

*Preparing for*

# LIVING *the* CALL

*21 DAYS OF PRAYER*

AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 4

*Preparing for*

# LIVING *the* CALL

*21 DAYS OF PRAYER*

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Living is like breathing. It's what we do. We wake up, we eat, we work, we sleep, and then we repeat. I would venture to guess that none of us woke up this morning questioning whether we were alive. But there is a question we may have pondered as we sipped our morning coffee: what am I living for?

It's a question that reveals our priorities and values – a question that often challenges the way we spend our time, resources, and affections. It's a question of purpose – of why we are here. For those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, the answer is clear; but it can often be hard to put it into practice. It can be challenging to live the call He has given us in all of life.

Over the next three weeks together, we are going to plead with God in prayer to make us a people who are living the call. To reveal in our hearts where our affections are anywhere other than on Jesus. To unite our hearts in the service and care of His Body, the Church. To inspire us to see our neighbors and coworkers with courage and share the true story of Jesus. We are going to ask Him through prayer to make us a people living the call.

## *How to Use This Book:*

Each day you will see one passage of Scripture to read, meditate on, and pray. Practice reading God's Word and speaking those words back to Him in prayer. We've also included two guiding prompts for each day and one specific ministry focus each Monday. These are intended to help you respond to God's Word and shape your response in prayer. There is also space to journal about how God speaks to you as you seek Him.

This guide is divided into three one-week sections. Our theme follows our current sermon series in the book of Ephesians.

### **Week One: "Looking Up"**

Personal prayer aimed at awakening our affection for Christ.

### **Week Two: "Looking In"**

Corporate prayer aimed at awakening God's Spirit among His people to bring about maturity and unity.

### **Week Three: "Looking Out"**

Outward prayer aimed at awakening our urgency to live a life that invites our neighbors to be introduced to Jesus.

Come to God with expectation over these days. Open your heart and your mind to His leading. Pray bold life-changing, eternity-altering, life-transforming prayers, believing when we pray, God hears His people and moves mightily!

*Week One*

# **LOOKING UP**

# AUGUST 15

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**LUKE 11:9-13**

*“And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Ask God to use these 21 days to ignite your faith and compel you to ask for God-sized things as you seek His face.

Thank Jesus for His promise that when we seek Him, we will find Him.

### **MONDAY FOCUS: BACK TO SCHOOL**

Thousands of kids from preschool to college have returned to school this week. Pray that God would move among our students and schools; that hundreds would give themselves to Jesus; and doors would open for our church to minister and share the Gospel in our local schools.

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# AUGUST 17

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## HEBREWS 1:1-4

*“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God that He has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Ask God to stir in you a higher view of Jesus than you've had before.

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# AUGUST 18



## ISAIAH 53:4-5

*“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Take a moment and thank Jesus for caring for you by carrying the grief of our sins to the cross.

Ask God to reveal the sins still present in your life and to heal you in the finished work of Jesus.

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# AUGUST 19

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## ROMANS 8:31-34

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God for allowing us to have relationship with Him through Jesus.

Thank Jesus for His resurrection that allows Him to intercede for you to God the Father.

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# AUGUST 20

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## EPHESIANS 3:17-19

*“... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that the Lord would strengthen you by His power to comprehend the riches of the love of Jesus for you.

Ask God to fill you with the fullness of God so you might share Christ's love all around you.

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# AUGUST 21

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## **EPHESIANS 4:4-10**

*“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, ‘When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.’ (In saying, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)”*

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Ask the Lord to make our church one in our love of God, love for one another, and love for the world.

Thank the Lord for the grace that He has freely given us in Christ according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

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*Week Two*

# **LOOKING IN**

# AUGUST 22

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## ACTS 2:46-47

*“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Take a moment and pray for our church to be a church full of generous and hospitable hearts for Jesus.

Ask God to begin to add to our church day by day those who are being saved in Christ.

### MONDAY FOCUS: COLLEGE MINISTRY’S FRESH10

College students return to Samford and UAB this week to continue in their studies or begin college for the first time. Over the coming weeks, our college ministry will seek to connect with as many students as possible and share the Gospel with many who do not know Jesus. Pray that new relationships are formed and students who hear the Gospel for the first time would be saved.

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# AUGUST 23

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## ROMANS 12:4-8

*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes; in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God for His generosity in giving His church gifts to serve one another.

Ask God to reveal to you clearly the gifts He has given you and where He desires for you to use that gift to serve the church.

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# AUGUST 24

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## HEBREWS 10:24-25

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to give you community at Shades that leads to love and good works in your life.

Thank the Lord for a community of like-minded people who encourage one another to walk faithfully in Jesus.

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# AUGUST 25

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## COLOSSIANS 3:15-16

*“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

### PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to bring unity of mission for our church and peace of heart across our congregation.

Ask the Lord to show us what He desires to do at Shades in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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# AUGUST 26

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## ROMANS 16:17-20

*“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to protect our church from divisions and unify us in our service of Christ alone.

Ask the Lord to give wisdom to our church leadership, deacons, and lay leaders so that we might do what is good in God's sight.

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# AUGUST 27

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## 1 PETER 3:8-9

*“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”*

### PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to bring about unity of mind at Shades focused on making the name of Jesus known to as many as possible.

Ask the Lord to give our church a humble Spirit that He might bless us with His Spirit and use our efforts to save the lost in our city.

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# AUGUST 28

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## EPHESIANS 4:11-16

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank the Lord for giving so many different gifts to make up one church.

Ask the Lord to protect your brothers and sisters from deceitful schemes and false doctrine as we seek to serve Jesus together.

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*Week Three*

# **LOOKING OUT**

# AUGUST 29

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## JOHN 9:1-11

*“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*

*“The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘It is he.’ Others said, ‘No, but he is like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to place spiritually blind people in your path this week so you can take them to Jesus.

Pray for those in your life who are spiritually blind today – that Jesus would open their eyes that they may see.

## MONDAY FOCUS: AWARENESS OF LOST NEIGHBORS

The fall season opens countless opportunities to meet new people. From football to school activities to holidays and more, fall is an incredible opportunity to step into friendships and share the Gospel message. Pray that God would give you relationships, sensitivities, and love for those He’s placed in your life so they can hear and see the Gospel in you.

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# AUGUST 30

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## **MATTHEW 5:43-46**

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”*

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Confess to the Lord where you have hated your enemy and ask the Lord to change your heart.

Pray and ask the Lord for courage to form relationships with those who live differently than us so that we might introduce them to Jesus.

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# AUGUST 31

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## **MATTHEW 22:34-40**

*“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer asked him a question to test him. Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”*

### **PRAYER PROMPTS:**

Ask the Lord to cause the love you have for Him to grow in every facet of who you are.

Ask the Lord to put a burden in your heart for the people in your life who do not know Him because of your genuine love for them.

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# SEPTEMBER 1

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## **ACTS 1:6-11**

*“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”*

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Thank the Lord that He has given you the power of the Holy Spirit to equip you for His mission in the world.

Ask the Lord to give you urgency to reach your neighbors as you await His return to establish His kingdom on earth.

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## SEPTEMBER 2

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### 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-6

*“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”*

### PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to make your heart courageous and ready for any opportunity to share the Gospel with those who are lost in your life.

Ask the Lord to give you strength to step beyond your comfort and do the work of the evangelist.

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# SEPTEMBER 3

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## LUKE 5:27-32

*“After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’ And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”*

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to bring the people who need to hear the Gospel into your life so that you can share the Good News with them.

Ask the Lord to teach you to love people who don't look like you or live like you the way He does, that you might share Jesus with them.

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# SEPTEMBER 4

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## **EPHESIANS 4:17-24**

*“Now I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! -- assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Ask the Lord to show you where in your life you are still living in the old self and repent of these attitudes and behaviors.

Ask the Lord to renew your mind, changing your desires, affections, and behaviors to honor him.

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How does an extraordinary calling  
fit in an ordinary life?



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