

Praying Together (Summer 2023)

Jesus, as we pray, give us ears to hear your voice that we may be conformed to your likeness.

Jesus, we need you

Lord, you invite all who are tired and burned out to come to you. You promise to teach us the "unforced rhythms of grace" so we can live freely and lightly (Matt.11:18-30). You invite us to cast all our cares on you (Ps.55:22) and to give you all our worries (1 Pt.5:7).

Lord, for many of us, this current season has been very difficult. We suddenly and unexpectedly lost our friend, Jeff Coats. He was a life group leader, mentor, staff and worship team member, husband, father, and friend. He was one of the few people who always told the truth in love. For those of us who knew Jeff, we are devastated.

And there are so many other heavy burdens being carried by our family. There are marriages in crisis. There are chronic illnesses and some struggling to be diagnosed. Some are anxiously worried about family members. Our church family is struggling financially and we have several positions that we are working to fill.

Lord, help us grieve well through this season. Help us care for one another well. Help us to serve each other well and be a continual blessing to one another and our surrounding community. Help us become the kind of family that pursues one another. Remind us of the deep hope that we have in you - that difficult seasons are not the whole story. And help us grow in our faith, trusting that you will use this time to grow us to become more and more like Jesus. Amen.

Encouraging Scriptures in Difficult Circumstances

(Psalms 13; 22; 23; 34:1-9; 91; 121; 139; and 142. Proverbs 3:5-6. Isaiah 41:10. Matthew 6:25-34. John 16:29-33. Romans 8:18-30. Philippians 4:6-9. Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-7.)

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence

God, we give you thanks for:

- A wonderful VBS and student camp this year.
- The many new people who have recently attended our church family.
- Wisdom and financial provision as we hire a new financial administrator and try to fill various positions to take care of this facility you have provided.
- The Big Church - Small Church vision that you have been shaping over the past 2 years.
- Our newly formed finance team helping us make informed decisions about our financial health.

God, we are praying for:

- Our "Big Church - Small Church" vision. Help us live out worship, community, and mission as a family united in Jesus growing as disciples who make disciples.
- Our Fall Life Group semester. Help our life groups grow to be more like small church-families.
- Our neighbors. May they experience blessing in Jesus' name by the way we love them.
- Our teachers. Lord, fill them with your peace and love so they can pour into the students well.

