

# Daily Devotion

The fatherhood of God



at the heart of prayer

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

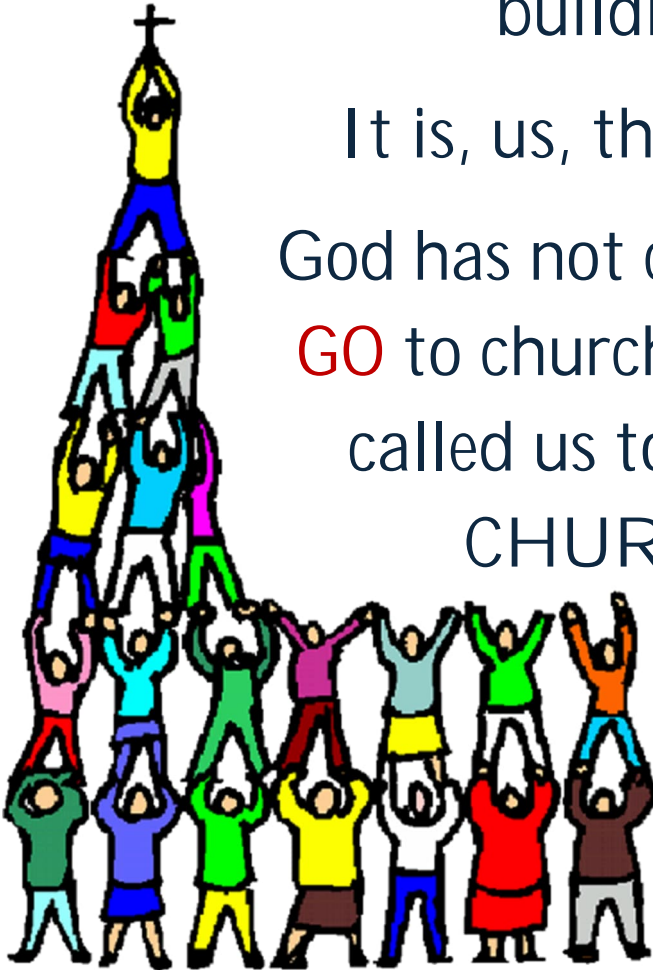
December 2024							
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

# Our Declaration at IIC

The Church is not the building.

It is, us, the people.

God has not called us to  
**GO** to church. God has  
called us to **BE** His  
**CHURCH.**





# Leadership Team

## Ministers



Adéwálé Adéfuyè



David Howe

## Elders



Denest Akintaju



Dan Jolley



Sourik Lahiri



Tracey Maugé



Sophie Ogunlaja



Philip Ogunniyi



Philip Ash  
Colchester



Marian Pintilie  
Romanian Fellowship

# PARENTS', BABY & TODDLERS GROUP

ELIM CHURCH, CLEMATIS WAY,  
GREENSTEAD, COLCHESTER, CO4 3PY

EVERY TUESDAY 10 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M.



Suffolk and  
North East Essex  
Maternity and  
Neonatal Services

Elim Church  
Colchester



Do you have a testimony, and you want to share it with your church family?

Email Tracey at [info@iicelim.uk](mailto:info@iicelim.uk) or sms on 07418319224

## Prayer & Fasting Friday 13 December 2024

### Focus Scripture:

*Your people will offer themselves willingly [to participate in Your battle] in the day of Your power...*

*Psalm 110:3a, Amp*



### Corporate Prayer Meeting at 7:30pm

Ipswich International Church, Barrack Corner, IP1 2EU



## Christmas 2024 A Transformed Heart

**Sun 15 Dec:** Nativity Service - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 11am

**19, 20 & 21 Dec:** A Very Christmas Carol Production 7pm

**Sun 22 Dec:** Carols by Candlelight 6pm

**Wed 25 Dec:** Christmas Day Service 10am

**Sun 29 Dec:** Sunday service 11am

**Tues 31 Dec:** Watchnight Service 10pm

**Sun 5 Jan 2025:** Sunday service 11am



## “Pray to Your Father”: Introduction

*But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.* Matthew 6:6 BSB

Jesus teaches us to pray to God as "your Father," highlighting the deeply personal and relational nature of New Testament prayer. This is a profound shift from the formal, distant conceptions in the Old Testament. It is an invitation into an intimate, family-like relationship with the Creator, marked by love, trust, and accessibility.

Praying to the Father underscores the Believer's identity as a child of God, adopted into His family through faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>Romans 8:15</sup> This identity transforms prayer from a ritualistic obligation into a heartfelt conversation. It assures Believers that they are not approaching a distant or impersonal deity, but a loving Father who cares for their needs, hears their cries, and delights in their communion with Him.

The phrase *your Father who sees what is done in secret* reveals God's omniscience and attentiveness. He is aware of our innermost thoughts and desires and values sincerity over outward displays of religiosity. This knowledge encourages authenticity and humility in prayer. Moreover, praying to the Father reinforces trust in His character. As a perfect Father, God is compassionate, wise, and faithful. Jesus later teaches in Matthew 7:11 that the Father knows how to give good gifts to His children, assuring Believers of His generous provision.

Ultimately, the fatherhood of God is at the heart of prayer and reflects the essence of the Gospel: a restored relationship between humanity and God. Praying to the Father fosters intimacy and a deeper awareness of His presence, transforming prayer into a vital expression of love and faith in the Believer's life.

*Adéwálé Adéfuyè*  
7 December 2024

## God the Father: Personal Connection & Dimension



Matthew 6:6

**BSB**

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and **pray to your Father**, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**NLT**

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and **pray to your Father in private**. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.



With "Pray to your Father," Jesus makes a profound and explicit statement about the nature of prayer—it is to be directed to God as (our) Father. This instruction is significant not only for its clarity but also for what it reveals about the personal relationship believers are invited to have with God. Jesus moves beyond the corporate understanding of God as the national deity of Israel and introduces a deeply personal dimension. By addressing God as your Father, He affirms the intimate, one-on-one connection between each individual Believer and God. This shift underscores that God is not merely the collective Father of a people or nation but the loving Father of every person who comes to Him in faith.



1. Why does Jesus emphasise praying specifically to "your Father" rather than a more generic or formal address? **2. In what ways does praying to "your Father" affirm the believer's identity in Christ?** 3. How does the fatherhood of God provide a foundation for trust in His care and provision in prayer? **4. What implications does this have for praying with faith and expectation?** 5. What does it mean for God, as our Father, to "see in secret" and respond to our prayers? How does this knowledge encourage humility and authenticity in our prayer lives? **6. How does understanding God as "Father" transform prayer from a duty to a loving conversation?**



1. Give thanks for God's fatherhood. **2. Rejoice in God's unchanging character.** 3. Seek intimacy in prayer. **4. Trust in God's care.** 5. Renew childlike dependence. **6. Align with God's will.** 7. Pray for others to know God as Father

# A Very Christmas Carol

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st  
December 2024.

**Every evening 7:00pm (doors open 6:30pm)**

Ticket price: £2 per person or £5 for 4 people.  
Book early by scanning the QR code or pay at the door.

For more information please email [info@jicelim.uk](mailto:info@jicelim.uk)





## From Me to We: God as Our Father



Matthew 6:9, BSB So then, this is how you should pray: 'Our Father

Read also John 20:17



"Our" is simple yet profound. God is not just my Father, but our Father. We are to embrace both the personal and communal dimensions of our faith. This dual reality shapes how we pray, live, and engage with others, reflecting the unity and love that God desires for His people. This communal perspective fosters a sense of belonging, unity, and mutual responsibility within the body of Christ. While we each have a unique relationship with God, we are also part of a greater spiritual family.



1. How does addressing God as "Our Father" shape our understanding of His Fatherhood in both personal and collective contexts? 2. What does the plural pronoun "Our" imply about the equality of Believers before God, regardless of status, ethnicity, or background? 3. What does "Our Father" teach us about the inclusivity of God's relationship with humanity? How does it balance the personal and universal aspects of His Fatherhood? 4. Does "Our Father" challenge us to think beyond individual prayers and consider the needs of the larger faith community? If so, how? 5. In what ways does the communal nature of "Our" encourage us to live out our faith in unity and mutual support? 6. How might understanding God as "Our Father" transform how we approach conflict, forgiveness, and reconciliation within the church? 7. How does the universality of "Our Father" inform our mission to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations?



1. Give thanks for the privilege of calling God "Our Father." 2. Ask for a greater revelation of what it means to live as a child of God, both personally and as part of His family. 3. Pray for greater love, unity, and harmony among believers, as we share one Father and are part of one spiritual family. 4. Lift up the global Church, to be sensitive to God's guidance and strength as they reflect His love and truth in the world. 5. Intercede for the needs of others, acknowledging God's role as a Father who provides for all His children. 6. Pray for healing in relationships within the Church and for reconciliation among believers, reflecting the unity of "Our Father." 7. Pray for boldness and opportunities to share the message of God's Fatherhood with those who have yet to know Him.

## Priceless: How God's Fatherhood Redefines Our Value



Matthew 6:25-34



Read the text. Pause. Allow what you have read to wash over you. Read it again but slowly this time around.

Imagine Jesus' countenance as He speaks the words of Matthew 6:26: "Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth much more than birds?" [CEV]

Visualising this scene helps us grasp the depth of His teaching. As He speaks, His face likely reflects a blend of joy, gentleness, and calm assurance. This expression draws His listeners into a deeper understanding of the Father's provision and their immense value to Him. His demeanour conveys not only truth but also an invitation to trust and rest in God's care.



1. What aspects of God's character as Father are highlighted in this passage, and how do they address human anxieties about provision? 2. How does the analogy of God caring for birds and flowers deepen our understanding of His role as a loving and attentive Father? 3. How does recognising God as Father transform the way we approach material concerns and daily needs? 4. In what ways does this passage challenge us to reflect childlike faith in God's provision? 5. What does Jesus' assurance in verse 32, that "your heavenly Father knows that you need them," reveal about the intimacy of God's knowledge and care for His children? 6. How can we be assured that God knows our needs and will provide according to His will? 7. How can understanding God's Fatherhood help us combat the worry and anxiety described in this passage? 8. What practical steps can we take to live in greater awareness of God's Fatherly care, as Jesus teaches here?



1. Thank God for His fatherly care and His daily provisions. 2. Acknowledge and worship Him as both the Creator and personal Father who tenderly cares for His creation. 3. Ask God to help you trust Him as a child trusts a loving parent, relying fully on His provision. 4. Pray for the discipline to prioritise His Kingdom and righteousness above material concerns. 5. Pray for the Church to model collective faith in God's provision, reflecting His care to a watching world. 6. Ask God to help you understand the depth of His love and care as a Father, so you can live confidently in His provision.

## Adopted by God: Sons, not Servants



Galatians 4:1-7



St Paul elaborates on the transformative relationship Believers have with God as their Father. He addresses the Galatians, who were being influenced by Judaizers seeking to impose Old Testament law and rituals, such as circumcision, on Gentile converts. Paul challenges this legalistic approach by emphasising the Believer's new identity in Christ. Through Jesus' work, believers are no longer under the law's authority but are adopted into God's family as His sons and daughters, receiving the full rights of heirs.



1. What does it mean to be adopted by God as His children? How does this adoption shape our identity as believers? 2. Paul contrasts being a slave to the law with being a son in relationship to God. How does this distinction impact our approach to living under God's grace rather than under legalistic systems? 3. Verse 7 declares that we are no longer slaves but sons and heirs through God. What implications does this have for our understanding of spiritual inheritance and our access to God's promises? 4. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in our relationship with God as Father? How does this Spirit enable us to relate to God with intimacy and trust?



1. Praise God for sending His Son, born under the law, to redeem us and give us the full rights of sons and daughters. 2. Thank God for the gift of sonship through Christ, recognising that we are no longer slaves but beloved children of God. 3. Pray for a deeper understanding of the freedom we have in Christ, that we no longer live under the bondage of sin or the law. 4. Ask for God's help to walk confidently in the liberty and privileges of being His children. 5. Declare and thank God for the inheritance we have in Him as His children, including eternal life, peace, and His promises. 6. Embrace the grace to live daily with the awareness of our identity as heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

## From Creator to Abba: Knowing God as Father



Galatians 4:1–7



The believer's journey from slavery to sonship—from the bondage of the law to adoption as a child of God—is marked by the sending of the Spirit. This divine gift signifies the beginning of a new relationship, empowering believers to call God "Abba," an intimate Aramaic term meaning "Daddy" or "Father." This term reflects the profound personal and relational intimacy now shared with God, highlighting the deep bond of love and trust inherent in this transformative relationship.



1. What is the significance of the "Spirit of His Son" being sent into our hearts? How does the Holy Spirit enable believers to experience God as a Father in a personal and intimate way? 2. What does the term "Abba, Father" reveal about the nature of God's relationship with believers? 3. Why is it important that we approach God with such intimacy and trust? 4. In what ways does this passage challenge or reinforce our understanding of God's fatherly love and care for us? 5. How might this influence the way we relate to God in prayer, worship, and daily life? 6. How does Paul's explanation of our sonship in Christ influence our understanding of spiritual maturity? - What steps might we take to grow deeper in our relationship with God as Father? 7. What does it mean to be part of God's family, and how does this affect our relationships with fellow believers?



1. Thank the Lord for the Spirit of His Son that He has sent into our hearts, enabling us to cry out, "Abba, Father." 2. Acknowledge the privilege of having an intimate relationship with God as our loving Father. 3. Thank Him for the assurance that, as sons, we are no longer orphans but are fully known and deeply loved by Him. 4. Ask God for the strength and wisdom to live as His sons and daughters, reflecting His love and character in all we do. 5. Pray for the courage to reject a mindset of slavery—fear, striving, or legalism—and embrace the freedom and joy of being God's child. 6. Pray for those who are still bound by fear, sin, or legalism to encounter the truth of their sonship in Christ. 7. Intercede for unbelievers to come to the knowledge of salvation, so they too can be adopted into God's family.

Don't be on your own  
this Christmas.

Are you able to host  
a guest on  
Christmas day so  
that they're not on  
their own?

if so, please see  
Tracey or email  
[info@iicelim.uk](mailto:info@iicelim.uk)



## L1 Fifty Three

*supporting families at risk of food insecurity during the school holidays*

Christmas Appeal

£50

to support a family of 5 with a  
**Christmas Care Package**

*Every contribution is valuable and  
welcome*

**You can give via the usual routes,  
and reference L1:53 or speak to Lolu**



## About the Father's Business



John 5:1-17



At the age of twelve, when Jesus' parents found Him in the temple after searching for Him for three days, He asked them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" [Luke 2:49] His words reveal a deep understanding of His unique relationship with God, His Father, and a recognition of His divine mission and purpose.

In today's passage, He echoes this sense of divine purpose and active engagement in His Father's work, "**To this very day My Father is at His work, and I too am working.**" (verse 17). Jesus' statement emphasises that He's not simply doing work for His Father but working alongside Him in perfect harmony. This points to a deeper level of relationship that transcends the master-servant dynamic.

The difference is rooted in the nature of their relationship. Jesus is one with His Father, sharing His essence and purpose. A servant, on the other hand, is distinct from his master, with a clear separation of power and authority. This understanding of Jesus' service has profound implications for us.

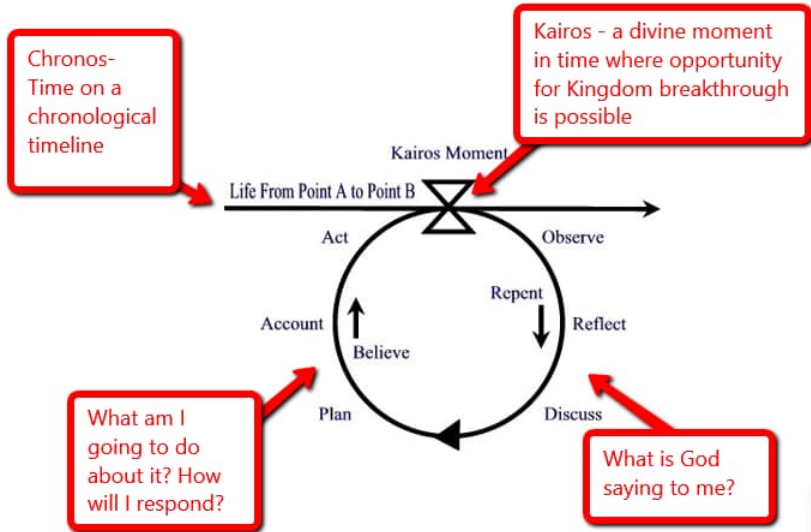


1. Let's reflect on our own relationship with God—are we serving Him out of obligation or out of a deep, relational understanding of His mission for us? 2. **Are we working as those who understand the heart of the Father, or merely fulfilling duties?** 3. Do we understand work as a calling, a way to express our love and creativity, or just a means to an end? 4. **Do we see our relationship with God as one of love, intimacy, and shared purpose, or one of master and servant?**



1. Thank God for His continual work in creation, redemption, and our personal lives. 2. **Pray for a heart that is aligned with God's purpose and mission.** 3. Ask for a deeper understanding of what it means to serve God as His child, not merely as a servant. 4. **Deepen your trust in God's active involvement in the world, even when circumstances seem uncertain.** 5. Pray for strength and wisdom to work diligently in ways that reflect God's ongoing work. 6. **Embrace the grace to mirror God's love, excellence, and diligence in our daily tasks.** 7. Pray for peace in knowing that God is always working for the good of His children.

# Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, \_\_\_\_\_

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**GIVING**  
*as an act of worship*  
**BEFORE GOD**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

3 ways you can give in



Transfer to bank account



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Sort code: 60-05-16  
Account: 18534082

Scan QR code



In person cash or card



During our gatherings, you can give in person. Look for the designated collection boxes, or feel free to reach out to any team member for assistance.

**Givt**

You're ready to give.  
Scan this QR code with the Givt app.

