**Bible Month Magazine Supplementary Prayers**

Bible Month magazine supplementary material can be found at

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month/bible-month-magazine>

This includes an expanded selection of prayers from ROOTS: [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

A shortened version of those prayers are included here as some that you might find helpful for opening and concluding your group study.

**Week One**

**Gathering prayer**

Gracious God,
we gather,
grateful for your gifts of one another
and your life-giving Word.
bless us with your presence as we seek your will.
Amen.

**A prayer of approach**

We come before you, Lord,
in gratitude for your goodness to us;
and as we thank you for all your gifts,
we hold out our hands and open our hearts for more;
for we want your Word to be implanted within us, Lord,
so that it may flourish, and direct us,
and produce a harvest of good in your world.
Amen.

**A sending out prayer**

Lord, you have placed your Word in our hearts.

Help us to be doers of your Word, not merely hearers,

so that you may work through us,

to make the world a better place.

Amen.

**Week Two**

**Gathering prayer**

With what shall we come before the Lord

and bow before God on high?

What does the Lord require of us?

*To do justice, to love mercy,*

*and walk humbly with him, our God.*

Amen.

**A prayer of approach**

We gather before you, Lord, just as we are;

and we know that you will accept us.

Help us to accept one another

in the same spirit of generosity and love;

for all are equal in your sight.

Amen.

**A prayer of confession**

Lord, we confess that we are biased;

we are biased against those who are different from us.

Maybe we are wealthy, and look down on the poor;

maybe we are clever, and look down on those who are not.

Perhaps we have a big car, and despise those who do not;

perhaps we dress well, and despise those who do not.

Forgive us, Lord, for such meanness of spirit;

it is not the spirit in which you welcome us.

Thank you for your generosity to us, warts and all,

and help us to show the same acceptance to others.

Amen.

**Prayers of intercession**

A sending out prayer

Generous God, you offer us such loving grace.

May your cup of divine generosity overflow in our lives,

and be a wellspring of blessing to others.

Amen.

**Week Three**

**Gathering prayer**

The Lord says,

‘The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction.

Therefore be instructed by my words, and you will profit.’

Be with us, Lord, as we meet in your name.

May your word speak to us.

Amen.

**A prayer of approach**

We raise our voices in song and prayer
to worship you, our Lord.
You who are the word of life,
come and breathe into the words we speak
and bring alive the Scriptures for us,
that we may hear your voice,
see your will for this world and everyone in it.
So may we also let you touch our hearts,
our minds,
our spirits
by your grace,
filling us with your love,
and in your strength
give us the desire to love one another
as you have loved us.
This we ask in the name of Christ.
Amen.

**A sending out prayer**

God of wisdom,

give us wisdom so that we might honour you each day.

Make us merciful towards those who need help.

Make us peacemakers where there is trouble.

Make us gentle where there are harsh words.

Make us ready to listen for your gentle words.

Amen.

**Week Four**

**Gathering prayer**

May your words be on our lips, Lord,

and your praise in our hearts,

as we gather to seek your will.

Amen.

**A prayer of thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the gift of prayer.

Thank you for the comfort and joy it brings;

for the loneliness it fights,

and for the courage and determination it gives us.

Thank you, Lord, for answered prayer.

Thank you for the times we have been granted our heart’s desire,

and for the times we have not,

when we have had to learn that our ways are not yours.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the gift of prayer.

Amen.

**A sending out prayer**

Dear Lord,

we thank you for what we’ve shared

together from James.

May our thankfulness lead to compassion.

May our compassion lead to kindness.

May our kindness lead to generosity.

And may our generosity lead us back

to prayer, all held within our thankful hearts.

Amen.