



Why do we...

January 2018 Prayer and
Conversation Starter

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Why do we...

January is the month that we set aside for fasting and prayer as a church. It is a time to focus on listening to God's voice for direction, discernment, wisdom, and courage.

Included in this box are devotional cards for each day of January. The cards are meant for prayer and conversation starters. You can review them alone or as a family. Each card has a scripture to read, a thought, an idea, and what to pray for.

We as a staff of Centerpointe Church, designed these cards so that all ages, including children, would take time to process and think through the "whys" of our faith in Jesus Christ throughout the month of January.

Why do we...

PRAY

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PHILIPPIANS 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

THOUGHT: Prayer is the communication vehicle through which our relationship with God develops. Even though God knows everything we need before we ask, He wants us to come to him with our requests. We know that when we pray, God hears us and responds. What a privilege it is to talk to the One who created heaven and earth.

IDEA: Talk about a time when God answered your prayers, and then discuss needs that you continue to pray for but have not seen answers to yet. Create a journal with prayers you are praying and put the date when God answers your prayer.

PRAYER: Thank God for hearing and answering your prayers in the past, and allow God to lead you to know what to pray for next.

JANUARY 2

Why do we...

READ THE BIBLE

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2 TIMOTHY 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”

THOUGHT: The Bible is the story of our need for God and God’s love for us. It also shows us the way to know God and gives guidance to our lives while on earth.

IDEA: Talk about your favorite bible verses and why they are special to you.

PRAYER: Spend time thanking God for His word and ask Him to make the scriptures become more real to you and your family.

JANUARY 3

Why do we...

ACCEPT JESUS

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ROMANS 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

ROMANS 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ROMANS 10:9 “If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

THOUGHT: Jesus came to this earth out of His great love for us and made a way so that we could have a relationship with God. He is the only way to God. When we accept that Jesus died for our sins and believe that He rose from the dead, we are then called children of God.

IDEA: Talk about when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and talk about what that means.

PRAYER: Thank God for sending his only Son, Jesus, to save us and pray for others that have not already accepted Him.

Why do we...

ASK GOD FOR DIRECTION

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PROVERBS 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding: think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.”

THOUGHT: If God created us, knows us, sees everything and knows everything, doesn't it make much sense to ask Him for direction in life? This means that no matter what we face in life, if we think about Him, ask for direction, trust in Him, that He will guide us to go the right way.

IDEA: Think of a time in the past where you asked God for direction and He led you down a right path.

PRAYER: Ask God for direction regarding your future and verbally proclaim that you trust Him to guide you.

JANUARY 5

Why do we...

WORSHIP

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PSALMS 29:2 "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness."

THOUGHT: To worship God means to come before Him and recognize that He is worthy of praise. We worship Him because he is the Creator of Heaven and earth. He is the ruler of our lives. It is more than just singing songs, it is living our lives for Him.

IDEA: Go to YouTube and find a worship song and sing together as a family. Talk about different ways that we worship God with our lives.

PRAYER: Take time throughout the day to recognize who God is and express your praise to Him.

Why do we...

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

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PSALMS 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

PSALMS 119:11 “I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

THOUGHT: When you memorize scripture, you are placing God’s word in your heart and the Holy Spirit will bring it to memory when it is most needed.

IDEA: Choose a few verses of scripture that are meaningful to you and commit them to memory. Go over them every day for a week.

PRAYER: Pray that God uses the scriptures you memorized to make a difference in your life and the lives of others.

JANUARY 7

REFLECT

on the Sunday Service

centerpointechurch.com

Talk about this week's sermon –
what it meant to you and
how the message applies to your life.

To listen to this week's message online, go to
centerpointechurch.com/messages

Why do we...

CONFESS OUR SINS

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1 JOHN 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

THOUGHT: To confess our sins is to acknowledge that we have things in our lives that are not pleasing to God; it can be physical, relational, or spiritual. To confess means to admit we have done wrong and ask forgiveness with the assurance that Jesus does forgive us.

IDEA: Talk about a time when you were wrong and had to confess it to someone and ask forgiveness.

PRAYER: Ask God to examine our hearts to see if there are areas in our lives that are not pleasing to Him. Then, pray a prayer of confession and receive God’s forgiveness.

JANUARY 9

Why do we...

FAST

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ACTS 13:3 “So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

THOUGHT: Fasting is simply giving up something for the purpose of drawing near to God. “Entering into a period of extended prayer and fasting is like pushing the ‘pause button’ on life so you can draw nearer to God. The Holy Spirit joins you in this experience as you open your heart to receive from the Lord” (www.daniel-fast.com).

IDEA: Choose what kind of fast you will go on and decide when to start and end your fast.

PRAYER: Pray that you will draw near to God on your fast and hear His voice.

Why do we...

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

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EPHESIANS 6:18 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

THOUGHT: Praying in the Spirit is allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through you. It is letting him control your prayer life and language. When the Holy Spirit prays through you, He sets the agenda.

IDEA: Talk about what it means to be filled with the Spirit and the difference it makes in your life.

PRAYER: Simply ask the Holy Spirit to fill you as you pray. Don't be surprised if you begin to speak in a language you do not know. It is a heavenly language.

JANUARY 11

Why do we...

GIVE TO THE POOR

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LEVITICUS 23:22 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.”

THOUGHT: Over and over in scripture God says to take care of the poor around you, because every person is valuable to the Lord and we demonstrate God’s love when we care for people who have less than we do.

IDEA: Talk about what it means to care for someone in need. This is a great time to talk about the Hypothermia Prevention Outreach that Centerpointe Church will host. Make sure you have signed up to help.

PRAYER: Pray for those around you that need your help.

Why do we...

BAPTIZE IN WATER

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ACTS 2:37-38 “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

THOUGHT: Being baptized in water is a public statement of a personal decision. It is demonstrating to the world that your old, sinful self, is gone and you are a new person in Jesus.

IDEA: If you were baptized, talk about that day. If you have not been baptized yet, make plans to do so. Contact the church and we will arrange it for you.

PRAYER: Thank God for salvation and the day you were baptized.

Why do we...

FORGIVE

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MATTHEW 6:12-15 “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

THOUGHT: We forgive because God first forgave us. When we forgive, we are the most like Jesus, who even on the cross asked God to forgive those who crucified him.

IDEA: Talk about a time in your life when you were forgiven and a time when someone else forgave you?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you forgive others as He has forgiven you.

JANUARY 14

REFLECT

on the Sunday Service

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JANUARY 15

Why do we...

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

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PSALMS 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance.”

THOUGHT: When a country is blessed, the people are blessed. When people are blessed, other countries are blessed. In America, we are blessed to live and worship God freely. However, when a country turns away from God, God withholds his blessing.

IDEAS: List as many great things about our country as you can, and list ways we need God to change our hearts.

PRAYER: Thank God for all wonderful things about our country and pray for a spiritual awakening that will turn people’s hearts to serve God.

JANUARY 16

Why do we...

GO TO CHURCH

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PSALMS 122:1 “I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.””

THOUGHT: The church is not about a building; it is about people. When we get together for a church service, we get to be with our spiritual family to encourage each other and learn from God’s word.

IDEA: Talk about your favorite things about church. Call, or text, someone from Centerpointe to let them know you are praying for them and believe in them.

PRAYER: Thank God for Centerpointe Church and pray for God’s blessing over it. Pray that it becomes all it needs to be for the Kingdom of God.

Why do we...

GIVE IN THE OFFERING

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2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

THOUGHT: God himself is a cheerful giver. Consider all he has done for us. He is pleased when we who are created in his image give generously and joyfully.

IDEA: Talk about your giving with your family. How has God provided for you in the past? This is a good time to talk about the concept of “Give, Save, and Spend.”

PRAYER: Reflect on God’s provision and thank Him for being generous to you. Pray together about being good stewards.

Why do we...

TAKE COMMUNION

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1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

THOUGHT: Communion is a time when we pause what we are doing and remember the death and resurrection of Jesus and our salvation, which is the centerpiece of being a follower of Jesus.

IDEA: Share communion together as a family or personally with yourself and God.

PRAYER: Reflect on the gift of salvation and thank God for His great love.

Why do we...

VOLUNTEER AT CHURCH

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ROMANS 12:6–8 “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

THOUGHT: Everyone at church has an important gift to be used to help the Body of Christ. Gifts are meant to encourage, uplift, and challenge each other to become mature followers of Jesus.

IDEA: Talk about the gifts God has given you and how they can be used to make a difference at in the Body of Christ. This is a great time to thank a volunteer for serving.

PRAYER: Pray for all of the volunteers of Centerpointe and thank the Lord for their service.

Why do we...

ENCOURAGE OTHER PEOPLE

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

THOUGHT: To encourage someone means to “put courage into” someone. It involves using words of affirmation to help people be strong.

IDEA: Talk about a time when you were encouraged by someone else and identify someone that you could encourage this week.

PRAYER: Pray for the person you want to encourage.

JANUARY 21

REFLECT

on the Sunday Service

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JANUARY 22

Why do we...

LISTEN TO GOOD MUSIC

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PHILIPPIANS 4:8 "...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

THOUGHT: Have you ever had a song go through your mind over and over and over again without even asking it to? This just shows the power music has as it can continue to play in our minds and influence our thoughts and actions. In the Bible we see that whatever is allowed into our minds will not only stay there, but also influence how we act.

IDEA: Think about a song and discuss whether it helps you think on good things and why.

PRAYER: Think of a worship song and sing it as a prayer to God.

Why do we...

EXERCISE

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I CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.”

THOUGHT: Exercising is another way we can honor God. When we exercise we are saying that we value the body God has given us enough to take care of it. You can also pray while you walk, meditate while you swim, or simply think about God as you lift weights at the gym, etc. The possibilities are endless in how we can honor God through exercise.

IDEA: Try praying while doing some type of exercise.

PRAYER: Take time and thank God for the health you have.

JANUARY 24

Why do we...

CHOOSE GOOD FRIENDS

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PROVERBS 13:20 “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”

THOUGHT: God has wired us in a way that we need friends. It is so important that the friends we choose help us grow in positive ways and challenge us to be more like Christ.

IDEA: Name 5 of your friends and determine how they are helping you be a better person

PRAYER: Pray for the wisdom to make good choices in choosing friends.

Why do we...

SHARE

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HEBREWS 13:16 “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

THOUGHT: When you share with others, you please your heavenly father. You don't share just because you feel like it or it's convenient; you share because God asks you to, not expecting anything in return.

IDEA: Who is one person you have trouble sharing with? Pick something you can give them this week.

PRAYER: Pray that God would open your eyes to the needs right around you and give you a heart to take action. Also pray that God would help you to share with those whom are ungrateful or don't share in return.

Why do we...

SERVE OTHERS

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PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

MATTHEW 23:11 “The greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

THOUGHT: God calls us to care about others and serve them by looking out for the interests of others. Serving others means we put someone else’s interests and desires before our own. God rewards those who are humble servants.

IDEA: Spend today keeping your eyes open for people who you can serve. When you do serve someone, do it with a grateful heart.

PRAYER: Pray that God would open your eyes to ways that you can serve others today.

JANUARY 27

Why do we...

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

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1 TIMOTHY 2:1–3 “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

THOUGHT: When our leaders are blessed, we are blessed. They need wisdom from God to make right decisions that will impact all of our lives. They are also the ones that create laws that we have to live by.

IDEAS: Think of the ways that our government leaders impact our lives.

PRAYER: Pray a prayer of blessing over our leaders. Pray that they take their responsibility seriously and do their very best each day.

JANUARY 28

REFLECT

on the Sunday Service

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Why do we...

OBEY OUR PARENTS

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EPHESIANS 6:1 “Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.”

THOUGHT: When you obey your parents, you honor God. It isn't always easy, and you won't always feel like it, and your parents might not always be right, but it is still the right thing to do because one day when you're a parent, you'll want your kids to listen and obey.

IDEA: Let your parents know that you want to get better at this and come up with a plan to get there.

PRAYER: Pray for God to bless your parents and for strength to obey them even when it's difficult.

JANUARY 30

Why do we...

HONOR OLDER PEOPLE

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JOB 12:12 "Wisdom belongs to the aged, and understanding to the old."

THOUGHT: Why do wisdom and understanding belong to older people? The answer is that they have many experiences, failures, and successes. God wants you to honor them and what they say because chances are they can speak great truth and helpful answers into the many questions you have or things you're going through.

IDEA: Make a list of questions to ask a grandparent or someone else you know who's much older than you. Let them know you are thankful for them.

PRAYER: Pray for God to bring older people into your life to give you wisdom and guidance. Thank God for those who are already in your life!

Why do we...

EAT HEALTHY

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1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

THOUGHT: Eating healthy is a way that we can feed our physical bodies with good nutrition. We want to treat our bodies well and feed them with healthy foods so that we can honor God and the body that He has given us.

IDEA: Create a healthy snack out of colorful fruits and veggies.

PRAYER: Thank God for your body and for how he has provided for your physical needs with food.

Why do we...

SING

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PSALM 100:1-2 “A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!”

THOUGHT: Singing and praising God with our voices is a way that we express joy to God for all that He does for us. We can lift up our voices in thankfulness and also in the hard times.

IDEA: Sing a worship song together as a family. You can also make instruments to play while you sing praise to God.

PRAYER: Thank God for your voice and the ability to sing and worship him.

Why do we...

INVITE OUR FRIENDS TO CHURCH

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ROMANS 10:14 “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

THOUGHT: If you have a friend who has never heard about Jesus, what He did for the world, what He’s done in your life, and what He can do in their life, how can they believe in Him? God uses us to reach the world around us, and He uses the church to help us.

IDEA: Share your personal story in the context of how God has worked throughout your life with a friend who isn’t following Jesus and invite them to church.

PRAYER: Pray for your friends who don’t know Jesus to find Him. Ask God to give you providential opportunities to share God’s love and the courage to speak about your faith to friends who don’t share it.