

Meet us at

THE BRIDGE

11 a.m. Sundays
Fellowship Hall

Pastor Rebecca Frank
Leslie Williams-Blum, worship leader



KNOCK AND KEEP
ON KNOCKING AND
THE DOOR SHALL BE
OPENED TO YOU.

A word of introduction—

In our Bridge worship service we're exploring prayer and seeking to experience the depth and power of prayer as people who follow the risen Christ. We're looking at scripture and the long tradition of Christian prayer. We hope to grow in our capacity to listen for God and to open our hearts.

This prayer journal is intended to be a resource for the journey. It's intended to be a simple (but not simplified!) invitation to spend time with God in scripture and in prayer. It's not a workbook or homework; there's not a "right" way to use it, and there are no right or wrong answers. It's an invitation: *Come and sit with Me for a few moments. Listen. Think. Ponder. Pray. Let's spend some time together.*

You'll notice a lot of white space here; use it for thoughts, ideas, prayers – for whatever you need.

May your journey with God be full of grace and gladness!

Rebecca

SATURDAY

As you have reflected on prayer this week, what changes have you decided to make in your prayer life? What will you keep the same? How have you more actively "prayed the verbs?"

ASK AND KEEP ON ASKING AND IT
SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU.

SEEK AND KEEP ON SEEKING AND
YOU SHALL FIND.

KNOCK AND KEEP ON KNOCKING
AND THE DOOR SHALL BE OPENED
TO YOU.

FRIDAY

So I say to you, Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.

For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened.
Luke 11: 9-10 (Amplified Bible)

Do you feel that God has answered your prayers? How often? And does God answer certain prayers and not others? Why do you feel that is?

SUNDAY

“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Jesus, Matthew 6:9-15

Notice the verbs that Jesus gives us. Give. Forgive. Rescue. What imagery do these words create for you?

What verbs do you most often use when praying? Are you asking God to take action, or are you asking for the ability to act yourself?

MONDAY

⁷“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Jesus, Matthew 7:7-8

What do you most seek from God? What doors are you knocking on? In what ways have these doors been opened for you?

Just as a parent would not deny a child food, God will not deny his children what they need to sustain them. What is it that sustains you? Have you asked God for it?

THURSDAY

Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. Everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And the door will be opened for everyone who knocks. Would any of you give your hungry child a stone, if the child asked for some bread? Would you give your child a snake if the child asked for a fish? As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give good things to people who ask.

Matthew 7:7-11 (Contemporary English Version)

What kinds of things do you ask for when you pray?

TUESDAY

Love to pray. Feel often during the day the need to pray, and take trouble to pray. Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself. Ask and seek and your heart will grow big enough to receive him and keep him as your own.

A Gift for God, Mother Teresa

Do you love to pray? Why or why not?

How many times per day do you reserve time for prayer? Is it enough?

What can you do to ensure that praying continues to be an action verb in your life?

WEDNESDAY

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.

Sarum Primer

Notice how the verb “be” takes on a very active role. How can you allow God to more actively “be” in your life?

Before the end of the week, make a commitment to yourself to keep a regular prayer schedule. Reserve at least five minutes of your day – preferably not at the normal prayer times of mealtime and bedtime – to go to the Lord in prayer.