

P.R.A.Y. THE BIBLE



100 DAYS OF WORSHIP WITH THE NORTH KOREAN UNDERGROUND CHURCH

Sept 22, 2013 through December 31, 2013

For Updates Visit: <http://PrayTheBible.net>

Why This Guide?

This guide allows First Protestant Church as a Body of Believers to study and pray through the same scripture passages each week so we can grow together as individuals, households, and a church. At the same time we will be praying with and learning from the persecuted believers of North Korea!

Each week we'll P.R.A.Y. through a passage of Scripture and its topic. You can "check" (✓) them off as you complete them. There is only one scripture passage for the week so you have plenty of time to read and pray!

This Guide is also a Challenge!

⇒ Are we willing – without self-promotion, fanfare or making a scene – to worship the Lord and read His Word in the settings of life that are outside the church building? In our homes or other places we gather?

That is how we can declare Jesus is Lord everywhere!

⇒ Are we willing to learn from a battle hardened church what it will take to pass the faith on to future generations here in the "New New Braunfels"?

That is how we will – with God's help – bear witness to our city and future generations about First Protestant's Spiritual Heritage.

Goal...

✝ That each week, every member of First Protestant Church will gather with another Christian outside the church building and worship and read scripture together following this simple guide!

Why “P.R.A.Y. the Bible”?

To create whole hearted followers of Jesus Christ...

Whole hearted followers of Christ are baptized Christians who seek to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind (Lk 10:27) and obey everything Christ has commanded (Mt 28:18-20).

They...

SEEK to know God’s will regularly through scripture

SPEAK the Good News of Jesus Christ to others inside and outside the Body of Christ

BLESS God with a lifestyle of praise and bless others as Christ has blessed them with a lifestyle of mercy.

PRAY as participants in Christ’s Kingdom, not merely as “consumers” of God’s blessings.

OBEY God’s Word and look for ways to practically implement it in their lives.

How can we become whole hearted followers of Christ exhibiting these 5 traits?

We “P.R.A.Y.” through scripture!

How To “P.R.A.Y. the Bible”

WE “P.R.A.Y.” the Bible by reading slowly and carefully and sometimes even writing parts of it out word for word. We don’t stop until we understand what the passage tells us about God, about people, and are able to put what it says *in our own words*.

But we don’t leave God’s Word until we ask ourselves...

If God’s Word is true, how will it prompt our:

P – Praise and Thanksgiving in response to God’s Word

R – Reflection, Repentance, Returning to Jesus Christ the Lord who forgives and restores

A - Asking, Seeking, and Knocking in light of God’s kingdom purposes as well as for daily needs (Matt 6:11)

Y – Saying “YES, I Will!” to God’s Word by creating a Plan of Obedient Action.

THEN WE PRAY – We turn our answers into active prayer, praise, repentance, and seeking God’s strength to carry out your plans to follow His will!

How We’ll “P.R.A.Y.” With The Persecuted Church

Whether in the Sunday School hour or as people who wish to meet as families or small groups, we will follow a pattern derived from the experience of North Korean Christians who have worshipped underground for 4 generations despite intense persecution and constant danger.

We’ll let them say it in their own words (reprinted with permission of SEOULUSA: <http://www.seoulusa.org/100-days/>) then discuss how we will implement this at First Protestant Church...

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100 Days of Worship in the Common Places With The North Korean Underground Church

During the roughly two decade long period in which Kim Il Sung was consolidating his power in the new Democratic Peoples’

Republic of Korea (popularly called “North Korea”), North Korean Christian leaders had full knowledge that the state was marching inexorably toward the systematic and intentional annihilation of all Christians.

In spite of this, they asked themselves and God, “How can we continue to be church in the most Christian-hostile nation in human history?”

They selected four “pillars”—one in the area of theology, one in ethics, one in prayer, and one in worship—to constitute the vital teaching and worship ministry on which the North Korean church would stand or fall, by the grace of God. They committed to receive and pass on these fundamental historical Christian pillars even at the cost of their own lives, believing that anyone who professed, memorized, and lived by them would not only be able to endure the storm but also grow to full maturity in Christ.

Every one of these Christian leaders was ultimately martyred. But wisdom is known by her children.

On September 23, 2013, Christians around the world are invited to follow the lead of their North Korean Christian brothers and sisters to do what led to their persecution in the first place: Gather together in handfuls of two, three, or more believers for daily public worship in the common places of their life—their homes, schools, workplaces, parks, libraries, bus stops, and more--using the historic four pillars liturgy of the North Korean underground church.

These will be outwardly modest and unremarkable gatherings. There will be no megaphones, no shouting, no political messages, no recruitment, no voices of concern about the state of religious freedom in America. Neither will the liturgy be conducted in hushed whispers in private corners when no one else is watching.

Instead, in calmly expectant and reverent conversation, without effort to draw attention or deflect it, Christians will undertake the liturgy of the North Korean underground church, which is rooted in the liturgy of faithful Christians throughout history:

- **The Apostles Creed** (the pillar of theology)
- **The Ten Commandments** (the pillar of ethics), followed by confession of sin
- **The Lord's Prayer** (the pillar of prayer)
- The public reading of the gospel of Luke, which has pride of place in the North Korean church as the first book of the Bible translated and distributed on the Korean peninsula
- At least once each month or more during the hundred days, **the Lord's Supper** (the pillar of worship)

May the Lord bless your time of worship over the next 100 days as you show your solidarity and partnership with the North Korean underground church!

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How to Meet During the 100 Days

1. Receive an orientation – come to Pastor Chuck's class Sunday September 22nd or simply speak with him personally.
2. Any time during the week, get together with one, two or more people (family or friends) in a place where you can hold a **reverent conversation** and “worship in the common places of life”. This is what North Koreans must do. and what we would do if we had no “church building”. This can be in homes, workplaces, restaurants, etc. (Some will choose to meet this requirement Sunday mornings, but as many as possible are encouraged to meet elsewhere at different times of the week during the 100 days.)

3. Choose a leader. A person does not have to be “ordained” to facilitate this type of meeting. Having a sincere desire to follow Christ is the only requirement. (You can rotate leaders from meeting to meeting if you wish.)
4. Take turns reading a portion of the Gospel of Luke. Share how it leads you to P.R.A.Y. (see above). Your personal study can be done beforehand too.
5. As time allows as many should pray as you wish, and then end with the Lord’s Prayer.
6. Take communion monthly with the Congregation of FPC. But in addition, also feel free to ask Pastor Chuck about observing the Lord’s Supper in your group at additional times throughout the 100 days.
7. Whether participating on Sunday, midweek or individually, all those wishing to participate can get this booklet. You will be able to access other information regularly on FPC’s Facebook page and at PrayTheBible.net or by contacting Pastor Chuck.
8. In North Korea, confession comes easy. People are trained from birth to criticize themselves in public as a normal part of life. Be discreet in groups, but still confess!
9. Near the end of 100 Days have your group take time to evaluate. Were you faithful? What changed in your life? What did you learn? Consider as a group making a donation to support ministry to the North Korean underground church through SeoulUSA.org
- 10. *Don’t be surprised if you are invited to unannounced meetings during the 100 Days as we worship with the North Korean Underground Church.***

Wk	Scripture	Your “Yes” to God?	√
9/22	Luke 1		
9/29	Luke 2-3		
10/6	Luke 4-5		
10/13	Luke 6		
10/20	Luke 7		
10/27	Luke 9		
11/3	Luke 10-11		
11/10	Luke 12		
11/17	Luke 13-14		
11/24	Luke 15-17		
12/1	Luke 18-19		
12/8	Luke 20-21		
12/15	Luke 22		
12/22	Luke 23		
12/29	Luke 24		

Order of Worship

Leader: In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

The Apostles Creed *(recite together)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ,
His only begotten Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father, Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The One Holy Universal Christian Church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

Ten Commandments *(recite together)*

1. I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol...
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.

- Adapted from Exodus 20:1-17 NIV

Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

(Take turns individually confessing sins...)

Lord, I confess that....

Conclude by saying...

I repent and ask for grace. In your mercy Lord, hear my prayer.

After individual confession everyone responds...

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

-- From Luther's Small Catechism

P.R.A.Y.ing the Gospel of Luke

Each week a portion of the Gospel of Luke is assigned. Group members may read it beforehand and/or take turn reading it in the group. Then everyone may have an opportunity to share how that portion of God's Word leads them to praise, repentance, prayer ("asking") or calls them to new obedience ("saying Yes, I Will! to God")

The Lord's Prayer

Note: As time allows group members may take time praying or a few may lead in prayer. Then together recite:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Notes:

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