



Ness Bank Church Bible Readings and Prayer Prompts for Winter 2025/26



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)

'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)

December 2025

1st Habakkuk 1:1-11
2nd Habakkuk 1:12-2:1
3rd Habakkuk 2:2-20
4th Habakkuk 3:1-19
5th Obadiah 1-14
6th Obadiah 15-21

7th Psalm 67
8th Isaiah 52:1-12
9th Isaiah 52:13-53:12
10th Isaiah 54:1-17
11th Isaiah 55:1-13
12th Isaiah 56:1-8
13th Isaiah 59:1-4; 9-21

14th Psalm 68
15th Isaiah 60:1-14
16th Isaiah 61:1-11
17th Isaiah 63:1-14
18th Isaiah 64:1-12
19th Isaiah 65:1-7; 17-25
20th Isaiah 66:1-16

21st Psalm 69
22nd Matthew 1:1-17
23rd Matthew 1:18-25
24th Matthew 2:1-12
25th Matthew 2:13-23
26th Matthew 3:1-12
27th Matthew 3:13-17

28th Isaiah 40:1-5
29th Matthew 4:1-11
30th Matthew 4:12-17
31st Matthew 4:18-25

*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)*

January 2026

1st Genesis 37:1-11
2nd Genesis 37:12-24
3rd Genesis 37:25-36

4th Psalm 70
5th Genesis 39:1-23
6th Genesis 40:1-23
7th Genesis 41:1-16
8th Genesis 41:17-32
9th Genesis 41:33-43
10th Genesis 41:44-57

11th Psalm 71
12th Matthew 5:1-12
13th Matthew 5:13-16
14th Matthew 5:17-26
15th Matthew 5:27-37
16th Matthew 5:38-48
17th Matthew 6:1-4

18th Psalm 72
19th Matthew 6:5-15
20th Matthew 6:16-24
21st Matthew 6:25-34
22nd Matthew 7:1-12
23rd Matthew 7:13-23
24th Matthew 7:24-29

25th Psalm 73
26th Jeremiah 1:1-19
27th Jeremiah 2:1-22
28th Jeremiah 3:6-4:4
29th Jeremiah 4:19-31
30th Jeremiah 5:1-13
31st Jeremiah 5:14-31

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

February 2026

1st Psalm 74

2nd Jeremiah 6:1-15

3rd Jeremiah 6:16-20

4th Jeremiah 7:1-20

5th Jeremiah 7:21-29

6th Jeremiah 8:18-9:9

7th Jeremiah 10:1-25

8th Psalm 75

9th Hebrews 11:1-19

10th Hebrews 11:20-31

11th Hebrews 11:32-40

12th Hebrews 12:1-13

13th Hebrews 12:14-29

14th Hebrews 13:1-25

15th Psalm 76

16th Genesis 42:1-24

17th Genesis 42:25-38

18th Genesis 43:1-34

19th Genesis 44:1-34

20th Genesis 45:1-15

21st Genesis 46:1-7;28-34

22nd Psalm 77

23rd Genesis 47:1-12

24th Genesis 47:13-31

25th Genesis 48:1-22

26th Genesis 49:1-28

27th Genesis 49:29-50:14

28th Genesis 50:15-26

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.

“Our Father, who is in heaven”

It is always good to start here, getting our perspective right and remembering that we come to the Almighty, the Maker and Sustainer of the universe, before whom we are as dust. We acknowledge that God is ruler of all things, and that he is worthy of all praise and honour. All the issues which trouble us, are His business, and we are invited to bring everything to him in prayer. All that we have and are comes from Him, and we give thanks, offering it back to Him for His use.

“Hallowed be your name! Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

The whole purpose of all creation, and of all history, is that God will be glorified, and so we pray for that to happen. We acknowledge that even when we cannot see it, God is working; we pray that heart-by-heart people will come to living faith in Jesus Christ, and join the kingdom. We pray that people will be set free from all that keeps them in fear and darkness – pride, sadness, addiction – so that they can live fully as God’s beloved children. There are many, many ways that God opens minds and hearts, and we can pray for these – for the work of Scripture Union among young people in schools and at youth camps; for the witness of Street Pastors here in Inverness and other city centres; for the impact of media such as the Chosen TV series, and The Greatest Story Ever Told, a book re-telling the story of Jesus written by the adventurer and broadcaster, Bear Grylls.

We can pray for ourselves, that we might share the good news of Jesus with our friends and family – wisely, gently and faithfully, not being ashamed of our Saviour.

www.suscotland.org.uk

www.streetpastors.org/our-network/united-kingdom/scotland/

“Give us today our daily bread”

It is not only bread, but breath that we need each day. We pray for ourselves but also for others that they might receive the portion they need today – of courage for hard situations; of wisdom for difficult decisions; of patience for prolonged challenges; of love and support in a time of grief and loss. God has called us to live for Him, and He promises that all we need to do that will be supplied. So even as we pray, we give thanks for that faithful provision and let go of our worries.

Organisations like Tear Fund, Christian Aid, Embrace the Middle East others give us much information to help us pray for people in need of physical help and support – food, medicine, education, clean water – and for those who are trying to provide that aid.

www.tearfund.org

www.christianaid.org.uk

www.embraceme.org

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One”

We pray for ourselves and for one another as fellow believers, and for Christians around the world, that we might all grow more like Jesus. We may be able to do little in one sense for those far away, but prayer is practical, and we can always use it to bless the church around the world. Christians are called to live in ways that show people what Jesus is like – and that is not always easy! So let us pray for self-control, wisdom, courage, love, a humble and forgiving spirit that forgets the wrongs done to it, and for God to keep all his children trusting in Him and close to Him always.

Organisations like Release International, and Christian Solidarity Worldwide give us so much information to inform our prayers for those who are particularly suffering for their faith; and our daily news gives us much material for prayer for people around the world as they experience war, drought, floods, famine, persecution, displacement. When we pray for these situations, we are acknowledging that only our Heavenly Father is big enough and powerful enough to bear this world's troubles. When we pray, we are only doing what He asks us to do, which is to ask Him to build His kingdom, reveal His glory and make all things new.

www.releaseinternational.org

www.csw.org.uk

“For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen!”

All the power is in the hands of God – and when we pray, we are simply asking that power to be used to reveal this glorious kingdom of which we are part.

So we pray for our churches – Inverness has many different kinds of churches, but all proclaim the truth that Jesus is Lord, and invite people to come and find out for themselves. We can pray for the wisdom and strength of church leaders – teachers and others – as they have to make decisions about using their resources well. We can pray that God will work through the churches to reach people here in Inverness, and that each of us will be so full of God’s goodness to us, that we want to tell others about it.

We can pray particularly for Ness Bank, for its leadership – the Kirk Session and Minister – that together they will lead our congregation in what God would have us do. We can pray that all we have – our building, our energies, our money – would be used by God to create a worshipping, loving community where people meet Jesus, and learn to worship Him.

Prayer

prompts Media

As you read your newspaper – online or on paper – let your responses to the news be formed into prayer, into sharing the burdens of the world with the God who longs that it should be restored and whose power is at work. Praying for those in positions of influence to bring peace into conflict situations; for those with capacity to bring aid to the needy, that they might have wisdom in using their resources; for those suffering, that they might find comfort and help; and for God’s love and power to be revealed as his people serve his world in his name.

Praise God for the good news, and for the non-news which is also good – the marriages which celebrate 50th anniversaries of faithfulness; the children being raised in loving homes; the practice of integrity in the workplace by employers and employees; the outrageous beauty of creation, and the gifts of art, music, poetry and movement which enrich our lives.

Out and about..

As you walk or drive around the town, let what you see inform your prayers. As you pass a school, pray for the teachers in all the challenges they face. Pray for the pupils who come, and for their growth in understanding, maturity and responsibility. Pray that these young people will encounter God’s word, and God’s love, so that they might find hope, identity and purpose.

When you pass a surgery or hospital, pray for the medical staff in all the pressures which they face; for wisdom to use each appointment well, and discernment in diagnosing and prescribing, in treatment and care. When you pass someone whose face speaks of despair, desperation, a life lived in chaos and at the mercy of addiction, pray for all those – many

unseen – who suffer from such bondage to hopelessness. Our God is powerful to defeat evil, and we pray for deliverance, for ourselves and others, from all that keeps us from knowing Christ's love and living in freedom as God's children.

Keep your eyes open, and keep your conversation with God going as you see the community to which he has called you as his hands and voice, to serve. Ask him to whom he is calling you to speak today.

Managing your money

As we go about our daily business, we are continually making choices about how we use our money – that is the financial resources with which God has entrusted us, to use for his glory and the good of others. Pray as you make decisions, for wisdom to discern what is wise and what is not; for opportunities to use your resources to bless others – whether you give through the church, or through Tear Fund, Christian Aid, Embrace the Middle East, the Leprosy Mission, the Scottish Bible Society, and any number of other agencies. Give thanks for the work of these organisations which channels our small resources to places where they can be of greatest benefit. They enable us to bless our brothers and sisters around the world, and to spread the good news of Jesus, and we are all the richer for their work.

Coming to church

Our congregation is one of many which meet across the city, and no two are alike! We thank God for the diversity of his church, and we pray for his power to be at work in each and every one. We can pray for churches facing change in leadership – the retirement of David Scott from Inshes East, and Douglas Robertson from the Crown Church – which is not easy. Pray for these vacancies that they will prove to be times of blessing, of strengthened faith and of the exercise of gifts within each congregation. We can pray for St Columba's church as they meet in a school and look to the day when they can start building – for perseverance and that God will bring among them people who will share their vision to reach out the community at Holm.

As we come to Ness Bank week by week, pray for the preaching of God's word to bear fruit in our hearts and minds, so that we become more like Jesus, and our congregation grows in mutual love and fellowship.

Delight yourselves in the Lord, yes, find your joy in him at all times. Have a reputation for gentleness, and never forget the nearness of your Lord.

Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God, which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4.4-7; JB Phillips translation)