christ? Are you enjoying intimate times with Him? For these next three days, pray for the Lord to take you deeper in your walk with Him so that you serve from that place of deeper fellowship with Him.

Wednesday, January 29

“He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power.” – Deuteronomy 4:37b

PRAYER: Ah, Lord God, we remember when you delivered us from the bondage of sin. We praise you that you set us free from the power sin had over us. It was your presence that drew us to you; it was your presence that led us into a new life; it was your presence that transformed us. Keep us in your presence.

Thursday, January 30

“. . . In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” – Psalm 16:11

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that it is only in your presence that we find the fullness of joy. You are the only One who can satisfy the soul. Forgive us when we have sought pleasures in other things and have missed the greatest pleasures you provide. Lead us into your presence today.

Friday, January 31

“These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” – 2 Thessalonians 1:9

PRAYER: There is no greater loss than the loss of your presence, Lord. There is no greater punishment than being separated from your presence. Guard our hearts, Lord, so that we allow nothing in that would come between you and us. Lead us into a deep walk with you.

