#1 of 9 — Study & Declare God's Word

Matthew 1:18-5:16 (NLT, NIV)

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit….All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

In those days John the Baptist began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, at that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus began to teach his disciples saying: "Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are those who mourn, for they will be comforted….those who are meek, for they will inherit the earth….those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled….those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy….those who are pure in heart, for they will see God….those who are peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God…..those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The prayers in this folder are excerpts from the book, **Praying Through the New Testament.** These prayers sound like Scripture because they are formed from Scripture.

In your own life, as you go from task to task throughout your day, you might often breathe a short prayer to God. Your prayers may jump from person to person as they come to mind, and from need to need. You might burst into a song of praise.

The Scripture-based prayers in this folder are similar to this. The prayer subject often changes, and the person for whom you pray may change often too.

These Scripture-based prayers are not the only way to pray, but they are a wonderful way to pray—an effective way to pray Scripture into the lives of others.

You will find this way of praying especially helpful when you pray for family members and others for whom you pray on a regular basis. You will also find yourself praying this way for people you don't even know.

Jesus said,
"My Temple will be called
A House of Prayer."
Matthew 21:13

Read Ponder Pray

Study God's Word
Speak out God's Word
Pray God's Word
Let's Sing God's Word

praying scripture prayers

provide the practical help and inspiration we all need to pray more consistently and effectively.

Visit scriptureprayers.ca for easy-to-use Downloads to assist you in praying Scripture prayers for yourself, your loved ones, and for those you don't even know.

Scripture-based prayers can put into words the deep desires we carry in our hearts for others.

Pray them with thanksgiving in your heart, and watch to see what God does —not only in you, but also in others.

Use this Bible Reading and Prayer HandOut in a variety of ways.
Here Are Some Guidelines:

1. Read the Bible passage on the back of the folder. Ponder and study it. Underline the main theme of each paragraph. This will lead to praying God's Word.
2. On the inside of the folder, pray the *REQUESTS, PRAYERS & THANKSGIVING* prayers for yourself. Also pray spontaneous prayers along these themes.
3. Now pray the *INTERCESSION* prayers for others in the same way.
4. Choose praise songs to SING God's Word.
   (NOTE: If you are following this study-prayer time on your own, pray the prayers aloud. It is good to hear your voice speaking to God).

REQUESTS, PRAYERS, AND THANKSGIVING

1

Based on Matthew 1:18-5:16 (*Isaiah 7:14)

HEAVENLY FATHER, thank You for sending Your Son into the world to be born of the virgin Mary. Thank You for revealing to me that the baby born to Mary was holy, the Son of God—because Your Holy Spirit overshadowed her. You gave the Child the name Jesus, because He would save us from our sins. I praise You that this happened to fulfill the message You gave through the prophets: a virgin will conceive and bear a son.*

Lord Jesus, You are my God and Savior. I have turned from my sins, and I have turned to You. Help me to show by the way I live that this is what I have really done. Jesus, You are so great, I am not even worthy to be Your servant, yet You baptize me with Your Holy Spirit and with fire.

Father, help me to do those things that are right. I want to hear You say, "You are My child, and I am pleased with you."

Lord Jesus, I need more than bread to live. Help me to feed on every one of Your words.

Jesus, don't let me step out from under Your protection and test You. I ask You to strengthen me to serve only You. I will follow You and be Your disciple. Show me how to fish for people.

Jesus, I need You. I am lost without You. **Thank You** for giving me the Kingdom of Heaven. I am sorry for my sins—and You have forgiven them all. Work in me to be gentle and humble. I praise You that a day is coming when the whole earth will belong to those who love You. Thank You that You have stirred my heart to hunger and thirst for righteousness. You have satisfied me.

Jesus, You enable me to show compassion to others. Then You bless me with more of Your mercy. You have made my heart pure—and You continue to shower me with Your blessings. I know that someday I will see You. Anoint me to work for peace. Strengthen me when I am persecuted and lied about because I am Yours. Help me to be glad about it! Because Your Kingdom belongs to me, and a great reward awaits me in heaven.

Lord Jesus, You have made me a light in this world. Don't let me hide Your light—but display it on a stand to give light to all, so that everyone will see the good deeds You produce in me and praise You.

Extract from my prayer book, *Praying Through the New Testament* © 2009 Gladie Russell

INTERCESSION

1

Based on Matthew 1:18-5:16

HEAVENLY FATHER, thank You for sending Your Son into the world to be born of the virgin Mary. I pray that (SALVATION) will believe that the baby born to Mary was holy, the Son of God—because Your Holy Spirit overshadowed her. Reveal to (SALVATION) that You gave the Child the Name, Jesus, because He is the One who can save him/her from his/her sins.

Heavenly Father I ask You to show (OBEDIENCE) that Mary and Joseph obeyed You from their hearts. Work in his/her heart to obey You too.

Jesus, I ask You to speak to (DISCIPLE). May he/she realize that You are so great he/she is not even worthy to be called Your servant, yet You baptize him/her with Your Holy Spirit and with fire. Help him/her to do what is right. May he/she want to hear You say, "You are My child, and I am pleased with you."

LORD JESUS, I pray that (DISCIPLE) will understand that he/she needs more than bread to live. Lead him/her to feed on every one of Your words. I pray that (DISCIPLE) will not step out from under Your protection and test You. Empower him/her to worship You and to serve You only. Stir in (DISCIPLE) a deep desire to want to follow You. Show him/her how to fish for people.

Lord Jesus, work in (SALVATION) so he/she will turn from his/her sins and turn to You—and show by the way he/she lives that this is what he/she has really done.

Jesus, I ask You to give grace to (HUMILITY) so that he/she will be gentle and humble, because the whole earth will belong to those who love You. Move in (HUMILITY) by Your Spirit to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

LORD, I ask You to reveal to (SALVATION) that his/her heart has to be pure if he/she is ever going to see You—and that You can make his/her heart pure.

JESUS, anoint (PEACEMAKER) to work for peace. When he/she is persecuted and lied about because he/she is Yours, help him/her to be glad about it! Remind him/her that You will bless him/her, and that a great reward is waiting for him/her in heaven.

Lord Jesus, You have made (WITNESS) a light in the world. Don't let him/her hide it from others. Empower him/her to let his/her light shine, so that everyone will see the good deeds You produce in him/her and praise You.

Visit my website for more Scripture Prayer resources at scripturepraysers.ca