

May 23/24, 2026

“Jehoshaphat’s Prayer”

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Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | May: Prayers of Intercession

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [2 Chronicles 20:1-13](#) | Completely Overwhelmed

For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. 2 Chronicles 20:12b

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, faces terrifying news. A vast army is coming to attack Judah, and the people are powerless to stop it. Fear spreads through the city. Instead of panicking or depending on his own strength, Jehoshaphat gathers the people to pray and seek God together. In his prayer, Jehoshaphat admits their weakness honestly. He knows they cannot save themselves. He chooses to trust God. While the situation looks impossible, the people fix their eyes on the Lord and wait for him to act.

We may never face an invading army, but we all face situations that leave us feeling helpless or hopeless. A broken relationship, depression, loneliness, financial stress, or shocking news from a doctor can feel bigger than we can handle. Often, we want to fix everything ourselves. But sometimes God allows us to reach the end of our own perceived strength so that we will fully depend on him. God does not ask us to have all the answers. He asks us to bring our weaknesses, fears, and needs to him. Like Jehoshaphat, we can admit, “I do not know what to do,” while choosing to keep our eyes on God.

PRAYER DAY #15: Read [2 Chronicles 20:12](#) slowly today. As you pray, sit with the words, “We do not know what to do.” Let this verse become your confession to God. Admit honestly where you feel powerless, afraid, overwhelmed, confused, or weak. Confess the ways you have tried to control a situation yourself or depended on your own strength instead of trusting God. Then confess that he alone is your help, wisdom, peace, and hope.

Day 2 [2 Chronicles 17:3-6](#) | Seek God First

His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah. 2 Chronicles 17:6

Before Jehoshaphat ever faces a military crisis, he chooses to follow God wholeheartedly. He seeks the Lord, obeys his command, and leads the people of Judah away from idol worship. Jehoshaphat even sends priests and Levites throughout the nation to teach God’s Word to the people ([2 Chronicles 17:7-9](#)). He is devoted to the Lord because he knows God is faithful, trustworthy, and worthy of obedience. Jehoshaphat does not wait for trouble before turning to God. Seeking the Lord is already a pattern in his life. Long before fear and uncertainty come, he has learned to trust God and depend on him.

The same can be true for us. Faith grows in everyday moments. Just as lifting weights over time builds stronger muscles, daily time with God builds stronger faith. No one becomes physically strong in one workout, and we

do not learn deep trust in God in one difficult moment. As we pray, read Scripture, and remember who God is daily, our faith becomes stronger. Then, when hard seasons come, we are more prepared to turn to him instead of panic and fear. God is faithful in every season. He is present, wise, and able to help his people. Fixing our eyes on him daily helps us remember that he is our strength, not ourselves.

PRAYER DAY #16: Spend time today reflecting on the phrase, “but our eyes are on you,” from [2 Chronicles 20:12](#). Ask God to help you seek him faithfully in both good and difficult seasons. Pray that your heart would become devoted to the Lord like Jehoshaphat’s, trusting that God is faithful, good, and worthy of your full attention every day.

Day 3 [2 Chronicles 20:14-18](#) | Do Not Fear

This is what the LORD says to you: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 2:15b

King Jehoshaphat calls the nation together to fast and pray for God’s help. As the people stand in the temple seeking the Lord, the Spirit of God comes upon the prophet Jahaziel with a message. God tells the people not to be afraid because he will fight for them. He commands them to “take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you” ([2 Chronicles 20:17](#)). The next day, the people obey and march forward singing praises to God, trusting that he will keep his promise.

It is easy to become worried or afraid when we look at the problems in our lives and the world around us. Often, we feel fear because we think everything depends on us. But through Jesus, God has already given us the greatest victory. [Ephesians 2:8](#) reminds us we are saved by God’s grace through faith, not by our own strength. Jesus died and rose again so we could be forgiven, restored, and brought close to God. Because of this, we can respond with faith instead of fear. Even when life feels overwhelming, we can rest in the truth that the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord.

PRAYER DAY #17: Like Jehoshaphat, you can call on God. Read [2 Chronicles 20:9](#) and linger on the phrase, “we will stand in your presence...and will cry out to you in our distress.” Spend time thanking God that through Jesus, you are heard, loved, and rescued. Because of Jesus, you can pray with confidence, knowing that God listens to you, cares for you, and is faithful to help you.

Learn more about Jehoshaphat’s prayer in this week’s episode of the Beyond the Weekend podcast. Find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [2 Chronicles 20:24-30](#) | God’s Deliverance

Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. 2 Chronicles 20:27

God shows the people of Judah that he is powerful, faithful, and worthy of complete trust. He defeats the enemy without Judah even needing to fight. What looks like a terrible threat becomes a reminder of God’s care, provision, and victory. After the battle, the people return to Jerusalem filled with joy. They go back to the temple to worship and thank God for rescuing them. They not only seek God before and during the crisis, they praise him after the victory too. They recognize that the victory belongs entirely to God.

Hard seasons in life can become opportunities for us to know God more deeply. When we focus on who he is instead of our problems, we can experience his peace, comfort, strength, and love. God stays faithful in every situation, whether we are walking through grief, physical pain, disappointment, or praying for someone we love to return to him. Through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can praise God before, during, and

after difficult times, even when life does not turn out the way we hoped. Praise helps us remember that he is still good, present, and in control.

PRAYER DAY #18: Spend time praising God for who he is. Read [2 Chronicles 20:6](#) and focus your attention on the words, “Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.” Thank God that he is strong, faithful, and able to help his people. Ask him to fill your heart with peace, comfort, and trust no matter what you are facing.



Day 5 [Psalm 122](#) | Prayers for the City

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. May's focus is Intercession.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” Psalm 122:6–7

[Psalm 122](#) appears within a broader collection of psalms referred to as the “songs of ascent.” These are a collection of shorter psalms Jewish people sang as they journeyed to Jerusalem for the major annual festivals. These psalms were intended to reorient people’s hearts toward God and his work in their lives and community. This psalm encouraged God’s people to pray for Jerusalem, which was at the heart of God’s work among them. Jerusalem served as home to the temple, making it the hot spot of God’s presence. The spiritual prosperity of the nation was linked closely with the well-being and peace of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has played a key role in God’s work of redemption. It is where the temple resided, and it’s also where Jesus gave his life on the cross and eventually rose from the dead. As we learn from this psalm, we can look back on God’s powerful work in the city of Jerusalem. We can thank him for making his presence known on this earth, especially for bringing redemption through the person of Jesus. Even more, this ancient prayer can prompt us to pray for our own city, recognizing that God’s heart for the city is a theme echoed throughout Scripture (see [Jeremiah 29:7](#)). Our lives are deeply impacted by the wellness or ill health of the cities in which we reside.

PRAYER DAY #19: This week we have been studying Jehoshaphat’s prayer in [2 Chronicles 20](#) for Jerusalem and the people. Use [Psalm 122](#) to prompt your prayers of gratitude for God’s work in history (particularly all he has revealed and accomplished in Jerusalem) and your continued prayers for the well-being of the city of Grand Rapids.

Day 6

PRAYER DAY #20: Pray through the Lord’s Prayer again in [Matthew 6:9-13](#). Today, focus on the phrase, “Give us today our daily bread.” Jesus reminds his followers that God is a faithful Father who cares for his children day by day. He invites us to bring our needs, worries, and burdens before him with confidence and trust.

Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing “[Trust in God](#).” Ask God to deepen your trust in him and remind you that he has always been faithful and will continue to provide for every need.

Day 7

PRAYER DAY #21: Pray through the Lord's Prayer again in [Matthew 6:9-13](#) and reflect especially on verse 10: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We saw this heart of seeking God's will in Hannah's prayer as she turned to God in her grief and lament. We also saw it in Jehoshaphat's prayer as he turned his eyes toward God and sought help in an overwhelming situation. Pray that our church community would seek God's will every day and that his will would be done in and through us whatever we face.