

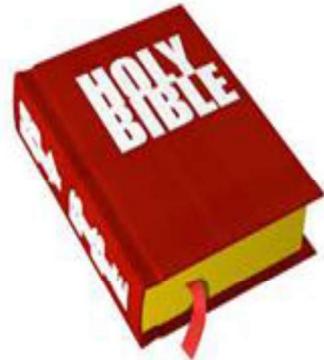


Ness Bank Church

Bible Readings and

Prayer Prompts for

Spring 2026



This mini-booklet is designed for you to pull out of the church newsletter and keep, so that you can use it in the coming weeks to assist you in bible reading and in prayer.

There's nothing like the written word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

(2 Timothy 3.15-17, the Message paraphrase)

'Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programmes and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need.

With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are, set the world right; do what's best – as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge: You can do anything You want! You're ablaze in beauty!

(Matthew 6.6-13, the Message paraphrase)

March 2026

1st Psalm 78:1-39
2nd Matthew 8:1-13
3rd Matthew 8:14-22
4th Matthew 8:23-27
5th Matthew 8:28-34
6th Matthew 9:1-8
7th Matthew 9:9-13

8th Psalm 78:40-72
9th 1 Kings 1:1-27
10th 1 Kings 1:28-53
11th 1 Kings 2:1-12
12th 1 Kings 3:1-15
13th 1 Kings 3:16-28
14th 1 Kings 4:29-34

15th Psalm 79
16th 1 Kings 5:1-18
17th 1 Kings 6:1-13
18th 1 Kings 8:1-21
19th 1 Kings 8:22-30, 54-66
20th 1 Kings 9:1-9
21st 1 Kings 10:1-13, 23-25

22nd Psalm 80
23rd Matthew 26:1-16
24th Matthew 26:17-30
25th Matthew 26:31-35
26th Matthew 26:36-46
27th Matthew 26:47-56
28th Matthew 26:57-68

29th Psalm 98
30th Matthew 26:69-75
31st Matthew 27:1-10

*Make the book live to me, O Lord, Show me Yourself within Your word,
Show me myself, and show me my Saviour, And make the book live to me.
(H.Pope, 1879-1967)*

April 2026

1st Matthew 27:11-26
2nd Matthew 27:27-44
3rd Matthew 27:45-56
4th Matthew 27:57-66

5th Matthew 28:1-20
6th Leviticus 1:1-17
7th Leviticus 2:1-15
8th Leviticus 4:1-2,22-35
9th Leviticus 5:1-13
10th Leviticus 5:14-6:7
11th Leviticus 6:8-23

12th Psalm 81
13th Leviticus 16:1-22,29-34
14th Leviticus 19:1-18,30-37
15th Leviticus 23:1-22
16th Leviticus 23:23-44
17th Leviticus 25:1-17
18th Leviticus 26:1-26,40-46

19th Psalm 82
20th 1 Timothy 1:1-11
21st 1 Timothy 1:12-20
22nd 1 Timothy 2:1-15
23rd 1 Timothy 3:1-7
24th 1 Timothy 3:8-13
25th 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5

26th Psalm 83
27th 1 Timothy 4:6-16
28th 1 Timothy 5:1-16
29th 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
30th 1 Timothy 6:3-10

These daily readings are a programme designed by Scripture Union. SU publishes explanatory notes to accompany the readings – called Daily Bread – or you can sign up to the Word Live service to receive the notes and readings online each day at :-

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

May 2026

1st 1 Timothy 6:11-16
2nd 1 Timothy 6:17-21

3rd Psalm 84
4th Jeremiah 11:1-23
5th Jeremiah 12:1-17
6th Jeremiah 13:1-17
7th Jeremiah 17:1-18
8th Jeremiah 18:1-17
9th Jeremiah 19:1-15

10th Psalm 85
11th Jeremiah 20:1-18
12th Jeremiah 23:1-8
13th Jeremiah 23:9-32
14th Jeremiah 26:1-24
15th Jeremiah 29:1-14
16th Jeremiah 30:1-24

17th Psalm 86
18th Matthew 9:14-17
19th Matthew 9:18-26
20th Matthew 9:27-34
21st Matthew 9:35-10:8
22nd Matthew 10:9-20
23rd Matthew 10:21-31

24th John 14:15-27
25th Matthew 10:31-42
26th Matthew 11:1-19
27th Matthew 11:20-30
28th Matthew 12:1-21
29th Matthew 12:22-37
30th Matthew 12:38-50

There are other sources for bible reading programmes, such as the Lectio 365 app, which takes users through readings, prayers and prompts for meditation each day.

***Praying for ourselves, our community, our world
- and for God's kingdom to come!***

O Thou the reflection of whose transcendent glory did once appear unbroken in the face of Jesus Christ, give me today a heart like His - a brave heart, a true heart, a tender heart, a heart with great room in it, a heart fixed on Thyself; for His name's sake.

Amen.

(John Baillie: A diary of private prayer, OUP London, 1972)

These headings and suggestions are to help you pray for our church, our family, our world, and above all, to pray that God will build his kingdom. Please use them in any way that suits. There are significant spaces between each section in case you want to note particular items for prayer.

The Psalms are the song-, and prayer-book of God's children, where we find words for our deepest need. We can learn from them how to pray for ourselves.. in this example, we learn how prayer can be a simple expression of thanksgiving and delight – a sharing with God of our deep awareness of his love, and affirmation of our trust.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

When we take time to consider just who it is that we are praying to, lifting our minds to contemplate His greatness, His goodness, His eternal love, then we gain a good perspective on ourselves and our situation, and are reminded that He can be trusted.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

This God, the One who appoints himself as our shepherd, has all the resources to meet our needs and knows exactly what they are. As we deliberately recall his goodness and abundant grace toward us, we are encouraged to trust him for our current situation, whatever it may be.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

God's care for me depends not on my deserving of it, but on the character of God himself – he will not be dishonoured by failing to provide for his own beloved, but will be glorified and exalted when it is seen just how faithful He is to keep his promises. We can utterly depend upon them, and can rejoice in how tightly we are held in his love.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

The psalmist has moved from talking about God ('He'), to talking directly to God ('You).. did you notice? There is a profound relationship of trust here, a trust grounded in God's past faithfulness and unfailing love for the writer. In his time of crisis, the truth about God which the writer has been recounting becomes the basis for his personal appeal and

dependence. I come in prayer, not to someone who is merely a name to me, but to the One who knows and loves me best of all, and who invites me to trust utterly in his constant presence. Because of my saviour, Jesus, I am the beloved child of God, and I am invited – even in the darkest shadows - to rest, to delight in my Father's love and care for me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

I am invited, with the psalmist, to revel in God's goodness and to believe that even the presence of my enemies is no bar to his work in me and for me. I can pray with serene confidence in all circumstances, because God has abundantly provided for me, and promised good to me through Jesus.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord who is our shepherd is also the master of the house wherein we are promised a home. In this life, that home is the fellowship of God's people and the free access which we have as believers into God's presence. There is so much to give thanks for here! Because of Jesus, God makes his home even now among us and we dwell with him today. That in itself is cause for rejoicing, but we know that when this life is past, we enter a nearer and new life in God's presence, where nothing can come between us and our Loving Shepherd, and all the troubles and grief of this life are past. Thanks be to God, for He is good, and His love endures for ever!

Prayer Prompts

The bible teaches very clearly that we can, and should, be prayerful at all times, continually sharing our lives, burdens and joys with our Heavenly Father, and seeking his power, guidance and glory in our world. But it can be helpful to have specific prayer habits – perhaps different topics on different days of the week, and this quarterly prayer diary will use that format to cover a range of things we can be praying for.

Sundays

As we share in worship with our family at Ness Bank, we can pray for our fellow believers across Inverness in their various congregations. Pray that God would pour out his Spirit on our city, so that people will be stirred up to seek God. Pray that believers would be eager to share their faith and to speak simply and effectively of what Jesus has done. Pray especially for the congregation at the Junction Church, as they mourn the death of their leader Owen Morris, and support his wife Claire (who is also in leadership) and their family.

We can also pray for worshipping communities across Scotland, as they meet for fellowship and then scatter into their neighbourhoods to serve, pray and witness to Jesus. Our land needs to see the light, to know the healing and forgiveness that comes only through Christ.

Mondays

Scripture Union Scotland has a diverse and rich ministry to school children and young people in our country. Pray for those who lead groups in schools, that they might have wisdom and perseverance; pray for the witness of Christian pupils, who face ridicule, rejection, and a hostile environment; pray that our children and young people would encounter Jesus through the bible, and through other Christians, so that they find hope and purpose in life, and know forgiveness and healing.

Pray for those who are developing resources for schools and youth groups, addressing difficult issues in light of the truth of God's love and purpose for his creation. Pray for the preparation now underway for the 2026 residential events and holiday clubs which will take place from Easter onwards. Pray that God would prepare the hearts of each child who will attend, and that the leaders and helpers would have courage and strength for the task!

www.suscotland.org.uk

Tuesdays

Bishop Gabriel Kijjambu visited Ness Bank in December, and shared with us about his work in Kiryanyonza village, Luwero, Uganda. Let's take time to thank God for this ministry, for Gabriel's strength, wisdom and humble service to his community. Pray for ongoing wisdom in developing the work, in recruiting staff and investing time and resources well. Pray for the word of God to be handled wisely and well in the many churches within Gabriel's diocese of Luwero, where pastors often have little formal training. Pray for protection from the dangerous 'prosperity gospel' teaching, which is so damaging to believers. Praise God for all those who profess faith in Jesus today in that part of our world!

Uganda had presidential elections in January, and political tensions are very high. Pray for stability in the country, so that people might live in peace, and that the gospel might be shared without fear.

www.luwerocommunityprojects.org

Wednesdays

It sometimes seems that our world is more unstable and unpredictable than ever – and while humanly speaking there is much uncertainty - we as believers have confidence in the Almighty God, who is on the throne and whose purposes for his creation will be fulfilled. So we pray for world leaders to become conscious of their responsibilities to act justly; we can pray for them to be convicted of their own need for salvation.

We can also give thanks that in spite of what looks frightening, our God remains sovereign over all. Pray that those who work for peace would find favour with warring powers; pray that God will restrain evil and promote mercy, justice and compassion.

Thursdays

There remain many people groups, languages and cultures in our world where there is no living gospel witness, no known believers. There are places where sharing Jesus is very dangerous, and where learning about him, having access to a bible or other resources is very difficult. And so we pray, giving thanks for all the many agencies by which the bible is being made available, and the good news brought to the ends of the earth. Pray for ongoing bible translation work through agencies like Wycliffe; for literacy and education projects which enable people to read for themselves. Pray for creative outreach mission work in countries where no missionaries are allowed to enter; and for courage for native believers in those lands to step out in faith, taking risks to meet and encourage one another.

www.platform67.org

www.wycliffe.org.uk

www.omf.org

Fridays

Our God is in the business of bringing the dead to life; of healing and transforming brokenness and of bringing wholeness where there has been desolation and emptiness. Our land desperately needs this kind of change; life-by-life, we long to see people brought into the knowledge of their place as God's beloved children; to see addiction broken by the presence in their hearts of something more powerful and attractive than the strongest temptation; to see relationships healed and to see families thrive. God has called us, his church, to be his presence and the channel of his loving power to the world – what are we doing to obey that call? Prayer is a good place to start. Pray that God will help us to love as he loves, to see each human being as his precious child; to care as God cares. Pray against addiction, and pray for opportunities in your own life to speak of Jesus, our hope and our salvation.

Nothing is impossible for God, no-one is beyond his mercy and grace. Pray against pride and the independent spirit which resists his invitation, and ask our loving Father to show his power in our land, in our city, by bringing many to Christ.

Saturdays

There are many in the world of sport and entertainment who profess Christian faith, and who consequently are held to the highest standards by the unbelieving world around them. Pray for those in our public realm – sport, media, and also politics – who are faithful followers of Jesus. Pray that they would be wise, that they might be strong against temptations, and humble enough to know when they need help. Pray that their witness might bear fruit, and they will be encouraged to see that God has purposes to use them in their communities and in the public realm.