

Prayer guide for week March 30 through April 5th

Introduction: What is Adoration?

I have found in my own life that when I am praising God, often I am focusing on things He has given me—things like it is a beautiful day with blue skies and sunshine or that I am blessed with a wonderful family and church ... Yet, I have felt the tug in my own heart to learn to truly adore and worship the Lord for who He is and not just what He has done for me. As a parent, I know it would be disappointing to me if my children only showed appreciation for the things that I do for them and never expressed love for me. So I asked the Lord to help me to learn to praise, worship and adore Him for who He is. The following list is something that has been helpful to me.

In the book, *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen and Alex Kendrick, they define adoration as “prayer that praises and worships God. And He is fully worthy of all our praise. In adoration, we’re not necessarily requesting anything from Him; we’re merely adoring and honoring Him in our hearts.” In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus began His model prayer with “Hallowed be thy name” (Matt. 6:9).

The following is a list from the book of ways we observe adoration in the Word of God:

1. A **reminder** of who God is: You are our Creator; You are awesome; Lord of all.
2. A **recounting** of what He’s done: You rescued us; You saved us; You provided for me.
3. A **recognition** of His holiness: There is none like You; You are greater than...better than...higher than...more powerful than...anything else.
4. A **rejoicing** in His name: We lift up Your name; I praise Your name; we honor Your name.
5. A **relinquishing** of control: I love you Lord and give you my life; I surrender to You; all that I am and have is Yours.

A Suggested prayer guide for this week...

Adoration and Praise:

Open to Exodus 15:1-18 ESV

Part 1-Read the passage. Praise God for the truths displayed in this Psalm. (You might want to look at the verses in a different translation to enlighten your understanding or to help young children in the home.*)

- We will sing to You Lord, for You have triumphed gloriously! (Ex.15:1)
- We praise You that You are our strength and our song, and you have become our salvation! (Ex. 15:2)
- You are our God and we will praise You! (Ex. 15:2)
- You are a man of war; the Lord is Your name. (Ex. 15:3)
- Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy! (Ex. 15:6)
- In the greatness of Your majesty, You overthrow your adversaries—those who rise against You. (Ex. 15:7)
- Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? (Ex. 15:11)
- Who is like You? You are * Majestic in holiness. * Awesome in deeds. * Doing wonders. (Ex. 15:11)
- In Your steadfast love You lead the people You have redeemed. (Ex. 15:13)
- You guide us by Your strength to Your holy abode. (Ex. 15:13)
- You will reign forever and ever! (Ex. 15:18).

Part 2-You might want to sing a hymn of praise. There are many possibilities.

As you read the Psalm, a song of praise may come to you.

- As an example of a song of adoration and praise, you could go to YouTube and google:

Fernando Ortega Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation.

* The Bible Gateway App is helpful in looking at many translations.

Confession and Repentance

Part 1-There are 3 key passages typed below and a typed prayer in response to the truth of scripture .

*Read the passages and then read the prayer as your own prayer to God.

- **Psalm 66:18**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

- **Matthew 6:12**

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, we acknowledge that You are a holy God. We worship You as Lord, and we desire that You will be glorified in our lives. Please search us and reveal to us iniquity in our hearts that we might repent. Help us Lord to freely confess any and all sin that would stand in the way of our relationship with You. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Help us to walk in love and forgiveness as You have loved and forgiven us. We praise You Lord for Your mercy and faithfulness to forgive us when we confess our sin.

Part 2-Ask the Lord to show you any sin in your heart and write out your own prayer of confession and repentance and praise Him for His mercy and grace.

Thanksgiving:

Part 1-Read the following passage and think about the blessings we have in our Lord.

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters

3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Part 2-Thank him for the following truths seen in this Psalm:

Lord we thank you that:

- You will meet our every need. (Ps. 23:1)
- You give us rest. (Ps. 23:2)
- You lead us. (Ps. 23:3)
- Your presence brings restoration. (Ps. 23:3) • You give our lives purpose. (Ps. 23:3)
- You comfort us. (Ps. 23:4)
- You will never leave us. (Ps. 23:4)
- You deal with our enemies. (Ps. 23:5)
- You bless us. (Ps. 23:5)
- You show us mercy and goodness all the days of our lives. (Ps. 23:5)
- We will dwell in your house forever. (Ps. 23:6)

Supplication and Intercession:

Read through the passages below and pray through the points provided.

- **Philemon 1:7**
For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11**
Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
- **Galatians 6:2**
Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- **1 Timothy 2:1**
First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

Lord, we pray for:

- Pastors and church leaders faced with challenges of shepherding their members. Please help them find creative ways to fulfill their calling. Please bless them and encourage them and keep them safe and healthy.
- Christians that we will seek You with all of our hearts and Your will for us during this time of quarantine. Help us to be faithful to pray and bear one another burdens, to give, to love and to encourage and build up one another, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified. Help us to walk in faith and wisdom, keeping our eyes upon You, trusting in Your love and faithfulness. Help us be good stewards of our time and money.
- Our local, state and federal governments: that they will be led by you in the decisions they make for the good of the people.
- The sick and infected: Lord, please help them, comfort them, and heal them. Please contain the spread of this virus.
- Our scientific community: Please give them knowledge and wisdom, and guide them in finding a cure.
- Those in the medical profession, caregivers, first responders, firemen, policemen...: Please keep them safe and provide wisdom, strength, and the materials necessary to do their job.
- Those facing financial stress: Please provide the help they need and show your people ways to help them.
- The elderly and those feeling isolated, anxious and helpless: Please protect them and provide the support they need and show your people ways to show them love.
- Missionaries and other laborers in the Harvest Field: Please bless them and keep them safe and provide ways for fruitful ministry. Please send more laborers into the Harvest Field and help us your people to be bold and willing to be laborers. We pray for the opportunity to share and the courage to present the gospel and to present it clearly and with gentleness and respect.
- The Lost: That their eyes will be opened to their need of a savior, for we know that you desire that none should perish but that all come to repentance. Please open their eyes to the truth. We pray that many will turn to You and be saved.
- Lord, there are so many who need our prayers. Please show us others You want us to pray for. Help us to be faithful to pray. Thank you Lord that the prayers of the righteous avail much and that we are righteous through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. To God be the glory!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make straight your paths.