

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 / FOR OUR COMMUNITY / ACTS 4:31-37 Are we a community committed to meeting the needs of those around us with the resources God has given to us?

The book of Acts is a book of origins. It's the story of God's creation of a people who are not defined by old categories of race or social class but by a united witness to a new way of life. Is our church known for this in our community, and what steps can we take to better live out our calling?

READ ACTS 4:23-37.

1. What impresses you most about this picture of the early church (Acts 4:32-35)?

2. What was the cause of these early believers' radical attitude and sacrificial action (Acts 4:31)?

3. What does the shaking here represent (Acts 4:31)? (see Exodus 19:18; Isaiah 6:4)

4. What attitudes or fears do you need to be shaken from today to live more the way these believers did?

5. What's missing from the prayer that precedes this picture of the early church (Acts 4:29-30)? (see Acts 4:3 & 23).

6. Where do you need great boldness to live more as these believers did in your life today?

7. What small steps can you take to be more for the people in your community today?

GOD AND FATHER, HELP US AS YOUR CHURCH TO BE FOR OUR COMMUNITY BY SERVING IT MORE SACRIFICIALLY TODAY.



PRAYER GUIDE

The FOR series challenges us to live out the Gospel of Jesus FOR our world and community. Prayer centers our hearts to value what Jesus values and reorient our priorities to Kingdom priorities.Yes, we pray to see God change circumstances, but we also pray so that God will change us – change the way we see our world, change the ways we see our neighbors, change the ways we live out the Gospel.

Please utilize this FOR Prayer Guide individually and in your small group. Based on what we are engaging on Sunday morning for this series, use this guide to focus your prayers in this critical time in our world. We have offered a few prompts to help, but also blank spaces for you to add your own prayer requests.

You can use this guide to pray during the whole series. Here are some ideas:

- Pray each morning during the time you read your Bible.
- Walk around your neighborhood praying and adding requests.
- Take a whole small group meeting to pray together.
- Join us on December 5th in a church wide prayer gathering.

See our recommendations below - Use the spaces add your own requests:

Pray FOR the World / John 3:16-21 / Specific Focuses – the pandemic, our global partners, the 10/40 window / Add your requests below:

Pray FOR the Community / Specific Focus - America, Rochester, Your Neighborhood:

Pray FOR your life / Specific Focus - Loving your neighbors, Transformation through God's Word, Deepening Prayer, Serving:

As we are challenged to pray in this series, we believe in the value of praying through scripture. Below based on the main areas of focus for the #ForROC series, we've provided you with a few verses to pray to center your heart in this season.

FOR THE WORLD:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10)

"LORD, rise up and rebuke the wind and the storm raging in our nation. In your Name we speak to the storm and say, "Peace be still." (Mark 4:39)

"Lord we agree with your word that says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

FOR THE COMMUNITY:

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

"Let our food be about doing the will of the One who sends us, to finish your work. Open our eyes to see the fields ripe for harvest." (John 4:34-35)

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands." (Psalms 90:17)

FOR YOUR LIFE:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)