

THURSDAY

1. **Read:** *“An elder must be blameless”* (Titus 1:6 NIV). A blameless man cannot be taken hold of as if he were a criminal in need of detention for his actions. There’s nothing to accuse him of. A church leader’s life must not be marred by sin – be it an attitude, habit, or incident. That’s not to say he must be perfect, but there must not be any obvious defect in his character. Spiritual leaders must be blameless because they set the example for the congregation to follow. That is a high standard, but it isn’t a double standard. Members are responsible to follow the example of their godly leaders (Hebrew 13:7, 17 NIV). God requires blamelessness of all believers.
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, help my pastor and the leaders of my church to be blameless. Also help me to follow their example and be blameless in Your sight.
5. **Obey:** Father in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

FRIDAY

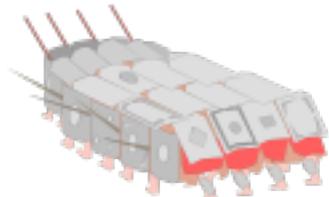
1. **Read:** *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn”* (Zechariah 12:10 NKJV)
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this text mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, pour out Your Spirit of grace and supplication on our congregation. Enable us to pray earnestly for the strength of our leaders. The devil attacks them with more severe temptations than most Christians will ever experience. They lead the forces of truth and light against the kingdom of darkness; therefore, they experience the strongest opposition from the enemy. Make my pastor holy; keep him from becoming like a stained glass window: a religious symbol that keeps the light out.
5. **Obey:** Father, in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

SATURDAY

1. **Read:** *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You* (Psalm 119:11 NKJV) *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you”* (John 15:3 NIV).
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
4. **Pray:** Help my pastor and the leaders of my church protect themselves from the onslaughts of Satan by proper use of Scripture, prayer, and fellowship. They are already clean because of the word You have spoken to them. Help them daily to hide Your Word in their hearts that they might not sin against You. Never let them grow complacent in their commitment to Your Word.
5. **Obey:** Father, in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

Pray for Your Church Leaders

In Old Testament times, kings were warrior chiefs who led their armies. They were strategic targets for their enemies. If a king could be put out of action, his army would usually lose heart and scatter. Kings often recruited armor bearers from their most valiant, devoted soldiers to carry large shields for protection from enemy assault.



The visible leaders of the local church (especially the pastors) are strategic targets for the devil (Luke 22: 31-34). The pastor sets the pace and the pattern for the congregation (1 Timothy 4:12); he also models godliness (Hosea 4:6-9; Luke 6:40). Congregations seldom grow beyond the model set by their pastor.

As the warrior chief depended on his armor bearers to raise their shields to ward off the enemy assault, church leaders depend on the prayers of their people to protect them from the “flaming arrows” of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16). The Apostle Paul plead with Christians to pray for him (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Hebrews 13:18).

Prayer for your leaders is as important as food is for your body. Each time you eat a meal, pause to thank God for the food and pray for your leaders. This guide gives seven scriptures and suggests prayers for daily intercession. Repeat the daily prayers each week for one month. Pray for your pastor daily and select an elder, deacon, staff person or other leader each day to pray for. The guide which follows gives suggestions for personal or family intercession. Each day’s material is organized into six steps: read, think, meditate, journal, pray and obey.

SUNDAY

1. **Read:** *"I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed."* (Romans 15:30-32 NIV)
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, help my pastors and the leaders of my church to be victorious in the struggle of ministry. Help me and others in my church to pray for them. May they be rescued from unbelievers that might resent them and may their service be acceptable to the members of our church so that they may have joy and be refreshed.
5. **Obey:** Father, in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

MONDAY

1. **Read:** *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should."* (Ephesians 18-24 NIV)
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this text mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, help me today in the power of the Holy Spirit to be alert and to persistently pray for my pastor and the leaders of my church that whenever they speak, they will know what to say and have the courage to say it.
5. **Obey:** Father in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

TUESDAY

1. **Read:** *"Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. (Psalm 61:1 NKJ) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:27 NKJV)*
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, enable my pastor and the leaders of my church to acknowledge by prayer their dependency on You for spiritual strength and victory. May they cry to You for help. Show my pastor and the leaders of my church the importance of fellowship. May they draw great strength and encouragement from those around them who are engaged in the same struggles. May there never be a blight of any kind of sin that taints their reputations or puts their character in question.
5. **Obey:** Father, in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?

WEDNESDAY

1. **Read:** *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."* (Luke 22:31-32 NIV)
2. **Think:** Father, what is the meaning of this text?
3. **Meditate:** Father, what should this mean to me?
4. **Pray:** Father, as Satan has asked to sift the visible leaders of the early church, now he seeks to sift the leaders of my local church. Lord Jesus, You prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail and that he would strengthen his brothers. Keep my pastor and the other leaders of my church from sinful self-confidence. Keep them from falling into sin that disqualifies them from ministry. Do not let Satan undermine their integrity as spiritual leaders, destroying their ministry and bringing reproach upon Christ. Enable them to guard their thoughts and actions carefully.
5. **Obey:** Father, in the light of what I have prayed, what do you now want me to do?