



# OPENING NEW DOORS

*12 weeks of prayer*



## INTRODUCTION

We continue our season of prayer by focusing on the King of Glory. When David was King of Israel, he led the procession bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. The ark represented the presence of God, who would be the centre of worship in the city.

Psalm 24 fits the occasion. The gates of the city were lifted up, and the King of glory came in. It's not that God's presence was contained to the ark, but this context represents people who want to live near to God and put him in his rightful place on the throne.

We are opening the doors of the new church in 3 month's time. As his people we invite the presence of the King of Glory to be the focal point, and for all who come to encounter and worship him. So let's start getting ready, by getting our hearts right and seeking his face.

**READ PSALM 24**

## pray

- Spend some time worshipping the King of Glory. He is the creator, owner and sustainer of all things. He is mighty in battle. He is holy and good.
- Seek the Lord's face, expressing your desire to enter into a closer relationship with him. Ask for a fresh encounter of his glory and experience of his presence.
- Pause in an attitude of repentance. Clean hands represent forgiveness for unclean acts. A pure heart represents an attitude change towards pure motives. Turn from anything the Holy Spirit reveals, and let Jesus blood cleanse you completely.
- Pray for the King of Glory to be central in our lives, our church and community. Pray that his glory would shine out for all to see. Ask for a powerful display among us.
- Pray for our worship as a church. That we would be full of passion for Jesus name, and for many people to encounter God in our services. Pray for our worship team.
- Pray for the glory of Jesus to radiate across our nation and world, that people of all nations and cultures would turn to him. That in this time of global crisis, there would be a global awakening.

## journal

We would love people to journal during the 12 weeks of prayer. You might like to print out each week's prayer page for this, use your own paper journal, or an electronic option.

This is a season to listen to God personally and as a church. If you receive something from the Lord for The Grove, please pass it onto a pastor or church council member.

### How do I journal?

There is no one way, but here are a couple of ideas.

- Simply write down scriptures and thoughts you sense are coming from God. Then write out a prayer that might include thanksgiving, confession and prayer requests.
- Use the SOAP method. Scripture (bible reference/summary), Observation (one thing that stood out), Application (how it applies/action steps), Prayer (commit it to God).
- Some people journal daily (you use SOAP every day). Others only when they sense God speaking clearly. You might like to pause each Saturday to reflect on the week.

## for kids and families

Before the Israelites crossed over into the promised land, Moses instructed the parents to impress their love for God on their children (Deut 6:4-9). It was so important the next generation knew the God stories, and lessons he taught them in the wilderness, before entering their homeland.

### game

Play a game of guess who. Takes turns thinking of a famous and powerful person. Without saying their name, give clues about them and see who guesses their identity (you could play celebrity head as an alternative).

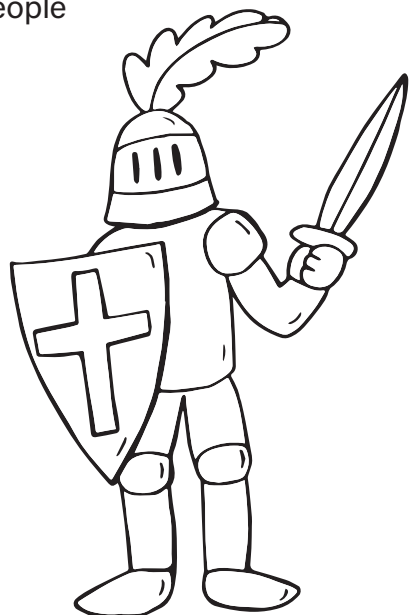
### read

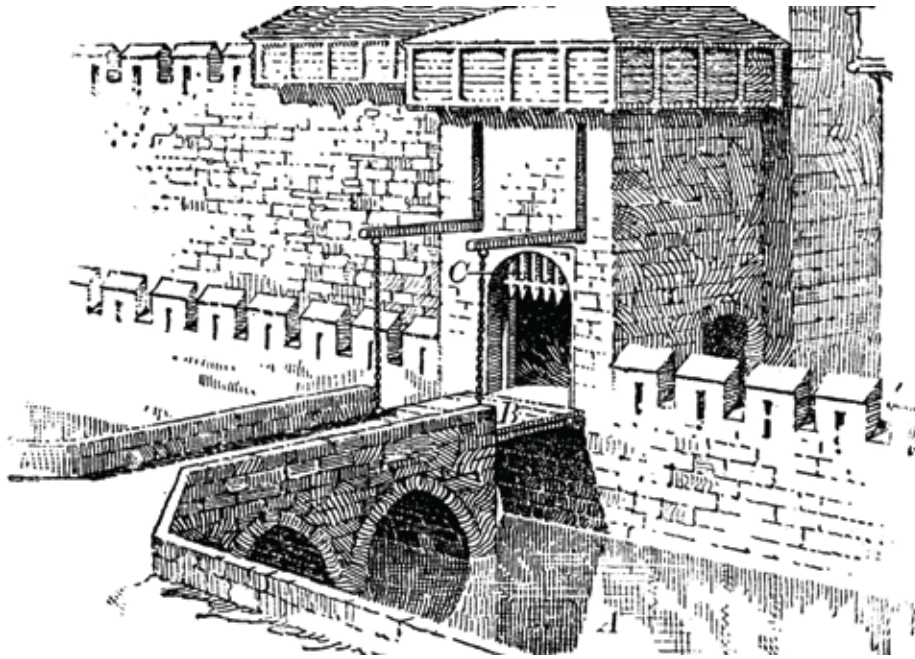
Psalms 24

### chat

Psalms 24 is a song written by King David about the time they brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. The Ark was a golden chest that represented the presence of the King of Heaven and Earth, with God's people – his family.

In those days, the massive gates of cities would be lifted up with pulleys. When someone came towards them, they would yell out, "lift up the gates so we can come in!" Then the gate keeper would call out, "who is it that wants to come in?" And the person would answer.





This is what David imagined when the ark was brought near the city. Lift up the gates so the King of Glory can come in. Who is the King of Glory? And the people would answer, the Lord, strong and mighty, mighty in battle!

**Q1.** If someone knocks on your door at home, who would you let in? (only people you know and trust). King Jesus wants to come into our homes and hearts. Can he come in? Talk about what that means.

David really wanted everyone to worship and love the true King. But sometimes people loved other things more than God. That makes a person's heart dirty.

Thankfully, Jesus died on the cross so we can be washed clean. When we are forgiven, it really makes us love Jesus more than anything. And that feels amazing, because he already loves us so much.

**Q2.** What things do we sometimes love more than Jesus? How does that sometimes make us do wrong things towards others?

*pray*

Think about something that's great about God. Praise him in prayer.

Ask Jesus to forgive us for something we have loved more than him.

Pray for your family, that King Jesus would always be welcome.

prayer

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