

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the people you know who need physical healing.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part one)

Jesus' mission is multifaceted and scripture speaks of it in multiple places. To fully understand the reason why Jesus came, we must take them all into account. Today we begin that process.

Bible Reading:

Luke 4: 16 - 21 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his

custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” *(NIV)*

Consider Jesus’ mission as defined by this passage from Isaiah: The poor will hear good news, prisoners will be set free, the blind will receive sight and the oppressed will know freedom.

Questions:

- 1) Which of these things encourages you the most?
- 2) What is Jesus claiming when he says, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”?
- 3) If a friend were to ask you why Jesus came, how might you respond based on this passage?

Worship:

Thank Jesus for the good things he came to bring us.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, teach me your good news, give me sight and set me free. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Monday’s Exercises.]

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Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish prayer for the people you know who need physical healing.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

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Pray for the people you know who need emotional healing.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part two)

Bible Reading:

Matthew 11: 2 - 6 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds Christ had done, he sent his disciples to ask a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go tell John what you hear and see: The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the

poor have good news proclaimed to them—and blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me!” (*NET*)

John the Baptist, a close relative of Jesus, sits in prison. John had long believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Savior. Yet John now has reason to wonder. The Messiah was going to set all things right, and part of setting things right would be establishing a political kingdom. Yet Jesus seems to be prioritizing the forgiveness of sin (and eating with sinners) than establishing a political kingdom.

And so John sends his disciples to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Jesus’ reply echoes the Isaiah passage from yesterday. He says to John, in essence, “Don’t lose heart, John. I may not be meeting all of your preconceived ideas about what the Messiah should be doing, but look at what I am doing: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news proclaimed to them. Trust me, John, I am doing the things I was sent to do.”

Questions:

- 1) Can you sympathize with John’s doubt?
- 2) What circumstances would prompt you to ask Jesus if he really is your savior?
- 3) How would you change Jesus’ response to John so that it becomes a message for you today?

Worship:

Reflect on the ways Jesus has opened your eyes and set you free.
Worship him for all he has done for you.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, I do not always understand your purpose and your timing. But help me remember all of the ways you have blessed and are blessing me.
Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Tuesday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

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Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

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(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for salvation and/or spiritual breakthrough for friends and family members who need it.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part three)

Bible Reading:

John 6: 38 "For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me." (*NET*)

The eternal Son of God came down from heaven, not to do his own will, but to do the will of the Father who sent him. This is incredibly good news because it means that everything Jesus does reveals the Father's heart. More than that, because everything Jesus does is empowered by the Holy Spirit, it means that everything Jesus does reveals the heart of the triune God. When we see Jesus' compassion, for example, we need not ask, "But does the Father have compassion?". When Jesus teaches us how freely he offers forgiveness, we don't need to wonder if the Father is also eager to forgive. In Jesus—in both his words and deeds—we see the fullness of God's will and heart on display.

Questions:

- 1) In light of Jesus mission to carry out his Father's will, what does it mean when we see Jesus demonstrate kindness, compassion, care and healing power?
- 2) What would you say to someone who suggested that while Jesus (the Son) is compassionate, the Father is harsh?

Worship:

Worship the Father for sending us the Son. Worship the Son for revealing the Father's heart to us.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, you so perfectly revealed your Father to us! Thank you. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Wednesday's Exercises.]

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Pray for the specific needs of immediate family members and loved ones.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part four)

Bible Reading:

John 3: 16, 17 For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the

world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. (*NET*)

Out of his great love for us, God the Father sent God the Son that we might be saved through the Son. God desires for us to enjoy eternal life with him; he does not desire that we perish. God desires our salvation, not our condemnation.

Jesus did everything necessary for our salvation, but salvation is not automatically conferred upon us; we must believe in him to be saved. Believing in Jesus (belief which results in salvation), is not mere intellectual assent, nor is it mere belief in the existence of Jesus. Belief which results in salvation is the kind of belief that results in the trust of Jesus with one's life. Everyone who believes in Jesus—everyone who trusts Jesus with their life—will not perish but will have eternal life.

This is the good news: All who trust Jesus with their lives will not be condemned; those who put faith in him will enjoy eternal life with him forever.

Questions:

- 1) What is the Father's motivation for sending the Son?
- 2) What does it mean to trust Jesus with your life?

Worship:

Express thanks to the Father for his great love. Thank the Son for accomplishing for us that which we could not accomplish for ourselves.

Concluding Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for giving us your Son that we might not perish. Thank you, Jesus, for doing everything necessary for our salvation. Help us to entrust you with every aspect of our lives. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Thursday's Exercises.]

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Pray for government and world leaders—that God would grant them wisdom, courage, knowledge of the truth and genuine faith in him.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part five)

Bible Reading:

Mark 1: 35 - 39 Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer. Simon and his companions searched for him.

When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” He replied, “Let us go elsewhere, into the surrounding villages, so that I can preach there too. For that is what I came out here to do.” So he went into all of Galilee preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (*NET*)

This episode takes place the day after Jesus healed people of various diseases and delivered many from demons. It is no wonder that the crowd is looking for him.

Everywhere Jesus goes, he heals and delivers. This is clearly part of his mission. But Jesus’ mission is not limited to healing and deliverance from demons, he also came to teach and preach.

Questions:

- 1) Why is it so important for Jesus to teach?
- 2) What would we miss out on if Jesus only healed people and delivered people from demons?

Worship:

Reflect on the multifaceted nature of Jesus’ ministry and consider the part for which you’re most thankful. Express gratitude to Jesus for that part of his ministry.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, please heal me and deliver me. But also let your teaching shape me as you intend. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Friday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

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Pray for those in any of the daily categories who have the greatest need.

Jesus Defines His Mission

(Part six)

Bible Reading:

Matthew 9: 10 - 13 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (NIV)

Luke 19: 10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (NET)

In Jesus day, many supposed that the coming of the Messiah would be bad news for the unrighteous. And many who considered themselves righteous imagined that they would be recognized and rewarded by the Messiah for their righteousness. To their surprise, Jesus hung out with sinners, seemed to enjoy their company and he even invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples. This was enough for many to reject Jesus.

But Jesus turns their reasoning on its head, saying, in essence: I hang out with the people who most need my help. What kind of doctor would refuse to hang out with sick people?

Questions:

- 1) What kind of doctor would refuse to hang out with sick people?
- 2) What does Jesus’ willingness to hang out with the people who most need his help suggest about his willingness to hang out with you?
- 3) Are “sinners” and “the lost” synonymous? Does Jesus respond differently to these two groups? What are your thoughts?

Worship:

Jesus knows your greatest sin and your deepest flaws, yet is motivated to find and heal you. Ask for his healing and thank him for his abundant care.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, you pursue the lost, you heal the sick and broken. If I am holding any part of myself back from you, please find me and heal me. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Saturday’s Exercises.]

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The majority of the biblical quotes are from the New English Translation (*NET*)

NET

New English Translation

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The remainder of the biblical quotes are from the New International Version (*NIV*)

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