

day 7

Saturday, January 25 | 2025

Thank God for the Gospel

Bible Reading: Romans 8:1-4

The Gospel message has the ability to change lives. If you are a Christian it has changed your life dramatically. The gospel message, however, doesn't just change your life once, but every single day. Each time you hear the gospel message it brings with it new life. It is making you whole again.

Challenge: Go to a mirror in your house and out loud tell yourself the gospel. While looking at yourself, remind yourself that you are a sinner. If there are sins you need to repent of, do that now. Then still looking at yourself remind yourself that you have been saved by Jesus Christ. Look at yourself as Jesus looks at you, as someone who is precious and worth saving. Praise God for your salvation. As you think about your new identity in Christ, think about how you might be able to live your life today in a way that gives gratitude to God.

Journal Notes:



Bethel



day 1

Sunday, January 19 | 2025

Thanksgiving for what God has done in the 75 years of Bethel Church

Bible Reading: Psalm 77:11-13

Bethel Church has been around for 75 years! Praise God! Over the last 75 years people have served countless hours and have given countless resources, but that all means nothing without God. This Church is around in order to serve our God, and God has blessed the ministry of this Church. Today, take some time to remember, reflect, and rejoice on all that God has done.

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.”

Psalm 77:11 encourages us to remember the deeds of our Lord. This is an intentional going back and asking God to remind us of the places where he showed up. It might be God walking with you in the darkest valley, it might be a moment of breakthrough, or a moment of standing with arms lifted on the peak of a mountain. Remembering is the first step to seeing the treads of faithfulness of our Lord.

“I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

After we remember we reflect. We meditate on the works of the Lord. Remembering is the simple recalling of what has happened. It is when we reflect that we see how this has changed our lives. It is here that we ask ourselves: What has God taught me in my time at Bethel Church? What have I learned about him? What have I learned about myself?

“Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?”

After remembering and reflecting, we're invited to rejoice. We rejoice in the faithful love of God! Rejoicing doesn't mean that we ignore the challenging moments. Maybe the lessons God has for us have been hard. But we rejoice that God has never given up on us. We rejoice that his love is everlasting! We rejoice that we have a God who knows us, chases after us, and has given us a life in him through his Son.

day 6

Friday, January 24 | 2025

Pray for the past membership at Bethel Church

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Just because someone is no longer a member at Bethel Church it doesn't mean that they are not a vital part of the kingdom of God. We are a community here at Bethel, but Bethel is a part of a much larger community called the Kingdom of God. Take some time to pray for previous members of Bethel Church. Allow God to bring to mind some of these previous members. Some of the past members have gone to be with the Lord, pray that God would continue to care for their families. Some of the past members left because they found a new church home. It might have been because they moved to a new location, but it also could have been because they found a church that better met their needs. Either way, pray that God would bless them at their new church, and that will be able to grow spiritual in their new place. Some of the previous members left because they were hurt. Pray that God and this person would be able to forgive us for any hardship that we may have caused. Pray that their might be healing in any broken relationships, and that God would use a broken situation to make something incredible.

Journal Notes:

day 5

Thursday, January 23 | 2025

Pray for the current membership at Bethel

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Each and every member of Bethel Church is important. Each of us is needed. That means you. If you are a member or a regular attender of Bethel Church we need you. You have gifts and passions that Bethel needs. We are better with you here. It also means the person who sits in the pew in front of you or the one behind you is also important. They too are needed and a valued member of this body. Pray for the members of this church. Pray for their physical needs, emotional needs, and their spiritual needs.

Challenge: Open a church directory and pray for each person by name. If you know of a specific request include it, and if you feel God drawing you to a specific person or two maybe God is encouraging you to reach out to them and see how they are doing.

Journal Notes:

day 2

Monday, January 20 | 2025

Preparing our hearts for these 40 days of prayer

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 3:13

[Video: Pastor Jon Bosma]

It is important to prepare our hearts over these next 40 days. Spending this much intentional time of prayer, God is bound to move in some incredible ways. Maybe over these 40 days God is going to convict us of some truths that are not easy for us to hear. Maybe he will bless us and humble us with a new glimpse of who he is. Maybe we will find ourselves being transformed into something new. I expect God to show up. I expect him to speak to us. Spend some time today asking that God would prepare your heart for all that he has for you. Pray that he will speak in bold ways. Pray that he will keep you alert in order that you do not miss anything that God has for you.

Challenge: Keep a journal over the 40 days of prayer.

Maybe journaling is something you feel comfortable with, or maybe it feels intimidating or even odd. Maybe you wonder what you would even write down. And you don't need to have all those answers, but it is often through journaling that we find give clarity to the truths he puts on our hearts. So, maybe you only write a sentence or two. Maybe you write a whole page. But write down what you think God has placed on your heart today. It could be a truth he is drawing your attention to. It could be a wondering if God is calling you or Bethel Church to do something specific. Our hope is that at the end of these 40 days we would be different people, and that we would have some clarity on what God wants for Bethel Church as well.

Song: "When We Pray" by Tauren Wells

day 3

Tuesday, January 21 | 2025

Pray for Bethel Church

Bible Reading: Romans 12:4-5

Today, spend a few minutes in prayer for Bethel Church. We are intentionally general in this topic. We will get more specific in the days to come but today follow God's lead. Pray for whatever God brings to mind when you think about Bethel Church.

Journal Notes:

day 4

Wednesday, January 22 | 2025

Pray for the Leadership at Bethel

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 20:26-28

The leadership of a church are given a big task. They are called to help equip God's people to go and be God's people. They are called to lead in the building up of the body of Christ. This doesn't mean they can or even should do it all by themselves. God has gifted Bethel with lots of good leaders over the 75 years. Currently, we have seven people on council that God has called to serve and lead the people at Bethel Church (Deacon Hugh Bartels, Pastor Jon Bosma, Elder Tim Den Besten, Deacon Steve Fox, Elder John Gruessing, Elder Bryan Kragt, and Deacon Rick Rottschafer). Pray that God would equip, strength, encourage, and give wisdom to these leaders as they lead Bethel Church.

Journal Notes:

week 1

40 days of Prayer