



## 2023 Family Retreat Prayer Guide

*“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;  
be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.”*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

We encourage you to use this 21-day prayer guide for prayer before and during the *Family Retreats*.

### DAY 1

#### Scripture

*“After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone.”*

MATTHEW 14:23

#### Prayer Quote

“Talking to people for God is a great thing, but talking to God for people is the first thing.”

#### Prayer Topic

Prepare hearts of volunteer to serve at the *Family Retreats*—for Christ to awaken faith, courage, strength, and love for others. Pray for abilities to act with courage and strength in obedience to the Lord, confident in his great power alone.

### DAY 2

#### Scripture

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.”*

MARK 1:35

#### Prayer Quote

“When you can’t be there, you can help through prayer.”

#### Prayer Topic

Pray for the families attending *Family Retreats* to be courageous and strong as they walk in faith on the difficult path often with suffering and loss. Ask God to make them fearless disciples of Christ despite living with a disability.

## DAY 3

### Scripture

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

JAMES 1:5

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.”

JOHN BUNYAN

### Prayer Topic

Ask God to give wisdom to the *Family Retreat* leaders as they match volunteers and campers who attend. May the matches be made in heaven.

## DAY 4

### Scripture

*“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

HEBREWS 4:16

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer is keeping company with God.”

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

### Prayer Topic

Pray for volunteers to use wisdom with complex needs or disabilities that they may have previously known very little about. Ask God to confirm in obvious ways that he will give wisdom generously to everyone who asks.

## DAY 5

### Scripture

*“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*

MATTHEW 18:19-20

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer is the language of a man burdened with a sense of need.”

E.M. BOUNDS

### Prayer Topic

Ask God to equip leaders and volunteers to minister to families who experience overwhelming isolation because of their chronic conditions. Pray that as families experience God's care, they would be strengthened.

## DAY 6

### Scripture

*“But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”*

JAMES 1:6-8

### Prayer Quote

“Do not pray by heart, but with the heart.”

### Prayer Topic

Pray for God to remove all doubt in Him and those who serve, and that meaningful, authentic relationships and strong bonds of love would be made during the days of *Family Retreat*.

## DAY 7

### Scripture

*“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

JAMES 5:16

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer is not a device for getting our wills done through heaven, but a desire that God’s will may be done on earth, through us.”

### Prayer Topic

Pray for marriages to be strengthened and restored. Ask God to shepherd each couple as they build a deeper connection to one another through Christ.

## DAY 8

### Scripture

*“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*

LUKE 18:1

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer is not conquering God’s reluctance but taking hold of God’s willingness.”

PHILLIPS BROOKS

### Prayer Topic

Ask God to refresh and encourage single parents with the assurance that Christ will provide all they need.

## DAY 9

### Scripture

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”*

COLOSSIANS 4:3

### Prayer Quote

“Giving thanks to God is like swimming in the ocean, there is no end.”

### Prayer Topic

Thank God in advance for providing for all that leaders, volunteers, and families need in advance and at the *Family Retreat*. Thank Him for His guidance and protection over each person at *Family Retreat*.

## DAY 10

### Scripture

*“Pray in the Spirit in every situation. Use every kind of prayer and request there is. For the same reason be alert. Use every kind of effort and make every kind of request for all of God’s people.”*

EPHESIANS 6:18

### Prayer Quote

“God never tires of our asking.”

### Prayer Topic

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak through all who are sharing the gospel, and for ears to hear, and hearts to receive the message of love and hope in Christ.

## DAY 11

### Scripture

*“I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”*

HABAKKUK 3:18

### Prayer Quote

“All who have walked with God have viewed prayer as the main business of their lives.”

DELMA JACKSON

### Prayer Topic

Pray for families to understand the greatness and wonder of God and experience the joy in the Lord each day of the *Family Retreat* and beyond.

## DAY 12

### Scripture

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*

JOHN 15:7

### Prayer Quote

“I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do his work through me.”

James Hudson Taylor

### Prayer Topic

Pray for *Family Retreat* leaders and volunteers to practice unity, humility, and remain in the Lord each moment of the *Family Retreat*.

## DAY 13

### Scripture

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

ROMANS 12:12

### Prayer Quote

“When you go to your knees, God will help you stand up to anything.”

### Prayer Topic

Pray that families will learn to trust God in their suffering and loss. Ask for ignited hope that produces great patience through God Himself.

## DAY 14

### Scripture

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

### Prayer Quote

“God listens to prayers, answers prayers, and moves in response to prayers.”

### Prayer Topic

Rejoice and give thanks that God’s grace surrounds all participants covers them, and is sufficient for them despite weaknesses or whatever they lack.

## DAY 15

### Scripture

*“With deep affection they will pray for you because of the extreme kindness that God has shown you.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 9:14

### Prayer Quote

“The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”

K.B. MEYER

### Prayer Topic

Pray for families to receive deep affection so they will see and receive Christ’s kindness through others in each interaction throughout the *Retreat*.

## DAY 16

### Scripture

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

### Prayer Quote

“The less I pray, the harder it gets; the more I pray, the better it goes.”

MARTIN LUTHER

### Prayer Topic

Pray for the new (i.e., first time) families attending *Family Retreat* who may have anxiety and apprehension to attend a big event like this. Ask for peace that knows God will go before them and will be with them, providing a positive experience beyond their imagination.

## DAY 17

### Scripture

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

### Prayer Quote

“Devotion to God and devotion to prayer are one and the same thing.”

### Prayer Topic

Thank God for the *Family Retreat* facility and for those who run it. Pray also for *Family Retreat* leaders to be wise in their planning and decisions each day.

## DAY 18

### Scripture

*“I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.”*

PSALM 34:4

### Prayer Quote

“We cannot ask in behalf of Christ what Christ would not ask Himself if He were praying.”

A.B. SIMPSON

### Prayer Topic

Pray for safe travels to and from Detroit Lakes and protection from illness and injuries while at the *Family Retreat* facility. Also, pray for great weather so families can enjoy all the activities.

## DAY 19

### Scripture

*“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message.”*

COLOSSIANS 4:3

### Prayer Quote

“Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.”

JOHN AIKMAN WALLACE

### Prayer Topic

Pray for families that might not yet know Jesus and others who need strengthening in their walks of faith. Pray for God to soften hearts and minds toward His messages of hope and life for now and eternity.

## DAY 20

### Scripture

*“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

JOHN 14:13-14

### Prayer Quote

“If there is one thing I think the Church needs to learn, it is that God means prayer to have an answer.”

ANDREW MURRAY

### Prayer Topic

Pray that churches learn to include all people, including those living with disability. Pray also the *Family Retreat* will help connect families to vibrant churches ready to welcome them on an ongoing basis.

## DAY 21

### Scripture

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

JEREMIAH 29:11

### Prayer Quote

“Never take on more work than you have time to pray over.”

### Prayer Topic

Pray that each family will return home refreshed, renewed, and rejoicing. Ask God to protect the seeds that are sown so they can bear much fruit and honor Christ even in their suffering.