

FUTURE

40 Days of Prayer for What's Next



*Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.
Prepare us for what is next.*

Welcome

There are seasons when a church senses that God is leading, but we do not yet know exactly what comes next.

These are sacred in-between spaces. They invite us to slow down, seek God, listen carefully, remember faithfully, pray together, and prepare ourselves to follow wherever God leads.

FUTURE is a 40-day journey of congregational prayer and discernment designed for those seasons.

We are not entering these 40 days simply to get an answer. We are asking God to shape us into a people who can recognize God's voice and faithfully respond.

OUR PRAYER

*Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.
Prepare us for what is next.*

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each week opens on the Sabbath with a **Congregational Prayer Day**, introducing the week's posture and a shared prayer. Each weekday that follows offers a Scripture reading, a short reflection, and a prayer to carry with you. The journey closes on Day 40 with a final congregational prayer gathering.

Six Spiritual Postures

For 40 days, we will practice six spiritual postures:

F DAYS 1–7

Find God's Voice

Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.

U DAYS 8–14

Unite in Prayer

Make us one as we seek You together.

T DAYS 15–21

Turn Our Eyes to God

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

U DAYS 22–28

Understand Our Story

Thus far the Lord has helped us.

R DAYS 29–35

Rest in God's Guidance

The Lord Himself goes before us.

E DAYS 36–40

Engage the Mission

Enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness.

F

WEEK 1 · DAYS 1-7

Find God's Voice

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

"Speak, Lord. Your people are listening."

DAY 1 • SABBATH

Speak, Lord

Congregational Prayer Day

READ 1 Samuel 3:1–10

“Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’”

— 1 SAMUEL 3:10

Samuel lived in a time when the word of the Lord was rare. Yet God was still speaking. The challenge was learning to recognize God’s voice.

When Eli finally understood what was happening, he taught Samuel how to respond: Listen. That is where our 40 days begin.

Before we ask for answers, we listen. Before we ask God to show us what is next, we ask God to make us attentive to what God is saying now.

For the next 40 days, we take Samuel’s posture: *Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.*

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, give us listening hearts. Help us recognize Your voice and become attentive to what You are saying to our congregation in this season.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.

DAY 2 · SUNDAY

Be Still

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

— PSALM 46:10

Listening begins with stillness.

Today, create room to simply be present with God. Ask God to quiet the noise around you and within you so that your attention can be fully turned toward God.

PRAY

Lord, teach us to be still enough to hear You. Center our hearts in Your presence and remind us that You are God.

DAY 3 · MONDAY

Listen with Expectation

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

— JEREMIAH 33:3

We pray because we believe God responds.

Prayer is not only speaking to God. It is creating room to hear from God. Today, approach God expecting wisdom, insight, conviction, direction, and clarity.

PRAY

Lord, we are listening. Show us what we need to see and teach us what we need to know.

DAY 4 • TUESDAY

Recognize God's Voice

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

— JOHN 10:27

Learning God's voice is part of learning to follow God.

Pray for spiritual discernment, individually and collectively, so that we become increasingly sensitive to God's leading.

PRAY

Lord, help us recognize Your voice and follow where You lead.

DAY 5 • WEDNESDAY

Receive Wisdom

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

— JAMES 1:5

God does not ask us to navigate important seasons with human wisdom alone.

Today, ask God for wisdom for the congregation, its ministries, its leaders, and the decisions before us.

PRAY

Lord, give us wisdom generously. Give us discernment to understand what You are saying and wisdom to know what to do with what we hear.

DAY 6 · THURSDAY

Open Our Hearts

"Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day."

— PSALM 25:4-5

A listening heart is a teachable heart.

Today, invite God to teach, shape, stretch, and lead us.

PRAY

Lord, show us Your ways. Teach us Your paths. Make our hearts open and teachable before You.

DAY 7 · FRIDAY

Be Ready to Respond

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"

— ISAIAH 6:8

Listening eventually requires a response.

The goal is not simply to hear something from God. We want to become people who are available to God.

PRAY

Lord, whatever You are calling us toward, make us ready to respond. Give us willing hearts and willing hands.

U

WEEK 2 · DAYS 8-14

Unite in Prayer

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

"Make us one as we seek You together."

DAY 8 • SABBATH

Together in Prayer

Congregational Prayer Day

READ Acts 1:4–14

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

— ACTS 1:14

The disciples entered a profound in-between season. What they had known was changing, and what Jesus had promised had not yet fully appeared.

So they gathered. And while they waited, they prayed. Not separately. Together.

There is something powerful about a church seeking God with one heart. We may bring different experiences, questions, hopes, gifts, and perspectives, but prayer turns all of us toward the same God.

This week we ask God to deepen our life together.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, draw us together around Your presence and purpose. Teach us what it means to seek You as one body.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Lord, make us one as we seek You together.

DAY 9 • SUNDAY

Pray with One Accord

“So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them.’”

— ACTS 4:24

There is power in a praying congregation.

Today, pray for a deepening culture of prayer throughout the church, in worship, ministries, meetings, homes, and relationships.

PRAY

Lord, make us a praying church. Teach us to seek You together.

DAY 10 • MONDAY

Grow in Love

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

— JOHN 13:34–35

Jesus made love one of the distinguishing marks of His disciples.

Pray that love will increasingly characterize our relationships, conversations, decisions, service, and ministry.

PRAY

Lord, teach us to love one another as You have loved us.

DAY 11 · TUESDAY

Build One Another Up

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Healthy churches are communities where people strengthen one another.

Ask God to show you whom you can encourage today.

PRAY

Lord, make us people who strengthen faith, call out gifts, speak hope, and build one another up.

DAY 12 · WEDNESDAY

Carry One Another

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

— GALATIANS 6:2

Unity grows when we learn to notice one another.

Pray for greater awareness of the needs, burdens, hopes, and experiences of others in our church family.

PRAY

Lord, make us attentive to one another. Teach us to celebrate together, grieve together, serve together, and carry one another.

DAY 13 • THURSDAY

Receive the Spirit's Power

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

— ACTS 1:8

The disciples did not simply need a plan. They needed power. So do we.

Ask the Holy Spirit to empower our congregation for everything God is calling us to become and do.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, fill us. Empower our worship, witness, service, leadership, relationships, and mission.

DAY 14 • FRIDAY

Live as One Body

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–14

God has intentionally placed different gifts, generations, personalities, experiences, cultures, and perspectives within the body.

Today, thank God for the people who make up this congregation.

PRAY

Lord, help us value every part of the body and use our different gifts for our shared calling.

T

WEEK 3 · DAYS 15-21

Turn Our Eyes to God

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

DAY 15 · SABBATH

Our Eyes Are on You

Congregational Prayer Day

READ 2 Chronicles 20:1–22

“O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”

— 2 CHRONICLES 20:12

Jehoshaphat faced circumstances larger than his ability to solve.

His prayer included one of Scripture’s most honest confessions: *We do not know what to do.*

But the sentence did not end there. *Our eyes are on You.*

Faith does not require us to have every answer. Faith determines where we will look.

This week, we intentionally turn our attention toward God.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, become the center of our vision, our conversations, our planning, and our expectations.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

DAY 16 • SUNDAY

Seek God First

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

— MATTHEW 6:33

Before seeking solutions, seek God.

Today, pray that God’s kingdom, character, and purposes will remain at the center of everything we pursue.

PRAY

Lord, teach us to seek You first. Shape our priorities around Your kingdom.

DAY 17 • MONDAY

Expect God to Lead

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

— PSALM 32:8

God is not absent from the road ahead.

Pray with confidence that God continues to instruct, teach, and guide God’s people.

PRAY

Lord, teach us. Counsel us. Make us attentive to Your direction.

DAY 18 • TUESDAY

Walk by Faith

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

Faith allows us to move without seeing the entire path.

Ask God for confidence to follow the light we have while trusting God with what we cannot yet see.

PRAY

Lord, strengthen our faith. Teach us to trust You beyond what we can presently see.

DAY 19 • WEDNESDAY

Watch for God at Work

“Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you.”

— HABAKKUK 1:5

Sometimes we are asking God to begin while God is inviting us to notice what has already begun.

Look around. Where is life emerging? Where are people growing? Where are new opportunities appearing? Where is God opening doors?

PRAY

Lord, give us eyes to recognize what You are doing among us and around us.

DAY 20 • THURSDAY

Lift Our Vision

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

— COLOSSIANS 3:1–2

God can lift our vision beyond the immediate moment.

Pray for a kingdom perspective that helps us see possibilities larger than our present circumstances.

PRAY

Lord, lift our vision. Help us see our church, our community, and our future through the perspective of Your kingdom.

DAY 21 • FRIDAY

Expect God to Do More

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

— EPHESIANS 3:20–21

Our imagination is not the limit of God’s ability.

End this week praying with holy expectation.

PRAY

Lord, enlarge our faith. Give us imagination for what You can accomplish in us and through us for Your glory.

U

WEEK 4 · DAYS 22-28

Understand Our Story

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

"Thus far the Lord has helped us."

DAY 22 • SABBATH

Thus Far

Congregational Prayer Day

READ 1 Samuel 7:3–12

“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far the Lord has helped us.’”

— 1 SAMUEL 7:12

After God delivered Israel, Samuel raised a stone and named it Ebenezer.

The stone marked a moment, but it told a much larger story: God had been faithful.

Every congregation has an Ebenezer story.

People prayed here before us. People served. People sacrificed. People taught children, cared for families, shared the gospel, led ministries, opened doors, gave resources, and followed God.

Understanding our story does not mean living in the past. Our Ebenezer reminds us that the God who brought us this far can lead us from here.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, help us recognize the story You have been writing among us. Give us gratitude for yesterday, understanding for today, and faith for tomorrow.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Thus far the Lord has helped us.

DAY 23 • SUNDAY

Remember God's Faithfulness

"I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds."

— PSALM 77:11–12

Remember intentionally.

Think about specific moments when God provided, protected, guided, opened doors, answered prayer, or sustained this congregation.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for every evidence of Your faithfulness. Keep Your works alive in our memory.

DAY 24 • MONDAY

Give Thanks for the People

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

— PHILIPPIANS 1:3

God's faithfulness often arrives through people.

Remember those whose prayers, service, sacrifice, leadership, generosity, teaching, and faith helped shape this congregation.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for the people You have woven into our story. Help us honor their faithfulness by continuing to serve faithfully.

DAY 25 · TUESDAY

Celebrate What God Has Done

“The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad.”

— PSALM 126:3

Name the victories.

Remember answered prayers, changed lives, baptisms, ministries launched, families served, young people nurtured, people disciplined, and moments when God’s presence was unmistakable.

PRAY

Lord, we celebrate what You have done. Let gratitude strengthen our faith for what You will do next.

DAY 26 · WEDNESDAY

Learn from the Journey

“And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

— DEUTERONOMY 8:2

Our history is not merely something to remember. It is something from which we can learn. Ask what God has taught this congregation through its journey.

PRAY

Lord, give us wisdom to understand our journey. Help us carry its lessons faithfully into our future.

DAY 27 • THURSDAY

Recognize What God Has Given Us

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

— 1 PETER 4:10

God has already placed gifts within this church: people, experiences, relationships, resources, ministries, spiritual gifts, community connections.

Today, ask: *What has God uniquely placed in our hands?*

PRAY

Lord, help us recognize what You have entrusted to us and use it faithfully.

DAY 28 • FRIDAY

Tell the Story

“One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.”

— PSALM 145:4

A church’s testimony should not disappear when generations change.

Pray that stories of God’s faithfulness will be told, preserved, celebrated, and passed forward.

PRAY

Lord, help us tell the story of what You have done so that those coming after us will know Your faithfulness.

R

WEEK 5 • DAYS 29–35

Rest in God's Guidance

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

"The Lord Himself goes before us."

DAY 29 · SABBATH

God Goes Before Us

Congregational Prayer Day

READ Deuteronomy 31:1–8

“And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

— DEUTERONOMY 31:8

Israel stood at the edge of something new. Moses' season was ending. Joshua would lead. The landscape ahead was unfamiliar.

Yet Moses directed their confidence beyond either leader: *The Lord Himself goes before you.*

That promise changes how we approach the future. We never arrive somewhere before God does.

God is already present in the places we have not reached, the conversations we have not had, the opportunities we have not discovered, and the answers we do not yet know.

So we can rest.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, teach us to rest in the assurance that You are already present in everything ahead of us.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

You go before us. We will follow.

DAY 30 · SUNDAY

Trust God's Direction

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

— PROVERBS 3:5–6

God promises direction.

Today, entrust the path ahead to God and ask for clarity one step at a time.

PRAY

Lord, direct our path. Give us wisdom to recognize the way You are leading.

DAY 31 · MONDAY

Follow the Light We Have

"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

— PSALM 119:105

A lamp does not illuminate an entire journey. It gives enough light for the next steps.

Pray for faithfulness with what God has already made clear.

PRAY

Lord, illuminate our path through Your Word. Help us faithfully walk in the light You give us.

DAY 32 · TUESDAY

Receive God's Peace

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

— PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7

God's guidance is accompanied by God's presence.

Today, receive the peace God gives as we bring our prayers before Him.

PRAY

Lord, guard our hearts and minds with Your peace as we seek You.

DAY 33 · WEDNESDAY

Wait with Hope

“But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

— ISAIAH 40:31

Waiting on God is not wasted time.

God can renew us while we wait, deepen us while we wait, and prepare us while we wait.

PRAY

Lord, renew our strength. Give us hope, expectation, and patience as Your direction unfolds.

DAY 34 • THURSDAY

Trust God's Presence

"And He said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'"

— EXODUS 33:14

Moses wanted more than direction. He wanted God's presence. That remains our deepest need.

PRAY

Lord, let Your presence go with us. Make us increasingly aware that You are with us in every part of this journey.

DAY 35 • FRIDAY

Walk Courageously

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

— JOSHUA 1:9

God's presence gives us courage to move.

As this week closes, pray not only for direction but for courage to follow that direction.

PRAY

Lord, make us strong and courageous. Give us faith to follow wherever You lead.

E

WEEK 6 · DAYS 36–40

Engage the Mission

THIS WEEK WE PRAY

*“Enable Your servants to speak Your word with great
boldness.”*

Give Us Boldness

Congregational Prayer Day

READ Acts 4:23–31

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.”

— ACTS 4:29

When the believers gathered in Acts 4, they prayed for boldness to continue the work God had given them.

Their prayer was answered with fresh filling by the Holy Spirit and renewed boldness in proclaiming God’s Word.

Prayer did not remove them from mission. Prayer propelled them into it.

Discernment ultimately asks more than, “What is God saying?” It asks: *What will we do with what God has said?*

This final movement turns us outward. We have listened, prayed, looked, remembered, and trusted. Now we prepare to move.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and give us courage to participate fully in Your mission.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Lord, make us bold, faithful, and ready to serve.

DAY 37 · SUNDAY

See Where God Is Working

“But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father has been working until now, and I have been working...Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’”

— JOHN 5:17, 19

Mission begins with learning to notice where God is already at work.

Look beyond the walls of the church. Look within the congregation. Look throughout the community. Where do you see needs, opportunities, openness, growth, new relationships, or signs of God’s activity?

Our task is not simply to ask God to bless what we want to do. We want to discover where God is working and join God there.

PRAY

Lord, open our eyes to see where You are working. Help us recognize the people, places, and opportunities where You are inviting us to join You.

DAY 38 · MONDAY

Serve with What God Has Given Us

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

— 1 PETER 4:10

God has already placed gifts within this congregation. Every person has something to contribute to the work God has called us to do.

Our FUTURE includes what God has already placed among us.

Today, consider what is in your hands. What ability, experience, relationship, resource, influence, or spiritual gift can God use?

PRAY

Lord, awaken the gifts within our congregation. Show each of us how what You have placed in our hands can be used to serve others and advance Your mission.

DAY 39 • TUESDAY

Take the Next Faithful Step

“And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap.”

— JOSHUA 3:13

Israel stood at the Jordan waiting to cross into something they had never experienced before. Then came the instruction to step.

Sometimes God gives us enough direction for the next step rather than a map of the entire journey.

For 39 days we have listened. We have prayed. We have turned our eyes toward God. We have remembered. We have trusted.

Now ask: *What is the next faithful step God is asking of us?*

It may not be the whole plan. It may simply be the next step.

PRAY

Lord, give us courage to act on what You have shown us. Make us faithful with the next step and teach us to trust You for the step after that.

Into the Future

Final Congregational Prayer Gathering

“And Joshua said to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.’”

— JOSHUA 3:5

For 40 days, we have sought God together. We began with a simple prayer: *Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.*

And through these 40 days, we have practiced six spiritual postures:

- F Find God’s Voice:** We have listened.
- U Unite in Prayer:** We have sought God together.
- T Turn Our Eyes to God:** We have fixed our attention on God.
- U Understand Our Story:** We have remembered God’s faithfulness.
- R Rest in God’s Guidance:** We have trusted the God who goes before us.
- E Engage the Mission:** We have prepared ourselves to respond.

The purpose of these 40 days was never simply to arrive at Day 40 with all the answers. We wanted to arrive ready.

Ready to hear. Ready to pray. Ready to see. Ready to remember. Ready to trust. Ready to move.

Over these final days, we have asked God to help us see where God is working, serve with what God has given us, and take the next faithful step.

Now we move into the FUTURE. Not because we can see everything ahead, but because we know who goes before us.

Closing Prayer



Lord,

Thank You for meeting us during these 40 days.

Keep our ears attentive to Your voice.

Keep our hearts united in prayer.

Keep our eyes fixed on You.

Help us remember Your faithfulness.

Teach us to rest in Your guidance.

Fill us with Your Spirit and engage us fully in Your mission.

*Give us wisdom for the decisions ahead, courage for the steps ahead,
and faith for the places we cannot yet see.*

*Open our eyes to see where You are working. Show us how to use what
You have placed in our hands. And when You reveal the next faithful
step, give us courage to take it.*

*We do not ask merely to know the future. We ask to know You, trust You,
and faithfully follow You into it.*

Our FUTURE belongs to You. Lead us forward.

Amen.