



22 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR

EASTER



RIVERLAND HILLS

A LETTER FROM DR. PACK

Dear Church Family,

In just a few weeks we will be proclaiming together "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Until then, I am asking our church family to join together in seeking God through united prayer and Scripture reading. There's a spiritual unity when we cry out to God together! I am passionate about seeing our church family grow deeper in our walk with God.

This Easter Prayer Guide is a tool to help us renew our daily walk with God, pray for the lost and consider all Christ has done for us. Martin Luther once said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Prayer is not an afterthought. It's essential! Let's join our hearts together and ask God to revitalize our passion for Him!

Seeking God Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Pastor Ryan Pack

Read: Revelation 2:1-6

Reflect on the text:

How does Jesus commend the church at Ephesus? Why isn't their stand for truth enough?

What can cause you to wane in intimacy with Christ?

Can you remember a time in your life in which you walked intimately with Christ? Can you remember what happened to cause your intimacy with Christ to wane?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not making intimacy with Christ the priority of your life.
- Repent of letting other things take priority in your life over Christ.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He desires intimacy with you and has made a way for you to have an intimate relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus.
- Thank God that when you repent of your sins, He forgives you completely and your fellowship is restored.

Supplication:

- Pray for yourself. Pray that God would give you a greater desire to walk in intimacy with Him.
- Pray for Riverland Hills as a whole. Pray that our church will desire communion with God more than anything else.

Read: *Philippians 3:4-17*

Reflect on the text:

How did knowing Christ change Paul?

How has knowing Christ changed you?

What are you holding on to that is preventing you from knowing Christ more fully?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of being more concerned about being religious than knowing Christ.
- Repent of bragging about your religious works instead of bragging about what Christ has done in you.
- Repent of not seeing Christ as worthy enough of giving up everything to know Him.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that you are righteous not because of anything you have done but because of what Jesus has done for you.
- Thank God that when you give up everything in this world you gain everything in Christ.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you to count everything in your life as loss so that you might gain everything that He has for you.
- Ask God to help you see how majestic and glorious He is.
- Pray that Riverland Hills will be a church that proclaims that Christ is everything and nothing compares to knowing Him.

Read: Mark 1:35-39

Reflect on the text:

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to regularly spend time with the Father?

Why do you think the text emphasizes the time and place in which Jesus prayed?

Are your actions and decisions an overflow of your daily intimacy with God?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not letting your service to God be an outflow of spending time with Him and listening to His voice.
- Repent of seeking to move ahead of God without considering what He would have for you.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He knows how to direct your life for His glory and your good.
- Thank God for how you have seen Him directing your life in the past.

Supplication:

- Pray that you will be sensitive to God's will in your life. Pray that God would give you wisdom in your day-to-day decisions and pray that you will be careful to submit to whatever it is that He calls you to do.
- Pray that Riverland Hills will be willing to let go of anything that is hindering our church from growing in intimacy with Christ.

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Reflect on the text:

Why did Jesus rebuke Martha? What was wrong with her serving?

Why was Mary praised for her use of time while Martha was rebuked for her use of time?

Who do you most identify with in this story?

What distracts you from making time to listen to God?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of being consumed with busyness rather than being consumed with Christ.
- Repent of a sinful mindset that thinks Jesus is more concerned about what you do for Him rather than who you are becoming in Him.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He always makes time for you. There is never a moment when He is not available to commune with you.
- Thank God that when you spend time with Him, He is able to help you use your time wisely.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you reorder your schedule so that you might have uninterrupted time with Him.
- Ask God to reveal to you what distracts you from spending time listening to Him.

Read: Psalm 63

Reflect on the text:

Why do you think David was so hungry for God?

Where do you find the most satisfaction in life? Is it in your relationship with God? If not, why?

How can remembering what God has done in your life help you develop a hunger to be satisfied by Him alone?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of trying to find satisfaction in the things of this world rather than in God Himself.
- Repent of forgetting God's goodness to you.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God for specific ways He has been your help.
- Thank God that because of Christ you have no need for anything but Him.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you see that He is better than anything this world offers.
- Ask God to help you to not forget how good He has been to you.
- Pray that Riverland Hills will see that nothing is more satisfying than walking with Jesus.

Read: *John 15:1-11*

Reflect on the text:

How do you bear fruit in your walk with the Lord?

How does God prune those who bear fruit?

What can you do apart from Christ?

What does it mean to abide in Christ?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not abiding in the Lord and repent of not bearing much fruit.
- Repent of attempting to do things for God apart from the power of God.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He prunes you and refines you so that you might bear fruit for His Kingdom.
- Thank God that when you are connected to Christ you can do whatever it is He calls you to do.

Supplication:

- Pray that you will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.
- Ask God to show you areas in your life that need pruning and ask Him to prune you in those areas. Where do you lack discipline? Where you lack self-control? Where do you lack patience? Ask God to prune you in those areas.
- Ask God to help Riverland Hills to be a fruit producing church. Pray that more than anything we will desire to be faithful to God.

Read: *Genesis 12:1-9*

Reflect on the text:

Why do you think Abraham was willing to leave everything that was comfortable to him and follow God?

What will it take for you to be willing to give up whatever God calls you to give up to follow Him?

How are we a blessing to others when we follow God by faith?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of making your own comfort and safety a priority in your life over and above God's will.
- Repent of not believing that following God's will for your life is the best way to live.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He calls you to step out of the patterns of this world and live a life that far surpasses anything this world offers.
- Thank God that He is a God that blesses you and blesses other people through you as you follow Him by faith.

Supplication:

- Ask God to show you what you treasure more than Him that is keeping you from walking by faith.
- Ask Him to challenge you in your faith and ask for His help to be willing to embrace what is uncomfortable rather than what is comfortable.
- Ask God to show you specific people that He wants you to be a blessing to.

Read: *Isaiah 55:8-11*

Reflect on the text:

How are God's ways higher than your ways?

How have you seen God do something in your life that was far greater than what you had planned?

What does it mean that God's Word does not return to Him empty?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of simply asking God to bless your plans rather than seeking what His plans are for your life.
- Repent of thinking you know better than God.
- Repent of not believing that God will accomplish what He says He will accomplish in your life.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He knows better than you.
- Thank God that He accomplishes everything He sets out to accomplish.
- Thank God that you can trust Him and He proved it at the cross.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you to believe that His thoughts are higher and better than yours.
- Ask God to help our church not to make plans but to seek God for His plan for our faith family.
- Ask God to help us to be patient and wait for Him to accomplish His purpose for our church in His time.
- Ask God to help Riverland Hills to be a fruit producing church. Pray that more than anything we will desire to be faithful to God.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:14-16

Reflect on the text:

What does it mean to continue in what you have learned?

What does it mean that all Scripture is breathed out by God?

What is the result of allowing the Word of God to challenge you?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not spending time in God's Word.
- Repent of not reading God's Word for life change.
- Repent of misplaced priorities that keep you from spiritual growth.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He has revealed Himself in His Word.
- Thank God that He wants to change you and has given you His Word to sanctify you.
- Thank God that He has placed you in a church that values the Word of God.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you rearrange your priorities so that spending time studying His Word so you might hear His voice becomes paramount in your life.
- Ask God to use His Word to change you.
- Pray for our church. Pray that we will continue to be a church that centers all of our ministry around His Word.

Read: *Hebrews 4:12-13*

Reflect on the text:

What does the writer mean when he describes God's Word as living and active?

How does God use His Word to pierce us?

Why does God desire to pierce our hearts with His Word?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not taking your own sin seriously.
- Repent of not allowing God's Word to pierce your heart and reveal sin to you.
- Repent of trying to hide your sin from God instead of letting Him expose it.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He loves you enough to discipline you when you sin.
- Thank God that He uses His Word to show you how atrocious sin is in His sight.
- Thank God that He has given the remedy for sin: His Son, Jesus.

Supplication:

- Ask God to give you a hatred for sin and a longing for holiness.
- Ask God to give our church a hatred for sin and a longing for holiness.
- Ask God to open your eyes to His Word and ask Him to help you grieve over your sin.

Read: *Psalm 119:9-24*

Reflect on the text:

According to this passage, what is the benefit of knowing God's Word?

What does it mean to delight in God's Word?

What does it mean to meditate on God's Word?

How can you more effectively store the Word of God in your heart?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not wanting to know what God has to say.
- Repent of not delighting in the Word of God.
- Repent of not storing the Word of God in your heart.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that His Word is good and worth delighting in.
- Thank God that His written Word ultimately points to the Living Word, Jesus Christ.
- Thank God that He has given you a mind that is capable of studying His Word and storing it in your heart.

Supplication:

- Ask God to give you and our church a hunger to know God's Word and a desire to delight in His Word.
- Ask God to help you to store His Word in your heart.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how wondrous the Word of God is.

Read: 1 Peter 3:13-16

Reflect on the text:

Meditate on the passage that says, "Have no fear of them, nor be troubled." How does this passage encourage you?

Does your life reflect the "hope that is in you?" Can others see that it is Jesus?

What does it mean to be "prepared to make a defense?"

What are some ways you can share with gentleness and respect?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not being prepared.
- Repent of being overly fearful of what other people think.
- Repent of missing gospel opportunities God puts in your path.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God for hope in Jesus Christ.
- Thank God for a spirit of confidence rather than fear.
- Praise God for the mission field (neighborhood, workplace, family, school, etc) He has placed you in.

Supplication:

- Ask God to burden your heart for those who don't have any hope in Christ.
- Ask God to reveal to you the ones you will invite to Riverland Hills this Easter (Then be faithful to personally invite them).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the exact words to say in each gospel conversation.

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

Reflect on the text:

What does it mean that all authority has been given to Jesus?

How does this passage help you to understand what your life is to be about?

What does it mean to make disciples?

Why is it significant that Jesus is with you for this mission?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not taking the mission of God seriously.
- Repent of not seizing opportunities to share your faith.
- Repent of not investing in the lives of others and helping others to grow in Christlikeness.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He gives you the privilege of joining Him on mission.
- Thank God that His Son is always present with you; empowering you to do exactly what He has called you to do.

Supplication:

- Ask God to show you who He wants you to invest in for the sake of the Gospel.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to share the Gospel today.
- Ask God to help our church to not lose sight of our mission to reach people for Christ.

Read: *Romans 10:14-17*

Reflect on the text:

What is the Good News?

What exactly do you need to share with someone who is without Christ? What are the essential elements of the Gospel?

How do you respond to the statement, "I witness by my lifestyle"?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of not knowing the Gospel well enough to be able to share it.
- Repent of becoming so immersed in all of your other priorities that you fail to take the time to focus on what God has placed you on earth to do.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God that He has clearly spelled out the Good News in the Bible so that you might be able to know it and share it.
- Thank God for the lost people that you know. Thank God that He wants to save them.
- Thank God for a church that takes the Great Commission seriously.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you grow in your knowledge of the Gospel so you can more effectively share the Gospel.
- Pray for the missionaries that we partner with.
- Continue to pray for lost people by name. Pray that God would change their hearts and pray that God will give you clear opportunities to share with them. As a first step, use our Easter resources to invite them to church this Sunday.

Read: Mark 11:1-11

Reflect on the text:

What Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

How does the reaction of the crowds differ from the reactions of the religious leaders?

What can we learn from Jesus' actions in this passage?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of failing to worship Jesus as your King.
- Repent of failing to submit to Jesus as your Lord.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for His promised salvation, fulfilled in Christ.
- Thank God for His faithfulness to always fulfill His promises and keep His Word.

Supplication:

- Ask God to be gracious and give you humility to exalt Christ as King, in every area of life.
- Ask God to allow all our Riverland Hills church family to submit themselves to Jesus as Lord.

Read: Mark 11:12-19

Reflect on the text:

What was Jesus' primary motive for cleansing the temple, in this passage?

What does the temple cleansing reveal about Jesus' authority?

How might we apply this passage to our lives and church today?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of allowing anything to hinder your worship of God.
- Repent of any indifference or resistance to other people knowing and worshipping God.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for His commitment to redeem people from all nations to worship Him.
- Thank Christ our King, who calls us to purity and devotion in knowing and worshipping God.

Supplication:

- Pray that God would move you to honor Him with a life of worship that is pleasing to Him.
- Pray that God would continue to call our church to worship Christ and declare the Good News to others.

Read: Mark 11:20-13:37

Reflect on the text:

What are the main themes of Jesus' teaching and discussions in this passage?

How do Jesus' parables challenge the religious authorities?

What can we learn from Jesus' warnings about the future?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of neglecting Christ's instruction and disobeying his commands.
- Repent of choosing your own thoughts and understanding over God's faultless truth.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for His infinite wisdom and life-giving truth.
- Thank God for the guidance and correction He provides in His Word.

Supplication:

- Ask God to grant you, and our church family, trust in Him and in the authority of His Word.
- Ask God to apply Christ's teaching in your life and to allow you to walk in obedience to Him.

Read: Mark 14:1-11

Reflect on the text:

Why does Judas choose to betray Jesus, and how does he justify this choice?

What is the significance of the woman anointing Jesus?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of any desire or action to work against Christ, as He leads you.
- Repent of any lack of love for or devotion to Christ.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for the sacrificial love and work of Jesus, who willingly laid down His life for us.
- Thank God that because He first loved us in Christ, we can respond to Him in love.

Supplication:

- Ask God to help you to love and devote yourself to Christ, in tangible ways.
- Ask God to protect our Riverland Hills church family from indifference or resistance to Christ and his leadership.

Read: Mark 14:12-72

Reflect on the text:

What do we learn about Jesus' work and mission when he institutes the Lord's Supper?

How does Jesus' prediction of his betrayal and Peter's denial demonstrate his foreknowledge and sovereignty?

What lessons can we learn from Peter's denial?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of any unwillingness to treasure Christ and His sacrifice.
- Repent of your unfaithfulness to Christ and even your denial of Him during trials or challenges.

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God for the body and blood of Christ, given so that we may be forgiven of our sins.
- Praise God for His faithfulness, even to us who are so often unfaithful.

Supplication:

- Ask God to grant strength and courage to remain unswerving in your commitment to Jesus, even when facing persecution or temptation.
- Ask God to grant you the grace to be unashamed to confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

Read: Mark 15:1-47

Reflect on the text:

What accusations are brought against Jesus during his trial before Pilate?

How does Jesus respond to the insults he faces during his crucifixion?

What is important about the tearing of the temple curtain and the reaction of the centurion?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of your sins, recognizing their role in Jesus' suffering and death.
- Repent of any failure to stand on conviction, in the face of pressure or opposition.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for His justice and mercy displayed in the cross.
- Thank God for your redemption and reconciliation, by faith in Jesus' sacrifice.

Supplication:

- Ask God the Father, by the power of God the Spirit, to increase your understanding of, and joy in, the Son of God who died in our place.
- Ask God to grant you the grace to follow Jesus, by a life of faith in Him, exhibited in self-denying and sacrificial love.

Read: Matthew 27:62-66

Reflect on the text:

Why were the religious leaders concerned about Jesus' body being stolen?

How does Pilate's response to their request provide further evidence of Jesus' death?

What is the significance of the sealing of the tomb and the posting of guards?

How does this passage set the stage for the events of Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of impatience in the Lord's fulfillment of His promises or provision.
- Repent of reliance on your own understanding, rather than trusting in His promises.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for the promise of Christ's resurrection and eternal life in Him.
- Thank God for His faithfulness in fulfilling His word.

Supplication:

- Ask God to grant you faith and help to trust in His sovereignty, even in the midst of uncertainty.
- Pray that God will grant you, and our church family, the grace to hope in Christ's victory over sin and death.

Read: *Matthew 28:1-20*

Reflect on the text:

Why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to the Christian faith?

How does Matthew emphasize the authority of Jesus in this passage?

How does Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations apply to you?

Pray:

Confession:

- Repent of allowing doubt to overwhelm your faith in Christ.
- Repent of a lack of trust in Christ and His work.

Thanksgiving:

- Praise God for the resurrection of Christ and His victory over sin and death.
- Thank God for the hope of the gospel, that we have eternal life by faith in Christ, who is raised from the dead.

Supplication:

- Ask God that He might sustain you and our church, as we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for joyful boldness and courage to declare the Good News of the resurrected Christ.