



SBarnabas  
ALWOODLEY



# Prayer Booklet

10-19 May 2018

10 Days of Prayer for how we might courageously witness to  
God's life-changing work



## Welcome to *Thy Kingdom Come* 2018

*'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer initiative where thousands of Christians around the world come together, praying that God might work in us and through us to change the lives of others.*

*This prayer booklet is designed to help us pray specifically for five people close to us – for them to become aware of God and to come to know the life-changing forgiveness and redemption that is in Jesus Christ.*

*It is divided into daily sections, with a simple format: A bible reading, a short reflection, a space for your own thoughts, and a prayer.*

*For more inspiration, there will also be videos posted daily by the global team, which can be found at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>*



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## THURSDAY 10 MAY: PRAY FOR 5

**Reading:** Ezekiel 18: 30-31

*Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.*

### Reflection

Do you feel close to Jesus today? Or far away? Perhaps that doesn't matter so much to Him. Perhaps what really matters is which way you are heading.

Are you walking or stumbling through the mud towards Jesus? Or when you think about it, are you slowly drifting away?

Come back to Him today. Turn around if you've been facing in the wrong direction; turn that walk into a run if you're already heading towards Him.

### Response

Choose five people to pray for during 'Thy Kingdom Come' and write down their names where you can see them regularly through the next 10 days.

### Prayer

Loving Father,  
in the face of Jesus Christ  
your light and glory have blazed forth.  
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends  
the life of your Son and your love for all.  
Strengthen me as a witness to that love  
as I pledge to pray for them,  
for your name's sake. Amen.

give thanks  
to the **LORD**,  
FOR HE IS **GOOD**;  
**HIS**  
**LOVE** ENDURES  
**forever.**



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## FRIDAY 11 MAY: PRAISE

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### Reading: Psalm 30: 6-12

*As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favour, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.*

### Reflection

Think of that person who makes you smile. That person who, when you reflect on the comedic things you've done together, makes you laugh out loud. You love spending time with them because you love who they are and what they do. You find yourself talking about them to everyone.

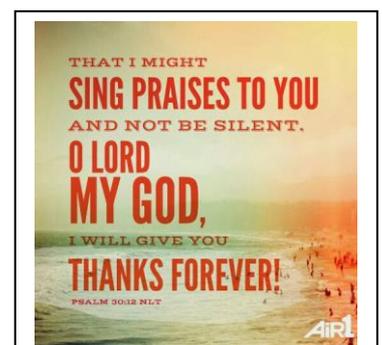
Are you ever like that about Jesus? Do you ever find yourself blown away by who He is, and by the fact that he is with you. If not, maybe you've not really grasped quite who he is.

### Response:

Today, try and list 10 things which are worth praising Jesus for. They don't need to be big things, just the stuff that makes you smile, that you might tell others about if you were telling them about your friend Jesus.

**Prayer:** Pray your five come to praise Jesus themselves.

Oh God, maker of mountains  
present in our highest heights and lowest depths,  
as we recognise all that you have saved us from,  
help us also to see the life you lead us to.  
Drawn from the pit of despair  
may we make it our delight to dance  
in praise of you. Amen.





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## SATURDAY 12 MAY: THANKS

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### Reading: Luke 17: 11-19

*On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, Have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'God and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'*

### Reflection

There are two ways to live life. One way is to live as if we're owed it all, that we deserve everything good that comes our way, and that anything bad we receive is an unfair mistake. The other way is to see it all as a gift. Everything around us seems to hard-wire us to believe we deserve it. All of it: education, fun times, money, respect, friendship, love. But deep down, we know it's a lie. We know we don't deserve it any more than anyone else.

Thankfully, God doesn't work in terms of 'deserve'. He doesn't give people what they've earned. Instead, He gives gifts. It's all an utter gift. Your health. Your friends. Your family. His love for you. Everything. Gift. Gift. Gift. Knowing that, the response from us shouldn't be living like we deserve it, but being thankful.

### Response

How might today be different if you choose to see all these gifts for what they are, and be thankful?

**Prayer:** Thank God for your five and the gift they are to you.

Oh God of pity and the pitiful, help us to recognize ourselves  
And to weigh the gratitude of our hearts.  
Be a wellspring of thankfulness rising up in us  
for change and transformation. Amen





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## SUNDAY 13 MAY: SORRY

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**Reading:** Mark 14: 66-72

*While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.*

### Reflection

'Sorry seems to be the hardest word....'

No, it isn't. It's one of the easiest. It trips right off the tongue. You forget to do something: 'sorry'. You hurt someone's feelings: 'sorry'. It is like a knee jerk reaction to get ourselves off the hook, to shut down the conversation or stop the criticism.

What is much harder is a real sorry. Saying it and also meaning it. A true sorry has given up the fight of trying to prove you are right, to justify or explain. It is coming clean.

### Response

Come clean before God now. Everything. And ask Him to help you to really mean it too.

**Prayer:** Pray that your five will know God's forgiveness.

Oh God of the cock-crow and bitter tears  
May our hearts be broken by every denial of your long suffering love for us  
Every rejection of each other, every cowardly moment.  
With the morning, bring your mending. Amen.





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## MONDAY 14 MAY: OFFER

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**Reading:** 1 Samuel 1: 25b-28

*They brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'*

*She left him there for the Lord*

### Reflection

There is a famous story about approximately five thousand hungry people with no food....

The gig had gone late, and no-one expected it. The only person to plan ahead was one lad with a bit of bread and fish. In Jesus' hands, that's all that was needed to feed all 5000.

Sometimes it can feel like there is so much need in the world. Five thousand, five million more problems than we could possibly seek to solve. What on earth have we got to offer God, when we have so little?

The amount is never the issue. It's simply about our willingness to give it all. And hold back nothing for ourselves. All through history, the people who have seen God do the most have simply given Him everything, even if they didn't have much.

### Response

Today, whatever you have to give – your time, your skills, your money, your heart – offer it all to God.

**Prayer:** Offer prayer for your friends and family

Oh self-surrendering God, you are glad for each gift we offer to you. As Hannah let go of everything she had prayed for, it seems her heart did not break and that you blessed her more. In our letting go of everything we pray for, everything we long for, may we too know your blessing breaking into our lives. Amen

He who  
offers a  
sacrifice of  
thanksgiving  
honors Me.  
Ps. 50:23a

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## TUESDAY 15 MAY: PRAY FOR

**Reading:** Matthew 7: 7-12

*'Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!'*

### Reflection

Some people work out, committed to working on those six packs or getting Beach Body Ready. Some people lift weights to strengthen their shoulders. But some of the weights we really have to carry are too heavy for anyone to bear alone.

Prayer is refusing to carry things ourselves. It is the practice of loading the things that are too heavy for us onto the shoulders of Jesus. And when we do, we find that there is not a burden, not a person, not a situation that He wasn't carrying already.

When we whisper our prayers for the things we carry – if we listen closely enough – we hear back the whisper that He has been praying for them already.

### Response

Don't bear your own burdens...or those of others. Pray for them by loading them onto Jesus. And tune in to what He is already praying for.

**Prayer:** Think of one thing to pray for each of your five.

Oh God of invitation,  
As we stand at the door and knock,  
may we sense you already at work preparing answers,  
drawing us over the threshold  
and satisfying all our hungers. Amen





## WEDNESDAY 16 MAY: HELP

**Reading :** Mark 2 : 1-5, 11-12.

*When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door ; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven...I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this !'*

### Reflection

Most of us find it hard to ask for help.

Whether it's being stuck on an impossible level of a video game, or struggling to complete a piece of work, our stubbornness and pride can be our biggest enemies. After all, who likes admitting they haven't got what it takes?

It's ludicrous, but we live the lie that strength is found in having it all together. God, however, invites us to see the world the other way around. To admit you're weak is to be strong. To come clean that you're broken, is actually to be whole. To ask for help shows how together you really are.

### Response

Jesus is here. Put down your stubbornness and pride, and let Him help you.

**Prayer:** What will help you pray for your five?

Oh faithful God,  
Help us to find our way through the crowd to you.  
Grant us faith to rip off the roof so we may see your face;  
Help us not to mind the mess  
when we bring others into your presence for the first time.  
And if we should ourselves be paralyzed by fear  
Bless us with friends who will place us before you  
and entreat your healing.  
Amen.





## **THURSDAY 17 MAY : ADORE**

**Reading** : Luke 2: 8, 13-18, 20

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night....And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' The shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to the Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the children lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them....The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

### **Reflection**

Why are so many of us so desperate to be famous?

Maybe it's because we're just desperate to be loved. No, more than that: adored. We see celebrities, singers, and actors in front of their legions of fans and imagine what it must be like to have that many people obsessing over your every move. Except, of course, even those people don't live as if they're adored. Because deep down, even they don't trust that the love directed at them could ever be true. Like them, we know ourselves, and we know that we're not really that adorable.

There's one person who truly is, and his name is Jesus. Even though he knows everything about us, He chooses to adore us. Even though we might not deserve it, we truly are adored. This is the thing we hope for... and it is true.

### **Response**

How will it change your day today to really know – deep down – that you are loved and adored by the God who made the universe?

**Prayer** : Pray that your five will realize that God adores them.

Father God, help us to recognise our gorgeous Jesus.  
Drawn into his presence, may we kneel in wonder.  
May we go away changed  
And may we draw others to him too. Amen

*O Lord  
We adore You as  
the One who is  
over all things.*



## FRIDAY 18 MAY : CELEBRATE



### Reading : Isaiah 25 : 6-10

*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God ; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited ; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.*

### Reflection

There is so little that we get excited about - apart from our favourite things, of course. We are so 'meh' about nearly everything. So little impresses us, so little really stirs us to deep joy. Because of this, we can bring our general boredom with life into how we see and think about God. We're a bit bored with faith too.

Our eyes are so distracted by the million everyday things around us, we never let it sink in: we know God – the maker and holder of the whole universe. We are loved and have been given eternal life. We have reason to live and light to live by, and yet so often we almost give them the 'whatever.'

In the boring grey 'meh' of daily life, look up today. Let's realise that awe and wonder of God, hiding in plain sight just beyond the 'meh.'

### Response

Take some time today to list things about God that you can celebrate.

**Prayer:** Celebrate that God has given you family and friends to pray for.

Gentle God,  
You cross all the barriers of separation;  
longing to be near to us, you wipe away our tears;  
your comfort soothes away our shame.  
May we spread the word that you have spread a table –  
and that all are welcome at your feast.  
Amen.





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## **SATURDAY 19 MAY : SILENCE**

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### **Reading : Psalm 130 : 5-6**

*I wait for the Lord, my souls waits,  
And in his word I hope;  
My soul waits for the Lord  
More than those who watch for the morning,  
More than those who watch for the morning.*

### **Reflection**

Stop. Stop moving everything. Your head. Your hands. Your feet. Stop

Breathe in deeply. Hold it. Breathe out. Take 10 breaths.

Listen to the quiet. The noise of silence.

Allow God to fill the space.

Now what?

### **Response**

Listen to what God might have to say for your five.

### **Prayer**

Oh God of the new day,  
your Son Jesus knew what it meant  
to watch and wait through the dark silence of the longest night.  
Teach us how to wait with heaven's indrawn breath  
on tiptoe with anticipation,  
untill all of our being reaches towards you,  
all our desire is for you,  
and all of onward movement is for your Kingdom coming.  
Amen.

