

2015 Prayer Suggestions

January 2015

A Scriptural Prayer to apply to Clark County. Personalize this prayer request of Jesus from John 17:1, 4-5. *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you... ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me (Jesus) in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Read any verse (or 2) from Isaiah 40. Notice what it tells you about God. Think about that aspect of God's nature, then spend time telling Him how much you appreciate that attribute. Repeat with different verses.
- Think, read, or sing through a worship song that has recently caught your attention. Change the pronouns if needed and direct it directly to Him.
- Reflect on a (recent) time you knew God was with you. Express specific thanks for what He did and the gift of His presence.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a "Mountain," and one area of cultural need – a "Valley.")

This month's "Mountain" > Business

- As of October 2014, the unemployment rate of Clark County was 6.5%, with slightly over 146,000 people working non-farm jobs. (In 3/10 it was 16% & c. 130,000 jobs.) This is a 5.2% increase since the beginning of 2014. This is very encouraging so, let's pray that unemployment would continue to decrease and the number of jobs increase.

This month's "Valley" > The Unborn

- In 2009 there were 1215 abortions in Clark County. In 2012 (the most recent statistics available) there were 818. One third fewer abortions gives us encouragement, and we cannot be satisfied with this number. Please pray this number would continue to decrease!
- In 2014 we know there were at least 19 expectant moms who were lead to new life in Jesus through the love of pregnancy-related ministries. This is wonderful news, and we want to see more young mothers take this step. Please pray that this number would increase in 2015!

February 2015

A Scriptural Prayer to apply to Clark County. Personalize this prayer request of Jesus from John 17:11, *15 Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one....* ¹⁵ *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Read through Psalm 145 slowly noticing that it is already a prayer of worship. Let David's old prayer become a fresh again as you pray it.
- Read or think through the words of an older hymn or a song that used to be a favorite. "Dust it off" and make it fresh again.
- Reflect on a very specific answer to prayer. Tell express thanks to God again for His care, concern and action.
- Consider an attribute of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Remember a time when God loved you in that manner. Worship Him because of that time.

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Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a "Mountain," and one sphere of cultural need – a "Valley.")

This month's "Mountain" > Government

- Pray that God would raise up godly servants who will faithfully represent His priorities.
- That God would give these leaders a spirit of good will, unity, healthy relationships good judgment, understanding, humility, wisdom, and practical problem-solving skills.
- That we would all respond in thankfulness and appreciation when He answer these prayers.

This month's "Valley" > Prisoners

- There are approximately 1000 people in jail/prison in Clark County. Please pray this number would decrease.
- The recidivism rate for those who claim no faith or w/o ongoing outside connections is c. 80%. Those who call themselves "Christians" it is c. 35%. For those who receive "after care" it drops to 1%! Right now there are 120 who are voluntary involved in a Bible Study or prayer group and would like "after-care." Please pray all those who want "after-care" can receive it.

March 2015

A Scriptural Prayer to apply to Clark County. Personalize this prayer request of Jesus from John 17:17, 19 *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world... ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified^l in truth.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- As we move toward Holy Week, read Isaiah 53:1-9 pausing to consider Jesus great love for you.
- Think and speak the words of a song you would consider one of your favorites. Don't sing it, but ponder it, and worship as you do.
- Think about some of the names of God (Father, Son, and Spirit). Then complete this sentence. "I agree with You, Father (or Jesus or Holy Spirit) that You are (fill in one of His names!)" Linger here.
- Consider a favorite character trait (attribute) of God. Ponder it, then craft a prayer of worship from it.

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Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a "Mountain," and one sphere of cultural need – a "Valley.")

This month's "Mountain" > Family/Marriage

- Thank God for the healthy families and couples you know – those who have been and are good relational examples.
- In Clark County there were 3512 marriages and 1579 divorces in 2013 (most recent).
- Pray that the percentages of marriages would increase and the percentages of divorces would decrease in Clark County.
- Pray for ministries in your congregation and in Clark County that minister to marriages.

This month's "Valley" > Victims of Domestic Violence

- Across the nation, DV ranks as the highest cause of injury to women.
- In Clark County, in 2013 (most recent numbers) there were 741 reports of DV per 100,000 population, 1556 requests for safe housing, 15,000 hotline calls.
- Pray that boys and girls would grow up learning to respect and value one another.
- Pray that women would recognize and avoid relationship with men with DV traits.
- Pray that men with DV traits would humble themselves and get help.

April 2015

A Scriptural Prayer to apply to Clark County. Personalize this prayer request of Jesus from John 17:20-21 ²⁰ *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,* ²¹ *that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- On the day Jesus rose from the grave, he spoke with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27 says, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Ask Jesus talk to you about Who He is, especially from the Old Testament. Let worship and adoration be your response.
- Reflect on a time when the Living God encountered you. Worship Him now for what you saw of Him then.
- Complete this prayer sentence several times. “Jesus, because You are alive... !”
Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a “Mountain,” and one sphere of cultural need – a “Valley.”)

This month’s “Mountain” > Congregations

- Thank God for the many good, healthy congregations here in Clark County.
- Pray for the pastor and staff of a congregation you do not attend. Pray they would maintain a fresh, vital relationship with Jesus.
- Pray that other congregations would experience both numerical and spiritual growth.
- Pray they would have great impact upon both their community and other parts of the world.

This month’s “Valley” > Widows and orphans

- Pray we, as the Church, would see our responsibility to care for widows and orphans. (See James 1:27)
- Pray that both “practical and actual” widows and orphans would receive physical and spiritual care.
- Pray for ministries who care for each of these groups of people to be fully funded and staffed so they can be most effective in meeting their needs.

May 2015

A Scriptural Prayer to apply to Clark County. Personalize this prayer from the Apostle John in 3 John 1:3. *I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Consider Revelation 4:11... *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."* Join with these saints and tell Jesus what else Jesus is worthy to receive.
- Think through or sing the words to a "Jesus" song. Ponder what it says about the Savior. Expand a line or two with your own thoughts about Jesus.
- Psalm 34:8 says *O taste and see that the Lord is good.* Reflect on how you have tasted and seen God's goodness to you. Express praise to Him for these times.

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This month's "Mountain" > The Medical Community.

- Thank God for people in the medical community in Clark County: The EMT's, ambulance providers, nurses, doctors, etc.
- Pray they would be able to provide good services in the midst of changing regulations, technologies, culture, and costs.
- Pray for greater health and reduced use of our emergency rooms and hospital beds.

This month's "Valley" > The Elderly

- Thank God for the influence of the elderly in your family and among your friends.
- Pray that their social, physical, and emotional needs are appropriately met.
- Pray that believers would find meaningful relationships and expressions of ministry as they age.
- Pray that they would be able to pass on their wisdom to younger people and that they would finish well.

June 2015

A Scripture to adapt to Clark County. 1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Read or think your way through Psalm 23. Worship Jesus for the specific ways He has been your Shepherd.
- Consider the ideal father. Worship the Best Father for the way He has been such a good Father to you. Consider the following verses and worship Him – Matt 6:9, 7:11, 10:29, Rom 1:7, 8:15, James 1:17, Peter 1:17
- Ponder the words of a worship song that is fresh meaningful to you right now. Turn some of those thoughts into prayers of worship.

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Suggestions for prayer for Clark County

There are two significant occasions that take place in June; Graduation and Father's Day. Let's use these two occasions to pray for Graduates and Fathers throughout the month.

- Graduates – What was Jesus doing when He was of high school age? According to Luke 2:52 *Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.* Let's pray the same thing for graduates you know.
- Wisdom – more than just information, pray they would grow in Godly wisdom.
- Stature – pray for their ongoing physical development and safety.
- Favor with God – pray they would pursue God with all their hearts, and find Him!
- Favor with people – pray for healthy relationships with their peers and others.
- Fathers – Consider and pray from the truths of this verse regarding Abraham, the Father of the Nation of Israel. (Genesis 18:19) *For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.*

July 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. Jeremiah 9:23-24 *This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, ²⁴ but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

There are three specific "places" we can stand upon to worship Jesus: His names, His character, and His actions.

- Think through some of the names Jesus is called in Scripture. Worship Him based upon these names.
- Think through some character traits of Jesus. Worship Him based upon these traits.
- Think through some of what Jesus has done, generally for all mankind, and specifically, for you. Worship Him based upon what He has done.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a "Mountain," and one area of cultural need – a "Valley.")

This month, let's pray for law and justice...

- Pray that respect for law and law officers increases. Pray that law officers would know the best path of action and be able to take it sometimes at a split-second's notice.
- Pray for an increased level of civility in the legal processes. Pray there would be no needless provocation between lawyers, judges, defendants. etc.
- Pray that lack of funding would not cause a compromise in the legal processes – investigations, administration, clerical, etc.

And let's pray for the foreigners in our midst. God cares about them!

- Pray for an increase of services for both short-term and long-term foreigners in our area: affordable housing, language services, available jobs, etc. all determine their quality of life. The level of service required is related to their knowledge of English and their level of financial resources.
- Pray especially for effective ministry to those among us from Asian, Hispanic, and Slavic backgrounds.

August 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. Matthew 9:37-38. *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Think of a verse (or verses) that exalt Jesus. Go there and read it over several times. Make the passage personal, between you and Jesus.
- Create a list of things you are thankful for, gifts Jesus has given you, and/or blessings you have received. Talk to Him about it.
- Repeat this sentence several times, filling in the blank with several different words that fit. "Jesus, today (right now!) You are as _____ as You have ever been!"
- Reflect on a song of praise or worship – new or old. Sing (or say) it directly to Jesus. Slow it down so you can consider and mean each word of it.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

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This month, let's pray for non-profit ministries.

There are many not-for-profit ministries in Clark County. They minister to people in all ages and stages of life. Pray for some you are familiar with along these lines.

- Clarity of vision –Pray they would accomplish their God-given vision and call.
- Resources –Pray that God supplies the resources (both people & finances) each ministry needs to accomplish their vision.

And let's pray for those with disabilities.

It is estimated that 10% of those in the USA have some type of physical or mental disability. Please pray for...

- Funding – Generally, it is inadequate, resulting in employees who make little more than minimum wage, agencies with high turnover, frequent staff vacancies, limited access to resources, etc.
- Church involvement – This is a huge, unmet opportunity. There is little or no ministry conducted by local congregations for the developmentally disabled.

September 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. Isaiah 40:4-5 *Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

On nearly every page of the Gospels, Jesus make astonishing claims about Himself. Each of these give us opportunity to agree with Him and worship Him. Consider the follow (and many more!)...

- You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on Me.
- I AM the light of the world (and the way to the Father, and the bread, and the resurrection and the life, etc.).
- I have life in Myself.
- The Father has given all judgment to Me.
- I and My Father are one.
- I will return for you.
- These Scriptures speak of Me.
- If you believe in Me you will have eternal life.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests.

Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a “Mountain,” and one area of cultural need – a “Valley.”)

This month, let’s pray for the Mountain of Education. Let’s pray ...

- For fearless learning: that there would be an environment of safety, honor and esteem.
- Against bullying and judgment: that those who are hurting would not hurt others and those who are vulnerable would become less vulnerable.
- For dynamic teaching: that teachers would be engaging, creative, and effective in their teaching.
- For compelling godliness: that wherever possible, biblical truths and values would be taught.
- Against ungodly political agendas and influences.

And for the Valley of Human Trafficking. Let’s pray...

- Against the sex industry: Portland metro is amongst highest in US which invites sex slavery.
- For healthy families: Portland metro has 30k+ runaways annually and is along a major route for transporting trafficking victims.
- For affected families to become aware of the resources available to them.
- For greater awareness to result in better policies, enforcement, and more resources for victims.

October 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. Ephesians 3:20-21 - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Consider the statements of Isaiah 40:11 and the questions of verse 12. Worship Jesus for how these verses have impacted you.

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

- Think and pray through the words of a great worship song. Don't be in a hurry. Worship Jesus from those words and where those words may lead you.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

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This month, let's pray for the Mountain of the Media. Let's pray ...

- That God would call some of His people into the field of media – and that they would excel and represent His values.
- That the print media in our area would report appropriate news with accuracy and without bias.
- That believers would use social media in a manner that would advance His kingdom.

And for the Valley of our Neighborhoods. Let's pray...

- For your immediate neighbors. Pray that God would “BLESS” them in different areas of their lives. Their **B**ody, their **L**abor, their **E**motional life, their **S**ocial life, and their **S**piritual life.
- That God's “Shalom” (His peace, prosperity and safety) would rest upon each home in your neighborhood.
- That the businesses in, or represented by, people in your community would flourish.
- Pray for the closest congregation to your home that exalts Jesus and honors His Word. That they would make a kingdom impact. Pray they would grow and increase.

November 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. A verse repeated on many occasions (1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 107:1, etc.) in the Old Testament is *“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.”* Take time to process how Clark County has experience His goodness.

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

As we move in and through “Thanksgiving month,” express thanks to...

- The Father because He (has/can/will) (now you fill it in from there.) For example... has given, and kept us His Word.
- The Son, because He (has/can/will) _____. For example... has endured every temptation we have face, yet never sinned!
- The Holy Spirit, because He (has/can/will) _____. For example... has convicted me of the times when I have been too busy to listen to His clear direction and guidance.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing. Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) and get them to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. }

Consider your first bullet point to be...

- Pray for a couple other families in our congregation by name in ways you know they would appreciate.

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a “Mountain,” and one area of cultural need – a “Valley.”)

This month, let’s pray for the Mountain of the Military. Let’s pray ...

- For a friend or family member who is currently serving a branch of the military, whether currently deployed or not.
- That the longstanding tradition of encour-aging faith in God would continue. That those who are followers of Jesus would not feel restricted to practice their faith.
- That families of those separated by military service would remain strong.

And for the Valley of those who struggle with addiction(s). Let’s pray...

- That they would recognize their addiction, no longer let it be a secret, and be able to find real, long-lasting hope and help.
- That those who seek to help the addicted (individuals and ministries from the private and public sectors) would have God-answers for them.
- That family members would know how to best relate to them both before and after they receive help.

December 2015

A Scripture to pray for Clark County. Matthew 2:2 “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” Pray that many would seek and find this One and worship Him.

We suggest each segment of prayer include time in 1) worship of Jesus, 2) prayer for your congregation/ministry and 3) prayer for the county.

Suggestions for worshipping Jesus

- Christmas Carols contain rich lyrics. Go beyond the first verses of a couple Carols and use the lyrics to worship Jesus. For example, consider *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* or *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, or other familiar carols.
Here is the 3rd verse of *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God impart to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
- Ponder the personal significance of Christ’s coming in the world. How has His coming impacted you personally? Express worship to Him for this.

Suggestions for prayer for (Insert your Congregation/Ministry name here) {please add ways people can pray for your congregation or ministry here.... Ask your pastor for some specific requests. Consider praying for your current sermon series, specific needs, or special ministry your congregation will be doing.

Put your bullet points here, then delete some lines so the column on the right is in its correct location. Email these (or print them) to your pray-ers prior to their time of prayer. Thanks!}

Consider your first bullet point to be...

- That your congregation would see new people commit their lives to follow Jesus this holiday season.

Suggestions for prayer for Clark County (Each month we will pray for one sphere of cultural influence – a “Mountain,” and one area of cultural need – a “Valley.”)

This month, let’s pray for the Mountain of the Entertainment. Let’s pray ...

- That, as Jesus’ birth is celebrated in many ways this month, believers would take the time to be impacted at this amazing story.
- That those who are seeking to find spiritual fulfillment in entertainment would only be able to find what they are truly seeking for in the Christ who came to earth for them.
- That more Godly options of good entertain-ment would be available in our area.

And for the Valley of those who struggle with loneliness. Let’s pray...

- For those for whom the Holiday season is not always joyous because of a death or loss or memories from years ago. Pray they would find hope in the present and the future.
- For those who are not with loved ones (specifically because of military activity or imprisonment, etc.) or have no family to celebrate with. Pray these people would find the “God of all comfort.”
- Believers would be alert to those who are lonely and be God’s presence to them and for them.