



# **Ness Bank Church**

## **Bible Readings and**

### **Prayer Prompts for Summer 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)*

## ***June 2026***

1<sup>st</sup> 1 Kings 11:1-13

2<sup>nd</sup> 1 Kings 11:26-43

3<sup>rd</sup> 1 Kings 12:1-24

4<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 12:25-33

5<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 15:9-24

6<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 16:23-33

7<sup>th</sup> Psalm 88

8<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 17:1-24

9<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 18:1-15

10<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 18:16-46

11<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 19:1-21

12<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 21:1-29

13<sup>th</sup> 1 Kings 22:1-5,29-53

14<sup>th</sup> Psalm 89

15<sup>th</sup> Acts 21:1-16

16<sup>th</sup> Acts 21:17-26

17<sup>th</sup> Acts 21:27-36

18<sup>th</sup> Acts 21:37-22:11

19<sup>th</sup> Acts 22:12-29

20<sup>th</sup> Acts 22:30-23:11

21<sup>st</sup> Psalm 90

22<sup>nd</sup> Acts 23:12-22

23<sup>rd</sup> Acts 23:23-35

24<sup>th</sup> Acts 24:1-21

25<sup>th</sup> Acts 24:22-27

26<sup>th</sup> Acts 25:1-12

27<sup>th</sup> Acts 25:13-27

28<sup>th</sup> Psalm 91

29<sup>th</sup> Acts 26:1-18

30<sup>th</sup> Acts 26:19-32

*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)*

## **July 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:1-11  
2<sup>nd</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:12-22  
3<sup>rd</sup> 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11  
4<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

5<sup>th</sup> Psalm 92  
6<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:7-18  
7<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:1-18  
8<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:1-10  
9<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2  
10<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:3-18  
11<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 7:1-16

12<sup>th</sup> Psalm 93  
13<sup>th</sup> Numbers 3:1-13  
14<sup>th</sup> Numbers 9:1-14  
15<sup>th</sup> Numbers 9:15-23  
16<sup>th</sup> Numbers 11:1-15  
17<sup>th</sup> Numbers 11:16-35  
18<sup>th</sup> Numbers 12:1-16

19<sup>th</sup> Psalm 94  
20<sup>th</sup> Numbers 13:1-3,17-33  
21<sup>st</sup> Numbers 14:1-25  
22<sup>nd</sup> Numbers 14:26-45  
23<sup>rd</sup> Numbers 20:1-13  
24<sup>th</sup> Numbers 21:1-9  
25<sup>th</sup> Numbers 21:1-9

26<sup>th</sup> Psalm 95  
27<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:1-9  
28<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:10-23  
29<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:24-30  
30<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:31-43  
31<sup>st</sup> Matthew 13:44-52

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 :-

## ***August 2026***

1<sup>st</sup> Matthew 13:53-58

2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm 96

3<sup>rd</sup> 2 Kings 2:1-22

4<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 4:1-7

5<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 4:8-37

6<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 5:1-14

7<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 5:15-27

8<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 12:1-12

9<sup>th</sup> Psalm 97

10<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 17:1-23

11<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 18:1-16

12<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 18:17-37

13<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 19:1-19

14<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 19:20-37

15<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 20:1-21

16<sup>th</sup> Psalm 99

17<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

18<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

19<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

20<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

21<sup>st</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

22<sup>nd</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm 100

25<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

26<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

27<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:1-14

28<sup>th</sup> Titus 1:1-16

29<sup>th</sup> Titus 2:1-15

30<sup>th</sup> Titus 3:1-15

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.

***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 teaspoon!**

Many of you may recall the very simple and effective T.S.P. model of prayer – perhaps from hearing someone use it in a children's talk at church, or through using it yourself as a teaching tool. It works well for everyone at every stage of life, and forms the basis for this series of prayer prompts.

### **Thank You!**

The process of recognising and articulating our blessings is a powerful tool for followers of Jesus, because it focuses our attention on the loving God from whom all good things come. We are reminded that he is great and awesome, that he is faithful and just, and that we can trust him with all the details of our lives, as well as with all the burdens of our world. And so we give thanks:-

- For God’s revelation of himself in Jesus, and for the salvation which we receive by faith in him.
- For God’s defeat of sin and death through Jesus, because that work sets us free to live in God’s love and to know him.
- For God’s good purposes throughout history, in building his kingdom and in completing that work (even though we can’t often see how it is going to happen!).
- For our own homes, our health and strength, our families and friends, and especially for the rule of law in our land and the peace which underpins our lives.
- For the power of beauty to speak to our hearts, lifting us up to praise our creator and to enjoy all he has made, including one another.
- For God’s daily loving care for us – in forgiving us and lifting the burden of shame; in loving us so that we might love others freely and forgive them; in all the day-to-day gifts of joy which we receive from him.
- For the peace which God gives to us as we trust him for the future, and for our day-to-day existence, believing that as we do so, he is at work for our good and the building of his kingdom.
- What else do you want to thank God for today?....

### **Sorry!**

When we have reflected on all God’s goodness to us, our natural response is to recognise all the ways that we have fallen short of his holiness and perfection. This is good, because when we recognise our failings, God’s spirit calls us to respond by turning towards him to receive the forgiveness that was won for us by Jesus. Our loving Father does not desire that we wallow in regret, or condemn ourselves, but longs for us to come for his loving, cleansing care. James tells us in his letter that “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (James 1.9). Every pang of conscience is an opportunity to run to our loving Father and to receive his forgiveness, to start afresh and to live in renewed hope. So we say sorry:-

- For the ways that we hurt other people by ignoring, rejecting or actively doing something that injures them, we fail in love.
- For the ways that we get so absorbed in our own concerns that we ignore God’s invitation to enjoy life with him, we fail in presence.
- For the ways that humanity continues to cause so much distress across the world – all the seeds of those public and large-scale actions lie within our own hearts, and we do well to recognise our own greed, laziness, self-centredness, and to repent of them.
- Our Father is waiting to forgive; what particular thing do you want to say sorry for today?

## **Please!**

As forgiven children of the Almighty God, we have so many reasons to rejoice! Paul says in his letter to the Philippians that we can “rejoice in the Lord always... the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4.4-7). Our petitions, and requests thus arise out of our deep trust in our heavenly Father, and so even as we ask, we can give thanks because he hears us and loves us. Nothing is impossible with our God, so let us ask boldly and often! So we say please:-

- Grant us today the strength we need to live as Jesus’ followers in our world, sharing his love and showing his goodness.
- Give favour to all those who seek to make peace in our troubled world, and direct those with power to restrain violence and destruction – whether by war or by exploitation of natural resources.
- Grant the nations peace, that suffering in war might cease, and lives may be lived without fear of destruction.
- Grant help and healing to those in need – through all possible means, and if I can be of use by giving of my own resources, then let me respond generously.
- Build your church across the nations, heart by heart and home by home, transforming lives and families by the power of Jesus.
- Pour out your spirit upon our communities in Inverness, so that people will become hungry to know the love and forgiveness which is offered only in Jesus. Let us and all your children in the city be willing and eager to share our faith and the hope which you give us in him.
- What specific thing do you want to pray for today?

*Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?*

*(Matthew 7.7-11. The Message)*