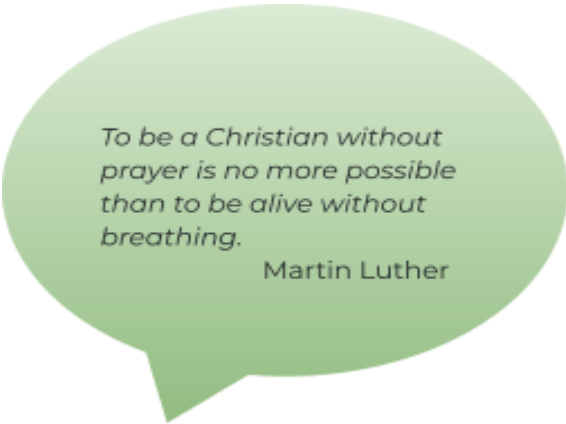


Compelled by Christ's love to pray

Share

When have you been really compelled to pray for something?



To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther

A new series...

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes:

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

In this 4 week series (this prayer-based one is a prequel extra bonus to the series. The 1st of the 4 studies is for the week of 18/3 given that in this series the studies come the week following the talks) we are unpacking 4 gospel truths which fuel our mission as a church to live not for ourselves but for Jesus and his glory. Praise God, he is the one who enables us to live for Jesus and to make disciples. So we are kicking off this series in Growth Groups with a prayer meeting!

Later in the year we will have another focused opportunity to pray for our communities and the wider world. But as we kick off this series it's a prime opportunity to pray about what God is doing amongst us at Crossroads.

The plan

Across our time together we'll consider four different types of prayer, drawing on passages from Colossians.

- 1) **Adoration** - we'll start by praising God for who he is and what he's done in Christ
- 2) **Confession** - we'll say sorry to God for the ways we've disobeyed him.
- 3) **Thanksgiving** - in small groups we'll thank God for what he has been doing among our congregations (North, Belco, Lake G and City) and our kids and youth.

- 4) **Supplication** - we'll ask God to build his kingdom through our areas of ministry.

Adoration - Praise God!

Read Colossians 1:15-20. What are some things God has done through Christ in this passage?

Pray...

As a group, spend some time in open prayer praising God for who he is and what he has done in Jesus.

Confession - sorry God

Read Colossians 3:1-10

Write out a prayer to God confessing ways you have followed 'earthly' ways rather than God's ways.

After enough time, choose someone to lead the group in the following prayer, or say it aloud together:

Merciful Father,
We admit that we have disobeyed you in our actions, words and thoughts. We have followed earthly ways rather than your ways. Thank you that because of Jesus, you have forgiven all our mistakes, you have cancelled the record of them by nailing them to the cross. Strengthen us to live in your new way, in love and obedience to you, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving - thank you God.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving - Colossians 4:2.

Let's thank God for what he's been doing amongst us as a church, in our 4 congregations and among our kids & youth. Spend a minute brainstorming what God has been doing

at your congregation. Then split into pairs or small groups, choose a group, read their prayer points and spend time thanking God in prayer.

North Congregation

- Thank God for the chance we have to be present in local schools through Scripture Union Supa Clubs and the ministry of CEIS (Christian Education in Schools). Thank God for the growth in some of these groups, e.g. at Lyneham primary.
- Thank God for the welcoming culture at North, for our new initiatives to help connect people in and for the non-Christians who regularly visit.
- Thank God for all the people who volunteer from other congregations to serve the kids and other ministries at North.

Belconnen Congregation

- Thank God for the four new Growth Groups starting up this year.
- Thank God for people from Belco who went to Jesus on Life across 2024 (the most we've ever had!).
- Thank God for the new Team Leaders who've kicked off at Belco this year.
- Thank God for the people who have joined our church family this year.
- Thank God for those serving in new ways and on new teams this year.

Lake G Congregation

- Thank God for the new people who've joined into church, especially the large number of students.
- Thank God for those at Lake G who are exploring Christianity for the first time.
- Thank God for the many people who are already serving in many different ministry teams.

City Congregation

- Thank God for a great kick off to the year, with lots of visitors and lots of non Christians engaging with Jesus.
- Thank God for the chances we've had to eat together and share fellowship.
- Thank God for our Summer Growth Group and the kicking off of our 12 growth groups.
- Thank God for signs ups to Escape and Getaway (weekend camps for workers and students)

Kids

- Thank God for our Friday night Kid's club - KidsBlast - for the 40 or so kids coming along and the new leaders who've joined the team this term.
- Thank God that the teaching series in Matthew has challenged kids at Kids@Church on Sundays to articulate their faith and live for Jesus.
- Thank God for the genuine friendships and fellowship relationships growing amongst our morning congregations: parents, kids and leaders.

Youth

- Thank God for the 21 new youth who have come along to CrossFire (Friday night youth group) so far this year.
- Thank God for how well the new Ministry Centre has worked for hosting Crossfire.
- Thank God for the college students showing a real hunger to come along and grow in their faith and bring friends on Friday nights.
- Thank God for the extra youth coming along to youth@Church at Belco and North this year and the extra leaders he's raised up.

Supplication - Please God...

Our big prayer is that God will enable us as a church to grow lifelong disciples as we work together to help people reach, connect, grow, serve and love God. Split into new pairs or small groups, read the verses from Colossians and pray for our ministry areas.

Reach

Sharing the gospel to see people turn to Christ

Read Colossians 4:3-6.

From these verses, what will help us speak the gospel well? Pray we would be doing this as a church.

Please also:

- Pray for those who came to the most recent Jesus on Life series:
 - That those engaging with the bible for the first time would become Christian
 - That those who are Christian would be strengthened in their faith
- Pray the participants in our DivorceCare series - that they would be experiencing healing in the gospel
- Ask God to help our Crossroads congregations be compelled by Christ's love to share the gospel with their local communities.
- For the Crossroads English team to take every opportunity to share the hope that we have in Jesus with those who come to study english.

Connect

Helping people
knit-in at Crossroads

Read Colossians 3:12-15

How should we treat one another as God's people according to these verses? Pray we would do this as a church.

Please also:

- Pray that we would be a welcoming church.
- Pray our Connect Series' would be very helpful for new people finding their way into church.
- Pray for the connect teams for each congregation, that they would welcome and follow up newcomers warmly and well.
- For those who are feeling lonely or disconnected... pray that we would all be refreshed by the unity we share in Christ.
- Pray for Dan Wilton our Connect pastor, recovering from surgery for a sports injury.
- Amongst the youth, pray we'd see a growth in those year groups struggling to get core members.

Grow

Maturing in Christ
together

Read Colossians 1:28-29.

What is the goal Paul is struggling to achieve? How is he seeking to achieve it (from verse 28)?

Please also:

- Pray for even more people to join Growth Groups, particularly if they haven't before.
- Pray for all our Growth Group, Kids and Youth leaders, that they would be faithful, wise and loving in leading.
- We're dependent on the Holy Spirit for spiritual growth. Ask the Lord to help each of us to continue to grow to maturity in Christ.
- Pray as we seek to nurture a culture of repentance and faith as a normal part of the christian life.
- Pray for our marriage enrichment small groups, that they would help grow marriages of godly wisdom and care.
- Pray for Crossfire Camp (11-14 April). Ask God to grow the youth in their grasp of what it means to worship him.

Serve

Serving the body of Christ together

Read Colossians 3:17

What might it look like to serve at church 'in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him'? Pray we would do this as a church.

Please also:

- Thank God for all our teams! Pray that as many of our ministries kick off for the year, we would serve joyfully and sacrificially for God's glory and the growth of the gospel.
- Pray that as a church family, we'd prioritise spiritual training and that through Crosstrain we would be further equipped to love and serve our God.
- Ask God to raise up labourers for the gospel harvest- Matthew 9:37-38
- Pray for our MTS trainees - Alice, Willis, Aisha & Emily. They they would grow in love of God & others and their ability to serve & teach.
- Pray also for our administry and pastoral staff - that they would be faithful and earnest servants of Christ and his church.
- Ask God to enable more youth to serve on teams as part of our church family.

Love God

Glorifying God together when we gather

Read Colossians 3:16.

From these verses, what would it look like for a church to have God's word 'dwelling in them richly' when they gather?

Please also:

- Pray God's word would 'dwell in us richly' when we gather on Sundays.
- Pray that we would grow in our love for church and one another and continue to meet together (Heb 10:24-25).
- Pray for our Love God teams who lead us in song, prayer, bible reading, MCing and preaching. Ask God to give them wisdom, integrity, skill, joy and godliness in their service. May they strive to excel in building up the church (1 Cor 14:12).
- Ask God to equip each of us to encourage one another with the gospel when we meet.
- Ask God to use our gatherings to bring glory to Christ our king and to spur us on to keep following Jesus, and to love him more and more, until he returns.

Praise God that he loves to hear our prayers!

A note for leaders:

First up, thank you for leading your group in this precious time of prayer!

- For this study:
 - It may be helpful to cut out the prayer points for the congregations and ministry areas and hand them out to people
 - If you like to print out copies for your members, just print out copies of pages 1-2.
- It would be worth mapping out how long each prayer time will take. Most likely the sections will take longer and longer as they go.