

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE



THE FAMILY LEADER™

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

SEVEN DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Thank you for downloading the prayer journal and taking the time to consider your ways, thinking carefully and biblically on what God says about the institution of government and those who serve in it. It truly is a gift of God and designed by God to be a servant for our good.

Many view government through the lens of politics rather than the lens of governance. For those who are Christian, we want to be more informed by the Word of God than by political talk and party affiliation.

Our overall prayer for you during this Seven Day Prayer Challenge and Summit reflection is that you will Seek the Lord on behalf of our nation; the place of our temporary residence, its government and leaders, and the election. For the next seven days, we ask that you schedule 14 minutes a day to work through the journal.

HOW TO USE THE 7 DAY| 14 MINUTE PRAYER JOURNAL

1

Please take time to read every scripture passage given on these pages and let it teach, inform, and transform you. It is the word of God that endures forever (1 Peter 1:25).

2

As you read, take note of who God is in these scriptures and reverence Him. Recognize that He is the Lord our Maker, and we are His creation (Psalm 95). Understand this is His kingdom and we are His people created for Him and for His glory (Psalm 8, 33:8-9).

3

Repent of the ways that you have fallen short of keeping God's instructions and confess those ways in which you have turned from seeking humility, unity, peace, patience, righteousness, justice, love, self-control, and goodness (Galatians 5:22-23, Proverbs 21:3).

4

Rejoice in the acts of God's grace, mercy, and steadfast loving kindness (Psalm 145). He has shown us the path that leads to life (Psalm 16:11, John 3:16).

5

Respond to the Scriptures and journal your thanksgiving, prayers, and steps of obedience.

6

Write down the names of local, state, and federal officials, and pray for them to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Pray for Christians to be elected and appointed to office, and pray for the salvation of those in office.

7

Pray for Christ's ambassadors to grow in strength and in boldness for Him as they speak God's truth in the public arena. Pray for God's people to be witnesses in their communities, cities, and states.

8

Develop a prayer habit in accordance with 1 Timothy 2:1-4 beyond these seven days. God desires all people to be saved.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

SEVEN DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Dear Friend, as you begin the Seven Day Prayer Challenge, reflect on the Family Leadership Summit, the voices that you heard on stage, and our mission to *inspire the Church to engage government for the advance of God's Kingdom and the strengthening of families.*

Please consider the following questions before and after you complete your journal. We hope these seven days of meditations will challenge you to think biblically about government and those who serve in government.

Questions

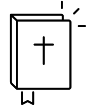
- 1 Who will resolve to turn to the Lord and ask Him to help govern this great people?
(2 Chronicles 1:10; 2 Chronicles 20:3-4)
- 2 Who is willing to seek wisdom, knowledge, and discernment in order to rule and legislate in the fear of the Lord? (Psalm 111:10)
- 3 Have you put God in a partisan box?
2 Chronicles 2:6 says, "Not even the highest heavens can contain him!"
- 4 What national voice did you hear speak of human value?
- 5 Who is willing to hear the heart of the people they represent and serve them?
- 6 Who listens to the voice of the Good Shepherd?
- 7 Who seeks shalom (peace, harmony, and wholeness)?
- 8 Will you commit to pray for and honor the governing authorities who will be placed in office trusting in the Sovereign God who "removes kings and establishes kings"? (Daniel 2:21)
- 9 From whom did you hear, learn and understand a vision for our country that points to the One True God who has the power to bring healing and life and hope to America?

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 1

Government is an Institution of God's

July 15, 2023



READ THE WORD

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:1-4 ESV).

Human government is an institution of God's. It is God's idea as His institution of justice to bring order to mankind in this fallen world. Sin entered creation causing great harm to relationships with ourselves, others, creation, and ultimately our relationship with God Himself.

Our merciful God instituted government, a form of justice and law, to protect, guide, and teach the citizens it serves, and when done rightly it will be a blessing to the people. Righteous law will point us to the direction that leads to life and will protect us from the direction that leads to death. Law, in itself, cannot save. It can only point to the Righteous One who can save.



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for our governing authorities to establish and enforce righteous law that will make it easier for our nation's citizens to pursue right living.

Pray that more Christians would understand that government is appointed by God for His purposes.

Give thanks that God in His mercy and grace instituted government that establishes some form of order and justice in this fallen world.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 1

Government is an Institution of God's

July 15, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

"Seek the Lord and
live."

Amos 5:6 ESV

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Psalm 105:2-4 NIV

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 2 Those Who Serve in Government are God's Ministers July 16, 2023



READ THE WORD

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:1-4 ESV).

All government leaders are called to be a statesman, shepherd, and ultimately a servant of the Most High King. They are also called ministers of God and will be used for His purposes.

In our culture, the role of public office has been greatly reduced by imposing a negative identity and a lowering of this position to a mere politician. All too often, governing authorities live up to this identity which is a lie from the devil and will only lead to destruction. Jesus modeled the behavior every authority should emulate. He did not come to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28).



PRAYER POINTS

Pray that governing authorities will understand they are ministers of God and that government is a servant for the good of the people they represent.

Give thanks and pray for those who know their identity in Christ.

Pray that authorities will know their position as a servant of the Most High God and their calling to public office is a noble pursuit to govern well, without playing politics.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 2 Those Who Serve in Government are God's Ministers July 16, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

**"Seek first his
kingdom and his
righteousness, and
all these things will
be given to you as
well."**

Matthew 6:33 NIV

The humble will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord. All the families of the nations will bow down before you.

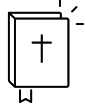
Psalm 22:26-27 CSB

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 3

Governing Authorities Shall Serve as a Shepherd

July 17, 2023



READ THE WORD

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep" (John 10:10-13 ESV).

Jesus calls the leaders of His institutions (family, church, and government) to be good shepherds who are motivated by pleasing the Lord and doing what is right for the people they serve. Governing authorities are the shepherds of government and are called to lead as a good shepherd; willing to do what is best for the people they represent and the nation.

According to John 10, mankind's natural tendency is to lead as a thief or a hireling, both of which are false identities from the evil one. These wrong motives of power and fame and love for the approval of people will lead to envy, disorder, and dissatisfaction. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, came to lay down His life for His sheep so that we would have abundant life.



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for voters to encourage their governing authorities to live out their calling as a good shepherd.

Give thanks by name for those authorities who model governance that does what is best for the people regardless of what it costs them.

Pray that God will raise up more shepherds of government who will imitate Christ.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 3

Governing Authorities Shall Serve as a Shepherd

July 17, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

The Lord looks down
from heaven on the
children of man,
to see if there are
any who understand,
who seek after
God.

They have all turned
aside; together they
have become
corrupt;
there is none who
does good,
not even one.

Psalm 14:2-3 ESV

*[The King] was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4
And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.*

2 Chronicles 20:3-4 ESV

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 4

God's Call to Us to Choose Life

July 18, 2023



READ THE WORD

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil" (Deuteronomy 30:15 ESV).

"We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified" (Galatians 2:15-16 ESV).

Laws can provide guidelines and restrictions to address the issues and problems facing our society, but they cannot change the heart of the people. Our human heart is deceitful, and our internal moral compass is broken. In order to choose life, we need someone outside of ourselves to guide us to the way of life.

Our hope for cultural transformation cannot be in worldly solutions. We cannot put our focus, passion, or hope into changing laws. It cannot become our "gospel." Rather, we must focus on the only true and lasting change; a transformed life through the salvation found in and through Jesus Christ.



PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks for our governing authorities who pursue good laws and societal services and pray for inner transformation within their heart and those whom they serve.

As the Church witnesses, pray for true transformation to come to our communities, state, and nation.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would quicken within governing authorities to seek the Lord and to know the One True God and Jesus Christ whom God sent.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 4

God's Call to Us to Choose Life

July 18, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

**God proves his own
love for us in that
while we were still
sinners, Christ died
for us.**

Romans 5:8 CSB

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

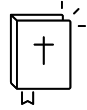
Isaiah 55:6-7 NIV

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 5

The Need for Shalom in Our World

July 19, 2023



READ THE WORD

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7 CSB).

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV).

In the beginning, God and creation were joined together in perfect harmony. Creation was good and in shalom. Shalom encompasses complete wholeness, peace, and rest. Sin mars the goodness of creation that God designed, destroys harmony, and results in unrest.

The loss of shalom has come at a great cost resulting in bondage. Our societal bondage manifests itself as dysfunction, brokenness, and despair both physically and spiritually.

Jesus came to restore shalom by dealing with the disrupting power of sin and opening a way to peace with God. The peace that passes all understanding comes only through Jesus Christ.



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for our governing authorities to be restored physically and spiritually that they would come to Jesus for forgiveness of sin and find restoration in their souls and peace with God.

Choose well the person who will look to the Scriptures for wisdom and who will desire shalom for the people of this nation.

Pray for our governing authorities to promote policy and to be instruments of shalom to instill hope for complete physical and spiritual wholeness in every person.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 5

The Need for Shalom in Our World

July 19, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.
Hosea 10:12 NIV

Hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you...If from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:1,29 NIV

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 6

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

July 20, 2023



READ THE WORD

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13-16 ESV).

As national voices address the issues and take positions that impact our families, communities, and nation, we cannot help but see the world's sin right before our eyes. As we see battles on many fronts in our nation, let us not neglect the war right inside us. Each one of us deals with a sin nature and wrongful desires that can impact us personally or corporately.

Victory over the wickedness of sin in our hearts is only possible through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection that gives us life and peace. There is one position that must be taken by each of us. It is a matter of life and death. You, your spouse, your children, your governing authorities - all must answer before God, "Who do you say Jesus is?" The answer to this question affects our eternal destiny.



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for those believers in authority to take on the identity of Christ as a new creation, the old nature of sin and death is passed and the new life in Christ has come.

Pray for your governing authorities to be aware and address the sin nature that lies within them.

Pray for government authorities to lean in on the One who can save, who can serve and who can bring life. Pray they all will seek the Lord and live.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 6

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

July 20, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

**Seek the Lord, all
you humble of the
land, you who do
what he commands.
Seek righteousness,
seek humility;
perhaps you will be
sheltered on the day
of the Lord's anger.
Zephaniah 2:3 CSB**

Seek the Lord and live...Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy...[and] let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream.

Amos 5:6, 14-15, 24 CSB

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 7

Deny Yourself and Pick Up Your Cross

July 21, 2023



READ THE WORD

"Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it. For what does it benefit someone if he gains the whole world, and yet loses or forfeits himself" (Luke 9:23-25 CSB).

Jesus Christ has laid out a path for each of our lives. He calls us to deny our flesh and our sinful desires that come into conflict with God's word. Sin brings death but Jesus, the Living Word, is life.

Each person has a choice to trust Jesus or self. Every day we have a choice to make to follow Christ or to follow the way of the world that seems good in the immediate but will ultimately lead to death. As the Shepherd King, Jesus took up his cross, laid down his life for us as a sacrifice. As we follow Him, He calls us to do the same.

Seek God and you will live. Follow Jesus; the Way the Truth and the Life!



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the leaders of our nation to choose life. Pray that they will choose Jesus, the Living Word, who is life.

Pray that God's people witness to those who serve in government and proclaim in a timeless voice the hope that is found in Christ alone.

Pray for cultural transformation to take place as people accurately see Christ and rightly value Him.

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

Day 7

Deny Yourself and Pick Up Your Cross

July 21, 2023

REVERENCE GOD

REPENT

REJOICE

RESPOND

You will seek me
and find me, when
you seek me with all
your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2:10-12 NIV

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE

SEVEN DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

You have completed the Seven Day Prayer Challenge, searched the scriptures, and sought the Lord in prayer. Thank you for joining us and many others who are praying for our beloved country to return to God, His principles, and His precepts.

It is time to review the questions again. Would you reconsider your initial answers? We pray that you were encouraged in reading the word, journaling your responses, and praying according to God's will. Our hope is that you have been challenged to pray for the hearts and souls of those in authority and those whom they serve.

We pray for cultural transformation as leaders whose transformed lives impact the way they serve. When the Gospel spreads, society is changed, one heart and one life at a time bringing shalom.

Pray that all will Seek the Lord and Live.

Questions

- 1 Who will resolve to turn to the Lord and ask Him to help govern this great people?
(2 Chronicles 1:10; 2 Chronicles 20:3-4)
- 2 Who is willing to seek wisdom, knowledge, and discernment in order to rule and legislate in the fear of the Lord? (Psalm 111:10)
- 3 Have you put God in a partisan box?
2 Chronicles 2:6 says, "Not even the highest heavens can contain him!"
- 4 What national voice did you hear speak of human value?
- 5 Who is willing to hear the heart of the people they represent and serve them?
- 6 Who listens to the voice of the Good Shepherd?
- 7 Who seeks shalom (peace, harmony, and wholeness)?
- 8 Will you commit to pray for and honor the governing authorities who will be placed in office trusting in the Sovereign God who "removes kings and establishes kings"? (Daniel 2:21)
- 9 From whom did you hear, learn and understand a vision for our country that points to the One True God who has the power to bring healing and life and hope to America?

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

