**The Basics**

Daily Devotional Week 1 | Prayer

### **Day 1 – The Simple Gospel**

**Read:** John 3:16–21; Romans 5:6–11

**Devotional:** The gospel is simple: God loves us, sin separated us, and Jesus restores us. When we receive Him, the wall comes down and we walk in freedom.

* How have you sometimes overcomplicated the gospel in your own life or faith journey?
* What would it look like for you to rest in the simplicity of God’s love this week?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You that Your love is simple and sure. Help me to trust in what Jesus has already done for me instead of trying to add to it. Amen.

**Day 2 – Prayer Without Performance**

**Read:** Matthew 6:5–13

**Devotional:** Jesus teaches that prayer isn’t about show—it’s about intimacy with our Father. Real prayer flows from a sincere heart, not impressive words.

* Do you ever feel pressure to “perform” when you pray? Why?
* What would it look like to pray with greater honesty this week?

**Prayer:** Father, help me to come to You in prayer with honesty and humility. Strip away the pressure to perform, and let my prayers reflect real relationship with You. Amen.

**Day 3 – The Power of Pause**

**Read:** Matthew 14:22–33

**Devotional:** Even in the busyness of ministry, Jesus paused to pray. If He made time to be alone with the Father, how much more do we need to pause from our noisy schedules?

* When and where do you feel most able to pause and connect with God?
* What small, practical change could you make to build intentional pauses into your daily life?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for showing me the importance of stepping away to be with the Father. Teach me to pause, rest, and listen in Your presence. Amen.

**Day 4 – Asking with Trust**

**Read:** Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 4:4–7

**Devotional:** God invites us to bring our requests to Him, but always with trust that His will is best. Prayer isn’t just about getting what we want—it’s about aligning our hearts with God’s plans.

* What worries or desires do you need to bring honestly before God today?
* How might you shift your prayers from “my will be done” to “Your will be done”?

**Prayer:** Lord, I bring my needs and desires before You. Help me to trust Your timing and plans, believing that Your way is always better than mine. Amen.

**Day 5 – Yielding in Forgiveness**

**Read:** Matthew 18:21–35; Colossians 3:12–17

**Devotional:** Yielding to God means receiving His forgiveness and extending it to others. Forgiveness frees us to live in communion with God and in peace with those around us.

* Where do you most need to yield to God’s forgiveness in your life?
* Is there someone you need to forgive so you can walk more freely in God’s grace?

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for forgiving me through Jesus. Help me to yield to Your will and extend forgiveness to others, so I can live in the freedom of Your love. Amen.

**PRAY Reminder: *Pause – Rejoice – Ask – Yield***