



**Pastor Search
40 Day Prayer Guide**

DAY 36

Scripture Reading
Colossians 1:24-29

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that when the time comes to extend a call to your next pastor, God will make it unmistakably clear to the future pastor and church.
- Pray for the Lord to work powerfully in the church to make disciples

Scripture Reading
2 Timothy 2:24-26

DAY 37

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team to discern if potential pastoral candidates possess the biblical qualities of a servant of the Lord.
- Pray for the church to affirm these qualities in their future pastor.

DAY 38

Scripture Reading
Galatians 6:9

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team to not grow weary in their work.
- Pray that the search team and the church will be able to see God's hand at work bringing you and your future pastor together.

Scripture Reading
Philippians 2:1-11

DAY 39

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that Christ's attitude of humility and servanthood permeates both the search team and the church during the pastor search process.

DAY 40

Scripture Reading
Matthew 28:18-20

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your church to be a Great Commission church that makes disciples that makes disciples.
- Pray that your future pastor will be a Great Commission leader.

DAY 31

Scripture Reading
1 Peter 5:1-4

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that your future pastor shepherds the church in a biblical and Christ-exalting manner.
- Pray for your future pastor's walk with Christ.

Scripture Reading
1 Peter 5:5-7

DAY 32

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for mutual respect and humility between the church and your future pastor.
- Pray for the church to follow the leadership of your future pastor.

DAY 33

Scripture Reading
1 Peter 5:8-9

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team to remain humble before God and that they will not be anxious, but trust God's leadership.
- Pray that the church will stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 5:15-16

DAY 34

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team to make wise use of their time during their meetings.
- Pray for the Lord to reveal His will to your future pastor.

DAY 35

Scripture Reading
Isaiah 55:6-9

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that in times of discouragement, the search team and the church will seek the Lord diligently and have confidence that He is at work bringing the church and future pastor together.

Introduction

When a pastoral vacancy occurs in a church, it can create a leadership vacuum and trigger a certain amount of anxiety among church members. This congregational anxiety may cause the church to bypass a season of healing, renewal, and growth that the Lord has for them during the interim period just so they can get another preacher.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." This promise should assure the church without a pastor that Jesus is still at work building His church. So, instead of being filled with anxiety, church members can be filled with hope; confident that the Lord will provide the right pastor at the right time.

In his book, *Seeking God to Seek a Pastor*, Greg Frizzell writes:

When churches truly learn to "seek God to seek a pastor," they can find the right pastor *and* spiritual renewal in the process. With God, it is not about "just finding the right pastor." It is also about becoming the "right church" through deeper prayer and renewal. (p. xx)

The pastor search process is first and foremost a spiritual process. Therefore, the primary work must be prayer. This booklet is a 40 day prayer guide for churches that are in the pastor search process. The guide contains daily Scripture readings and prayer prompts. I encourage all members of the church to pray through this guide until God unmistakably provides the pastor He has chosen to lead His people. I also pray that this guide will be used of God to bring renewal to the church through the pastor search process.

To God Be The Glory!

Scott Setzer

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DAY 1

Scripture Reading
Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to wholeheartedly trust the Lord while searching for a pastor.
- Pray for the search team to trust the Holy Spirit's leadership.

Scripture Reading
Revelation 2:1-7

DAY 2

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to return to her first love, Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the church and search team to hear the Spirit clearly throughout the pastor search process.

DAY 3

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 4:1-6

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for unity and peace in the church while searching for a pastor.
- Pray for a strong sense of unity among the search team as they review and discuss potential pastoral candidates.

Scripture Reading
John 15:1-8

DAY 4

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for church members to continually abide in Christ and produce much fruit that glorifies the Father during the interim period.
- Pray for members of the search team to remain close to Christ.

DAY 5

Scripture Reading
John 15:9-15

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for church members to abide in the love of Christ and love one another with the love of Christ.
- Pray for God to bond the church and future pastor together in love.

DAY 26

Scripture Reading
1 Timothy 3:1-7

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your next pastor to be a man who exhibits Christ-like character both publicly and privately.
- Pray for your future pastor's family as they transition to a new work.

Scripture Reading
Colossians 3:12-17

DAY 27

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your church to grow in love toward one another.
- Pray for unresolved conflict to be worked out and for reconciliation among any broken relationships in the church.

DAY 28

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 1:15-23

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ.
- Pray for the church to look to Christ as the Head of the body.

Scripture Reading
Revelation 3:14-22

DAY 29

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to fight against a lukewarm spirituality.
- Pray church members repent of a lukewarm spirituality and become filled with a zeal for Jesus and His Kingdom work.

DAY 30

Scripture Reading
Hebrews 10:19-25

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to be committed to biblical worship.
- Pray for the search team to be confident that they are following God's will as they make decisions regarding your future pastor.

DAY 21

Scripture Reading
Proverbs 2:2-6

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor to seek God's wisdom in every area of life and decision making.
- Pray for the search team to be attentive to the Lord's wisdom.

Scripture Reading
James 4:1-12

DAY 22

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for church members to humble themselves before the Lord and seek His cleansing power in order for revival to come.
- Pray for the search team to continually submit to God's will.

DAY 23

Scripture Reading
John 17:20-23

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to be unified so that the world will be impacted with the gospel and the Father will be glorified.
- Pray for the search team to be unified in their decision making.

Scripture Reading
2 Timothy 2:15

DAY 24

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for a pastor who is able to rightly divide the Word of God.
- Pray for the search team as they listen to sermons of potential pastoral candidates.

DAY 25

Scripture Reading
Jeremiah 33:3

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that a burden for deep and urgent prayer permeates the church not only as you seek God's will for a pastor, but also as you seek God's vision for the church.

DAY 6

Scripture Reading
John 15:16-17

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for a season of fruitful ministry as the church prepares for her next pastor.
- Pray for the search team to be blessed with answered prayers.

Scripture Reading
Jeremiah 29:11-13

DAY 7

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team and the church to hope in God and seek Him wholeheartedly with the realization that He is in control of the church's future.

DAY 8

Scripture Reading
Psalms 139:23-24

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for members of the search team to have hearts that are pure as they work through the pastor search process.
- Pray for your future pastor to maintain a pure life before God.

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 6:10-11

DAY 9

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray with the understanding that searching for a pastor is primarily a spiritual process, so spiritual warfare will be present.
- Pray for God's protection on the search team and the church.

DAY 10

Scripture Reading
2 Timothy 2:1-2

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor and his family to be strengthened by the grace of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that your future pastor will be a faithful disciple-maker.

DAY 11

Scripture Reading
James 1:5-8

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team to seek God's wisdom as they review resumes and prepare to contact potential pastoral candidates.
- Pray for church leaders to seek God's wisdom in the interim period.

Scripture Reading
Colossians 1:9-12

DAY 12

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor and his family to be certain that it is God's will to transition to a new field of ministry.
- Pray the Father will be glorified in the pastor search process.

DAY 13

Scripture Reading
Acts 2:41-47

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to reflect the six elements of a healthy church both in the interim period and when the new pastor is called to serve. (worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, evangelism, and prayer)

Scripture Reading
Revelation 3:1-6

DAY 14

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the church to be filled with life through the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the church to be strengthened to carry out the vision God has for her.

DAY 15

Scripture Reading
John 13:34-35

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the search team and the church to be obedient to Christ's command to love one another.
- Pray the church's Christ-like love will be seen by the world.

DAY 16

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 3:20-21

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray the power of Christ would be known in and through the church and that all glory would be given to Him throughout the pastor search process.

Scripture Reading
Psalms 51:10-12

DAY 17

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for each member of the search team to stay close to the Lord through hearts that are continually cleansed by Him.
- Pray for your next pastor to keep a cleansed heart before the Lord.

DAY 18

Scripture Reading
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor to faithfully preach the Word of God.
- Pray the Lord gives the church a hunger for the Word of God and receptivity to the sermons that are preached by the new pastor.

Scripture Reading
Hebrews 13:17

DAY 19

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for your future pastor to faithfully shepherd the church and for members of the church to willingly and joyfully place themselves under his servant leadership.

DAY 20

Scripture Reading
Joshua 1:9

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for each member of the search team to have an overwhelming sense of God's presence and guidance as they work through the steps of the pastor search process.