

Prayer Calendar

May 2018

Spiritual Gift of Service and Helps

“We have been given our gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of Jesus, to maturity, to be like Christ.”

Tuesday, May 1

Hebrews 6:10| For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.

~ Holy God, I do wonder sometimes if you notice my small efforts on your behalf. I am grateful that you notice me, for I love serving you for the sake of Christ in the world.

Wednesday, May 2

Philemon 1:13| I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel...

~ Loving God, we are all in service to each other and don't know it. Help us today to remember that serving you is serving others; serving others is serving you.

Thursday, May 3

Romans 16:1-2| I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

~ Holy Spirit, we go about our lives with little notice of those who work in your mission field, for they are quiet and humble. Nudge us to pray for those who are in service to you wherever they may be.

Friday, May 4

Galatians 5:14 | For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

~ Lord, you call us to live in harmony, but that is so hard sometimes! We want our own way and we know we are right – oh, help us in our stubbornness to see the other side and to begin to forgive.

Saturday, May 5

Hebrews 13:16 | So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

~ Gracious God, thank you for helping us at every turn, every day and help us to let go of our fears and remember that we can do all things through you, who loves us.

Sunday, May 6

I Samuel 12:24 | Only fear the LORD, and serve him faithfully with all your heart, for consider what great things he has done for you.

~ Almighty God, today I will take time and consider all the great things you have done for me and for my family, for our church and rejoice as I serve you faithfully each day.

Monday, May 7

John 12:26 | Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

~ God of Love, If we have eyes to see, we can see you at work in the world through those who serve you. Today, I will look and see where you are at work and join you in it.

Tuesday, May 8

Joshua 22:5b | ... to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

~ God, give us the grace, energy, strength and purpose to walk in all your ways and remember that we cannot serve you half-way, but with our whole selves.

Wednesday, May 9

Romans 12:11 | Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

~ Loving God, today I give thanks for those who strive to love and serve you more even in the face of doubt and fear. May those who are alone and afraid know that your grace is given.

Thursday, May 10

Matthew 23:11 | The greatest among you will be your servant.

~ Christ Jesus, we get it all wrong. We think that the greater we are, the more we should be served. You turn the world upside down and proclaim that the truly great serve others with humility and joy.

Friday, May 11

Mark 10:45 | For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

~ Lord of Life, in your greatness you showed us and are still showing us how to serve others for that is our calling as your disciples.

Saturday, May 12

2 Chronicles 15:7 | But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.

~ God of Grace, at times our service to you seems to be overwhelming and too much. You do remember our efforts and keep us focused on the true call and not our own agendas

Sunday, May 13

I Peter 4:10: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

~ Lord, help us honor the spiritual gifts you have given to us so that we may become more like you.

Monday, May 14

Romans 12:12: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

~ Gracious Spirit, to know that we are recipients of your blessing of grace is cause for rejoicing and hope. Give us the desire and the will to bless others with your grace.

Tuesday, May 15

Romans 12:15 | Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

~ God of Love, bring to our minds today those whom you love and that we need to bring to you in prayer. We thank you for those who risk their lives for the safety of the world, for those who labor in hospitals, for those who guard and protect, for those who teach and train, for those who lead.

Wednesday, May 16

John 13:12-14 | After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

~ Gracious God, your example of humble service is an image of what you call us to do for one another. We cannot ignore your call to set aside our outer shells and give ourselves fully into your service by serving others with a humble heart.

Thursday, May 17

Philippians 2:4 | Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

~Holy One, at times we are a selfish lot. It is easier to look inward and not at those around us. Shake us out of our self-centeredness and help us look to the needs of others.

Friday, May 18

Mark 9:35 | He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

~ Lord Jesus, being a servant of all calls for a heart and life-style change. Soften our hearts and reveal to us how we might serve you as your disciple.

Saturday, May 19

Ephesians 3:16 | I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit...

~ God of Grace, we are weak and are strengthened through adversity and challenge only because of the riches of faith and forgiveness, hope and mercy that you give to us in difficult times. Thank you.

Sunday, May 20

Ephesians 3:17 | ...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

~ Christ our Lord, as we grow in our faith as a tree grows deeper roots and widening branches, you grow and dwell within us. Our faith is so small, yet rooted in the soil of love and salvation. Keep us aware that as we grow in you we grow in faith.

Monday, May 21

Ephesians 3:20 | Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine....

~ Loving God, it is always a surprise when our puny efforts are somehow multiplied into abundance. Our imaginations are limited, but you are limitless and offer us a glimpse of what is possible through the power of your Holy Spirit – not our own efforts. Help us to see and join you in the work of the kingdom every day.

Tuesday, May 22

Acts 20:35 | In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak...

~ Loving Father, it is easy to forget those who cannot do for themselves. Today, give me eyes to see and a heart to help those who are weak and in need.

Wednesday, May 23

Matthew 25:35 | ...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

~ Merciful Jesus, today we pray for your church all over the world. We lift up those who preach and teach the gospel in hostile conditions, who offer their very lives for your sake, who suffer in ways that we will never know for the sake of the gospel. Pour out your mercy and compassion, pour out your grace and provision upon them and show them that they are not alone in their sacred tasks.

Thursday, May 24

Matthew 25:36 | I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

~ Lord of Life, we know that we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Keep us mindful and engaged on our call to be your witness in the world as your disciples.

Friday, May 25

Philippians 4:6 | Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

~ Jesus, through your gospels you tell us not to worry – yet we are so good at worry. It seems that worry gives us comfort – that worry is our “go to” place when we don’t know what else to do. How futile and empty is the practice of worry. Today, instead of worry I offer prayers of thanksgiving for what I do have and all that is good in my life and lay my concerns at your feet.

Saturday, May 26

Matthew 5:16 | In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

~ Holy God, we forget that we can and are an example for good for others. Others see us and in us see God at work in the world. Thank you, Lord, that others may see you in me.

Sunday, May 27

Galatians 6:9 | So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

~ Christ our Lord, it is a temptation to grow weary helping others as we serve you. We become tired and overwhelmed at all there is to do to alleviate suffering. Strengthen us for today and give us energy for tomorrow, not in our own power, but in your Holy Spirit.

Monday, May 28

I Thessalonians 1:2 | We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Lord God, today we pray for the Sunday school teachers, the small group leaders, the youth leaders, the camp counselors, the VBS leaders and all of those who offer themselves so gloriously to lead, teach and mentor others in the faith. Thank you for these saints and encourage them in their labors of love.

Tuesday, May 29

Deuteronomy 15:11 | Since there will never cease to be some in need on earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

~ Holy God, from all time you command us to open our hands to the needy that surround us. Today, help us respond to that command with open hands and hearts.

Wednesday, May 30

I Thessalonians 5:17-18 | Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

~ Christ Jesus, your will for us is to rejoice, pray and give thanks in all circumstances. Help us to remember this call when we are troubled and in need for this is when we most often forget your will. Today we rejoice in _____, pray _____ and give thanks in these circumstances _____.

Thursday, May 31

John 15:12 | This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

~ Lord, you command us to love, remembering that you love us. Help us today to serve those whom you love: those on the margins, who have no home, who are sick, who are alone, and who are afraid.

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer and all scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (NRSV)

Read the scripture for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an “ear of the heart” to a word or phrase that strikes you.

Reflect on that word or phrase asking yourself the question: “What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?” Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

Allow God to speak to you in the silence. Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

Thank God for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.