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# PRAYER GUIDE



**PRAY**   
**FERVENTLY**

# MOUNTAINTOP

## FOR Campaign Prayer Guide

Every journey begins with preparation. So, before we embark on this exciting season to reach more people for Christ, we want to start with prayer. We realize an ongoing prayer life is vital to our everyday lives and the future of our church. One of Mountaintop's marks of a Follower is Praying Fervently. Over a three week period, we will ask God to prepare our hearts and minds. Over a three-week period, we will ask God to prepare our hearts and minds, open our eyes to possibilities we've never considered, and show us His pathway toward the future.

The great news is that we never go alone. We'll take this journey together as the body of Christ. Along the way, as we reach out to our neighbors, we are sure to meet new people. It has been our pleasure to prepare this prayer guide for our church family.



Chris & Haley Clark



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## How To Use This Prayer Guide

**PREPARATION:** *Preparing our Hearts and Minds-* Begin praying today as a church body before the campaign launches.

**COMMITMENT:** *Surrendering all we have FOR God's Purposes-* We'll collectively pray as a church body as we individually listen to how God is calling us to be a part of the FOR Campaign.

**THANKSGIVING:** *Praising God for His Provisions-* It is important to take time to thank God for all he has provided.



# Preparing our Hearts and Minds

## DAY ONE

**READ:** "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33  
"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10 (Extended Reading: Matthew 6:19-34)

**REFLECT:** These passages teach us that when we give God's kingdom priority in our lives, we can trust that He will provide for us. When we don't have to be worried about 'all these things' we are freed up to focus on the ONE thing that really matters- God's will for our lives. How does focusing on God's kingdom change how we spend our resources here on earth?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? As we prepare for the FOR Campaign, how can you surrender 'all these things' to God?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, help me to always seek first your kingdom, your will. Be with Mountaintop as we come together seeking to honor you with all that we have. Help us reach our community for Jesus by focusing our love on the ONE, on FAMILIES, and on BHM."

## DAY TWO

**READ:** "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!  
Ephesians 3:20-21

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."  
1 Corinthians 2:9 [Extended Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16]

**REFLECT:** These verses assure us that God's power is beyond our imagination or comprehension. How have you experienced this in your life?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Can you set your mind on "imagining" the great things that God has in store for the church, for your life, for your family, and for this great city? What should your part be?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, thank you for the way that you have proven time and again that you are a God of immeasurable goodness. Help me to pray with confidence that you can do more than I can think or imagine through me, through my church, and through the FOR Campaign."

**PRAY FOR ONE:** Many of us have that ONE person in our lives that we could never imagine following Jesus. Take a few minutes to pray FOR your ONE. Write down their name and ask that God would do more than you could imagine in their life.

## DAY THREE

**READ:** "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10 "Who knows if perhaps you were made for just such a time as this?" - Esther 4:14 (Extended Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10, Esther 4:1-17)

**REFLECT:** The story of Esther reminds us that God chooses us to be a part of His plan to show the world that He is FOR them. How does it make you feel that you are God's workmanship created with a specific role to play in God's plan?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? How can you keep your heart, eyes, ears and hands open to what God has prepared for you to do at this crucial time in the life of our church?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, what have you prepared in advance for me to do at 'such a time as this'? Please let me find joy in how you want to use me to accomplish your work on earth. Let me respond to you in the days ahead, Lord. Let our church respond to you with our very best."

**PRAY FOR FAMILIES:** Now is the time for us to reach Birmingham in a way we never have before. We are uniquely positioned "for such a time as this" to reach the growing demographic of young families in our community. Pray about how you might respond in the next three years to join God in the work that He has prepared for us to show families in our city that we are FOR them.

## DAY FOUR

**READ:** "And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." - Jeremiah 29:7

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Extended Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-23)

**REFLECT:** Why might it be significant that God instructed the people of Israel in these passages to 'seek the welfare' of Babylon where they were currently exiled?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Write down a few ways that you could 'seek the welfare' of Birmingham. How might God be asking you to use the prosperity that He's given you as a tool to work for the good of those around you?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, help me to claim your promise and look forward expectantly to the good plans you have for me, for Mountaintop, and FOR BHM. Show me what is my part, Lord, in seeking the welfare of Birmingham?"

**PRAY FOR BHM:** Write down 3 ways that you would like to see Birmingham prosper over the next 3 years. Pray that God would give you opportunities to participate in those areas.

# DAY FIVE

**READ:** Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones! Raise a banner for the nations. The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth.....See, your Savior comes!  
- Isaiah 62:10-11

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." - Matthew 3:3  
(Extended Reading: Isaiah 62:1-12, Matthew 3:1-12)

**REFLECT:** These passages teach us that one of our most important roles is to make a path for people to see Jesus. How might you remove barriers so that you could invite and equip people to follow Jesus?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? What 'stones' have been blocking your personal path to Jesus? What stones might be blocking your participation in the FOR Campaign? What are the greatest obstacles to accomplishing the FOR Campaign goals?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with..."Lord, thank you for challenging me to remove any stones blocking my personal growth in You. Help me remove any stones that would block our church, as we make paths toward your hopes for one more changed life, one more changed city, and one more changed home."

**PRAY FOR CHANGED LIVES:** What is one changed life worth? Ask God to burden your heart for the lost in our city. Pray that He would give you the courage to make sacrifices so that more may find their way to Him.

# Surrendering All We Have FOR God's Purposes

## DAY ONE

**READ:** "This is how we know what Love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life FOR us. And we ought to lay down our lives FOR our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18 (Extended Reading: 1 John 3:11-24)

**REFLECT:** "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Why do you think John places a premium on loving through action rather than just words?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? What are some actions that you can take to show the love of God to your neighbors? How might God be calling you to use your material possessions in this campaign as an act of love?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, thank you that you laid down your life for us. Thank you for the example of Christ, and demonstrating love in the form of sacrifice. Show us how we can serve with what we have been given. Help us be FOR your gospel, FOR your truth, and FOR our community that they would know and follow Jesus."

## DAY TWO

**READ:** "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35  
(Extended Reading: Acts 20:13-38)

**REFLECT:** "It is more blessed to give than to receive." How have you experienced that truth in your life? Why should this way of thinking be second nature to followers of Jesus?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Write down a few ways that sacrificial giving can actually be a blessing to the giver.

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with..."Father, help us to not only recite this truth, but to allow your words to water our souls. May we live with open hands and may we cultivate a spirit of generosity. Show us how to work hard FOR you, remembering how we may bless and be blessed through sacrificial giving of our ourselves and our resources."



## DAY THREE

**READ:** "Just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving." - 2 Corinthians 8:7 (Extended Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

**REFLECT:** "See that you also excel in this grace of giving." Why do you think Paul is encouraging the people of Corinth to not overlook the practice of giving as they build their faith?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? How have you seen the grace of giving affect your life? How might you 'excel' in giving as a way of continuing your growth as a follower of Jesus?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Father, show us how we may use the resources you have blessed us with - time, talents, and treasures - FOR the service of your Kingdom purposes. May you fix our gaze on the eternal and may you show us how to excel in giving generously and living with open hands."

## DAY FOUR

**READ:** "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." - Luke 6:38 (Extended Reading: Luke 6:27-42)

**REFLECT:** "For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." What do you think Jesus is primarily communicating with this truth?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? What do you need to "use" more of for God, and what would the blessing of it being "measured back to you" look like?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Lord, help us to focus on the correct measurement when ordering our time, talents, and treasures. You have blessed us extravagantly. Remind us that we give out of your abundant, running-over love that has been freely given to us. May we both see the value of investing in your Kingdom and may we be FOR you with our generosity."

# DAY FIVE

**READ:** "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to the hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." - 1 Corinthians 13:3 (Extended Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

**REFLECT:** "If I give all I possess to the poor... but do not have love, I gain nothing." Why is love such an essential ingredient to generosity? How does giving without love equal no gain?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Write down one way that, as you give to the FOR campaign, you might also show love:

FOR ONE-

FOR FAMILIES-

FOR BHM-

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Father, please guide the direction of our hearts to always seek after your love. May all of our giving and worship be FOR our community, and ultimately FOR your Kingdom. Show us how to love as you loved. Sacrificially and fully."



# Praising God for His Provision

## DAY ONE

**READ:** "How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears." - 2 Samuel 7:1-22

(Extended Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-19)

**REFLECT:** "There is no one like you." What sets God apart from all others? Write down a few of God's characteristics that display His greatness?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Think about how great God really is and what He's done personally in your life. Think about how He's the master of the universe, who created everything out of nothing. How nothing was before Him and nothing is impossible with Him. How is God leading you to respond to his great love over the next three years?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "God, thank you for being someone we can depend on. You are the only one worthy of our praise and adoration, for there is no one like you! Forgive us when we put anything before you. As we meditate on your Word today, show us where we're falling short and help us give you the praise you deserve. Thank you for today and for all your blessings; help us make the most of our opportunities to serve you."

## DAY TWO

**READ:** "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. - Colossians 2:6-7

(Extended Reading: Colossians 2:6 - 3:17)

**REFLECT:** "Overflowing with thankfulness." How does living a life 'rooted and built up' in Jesus lead to overflowing thankfulness?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? Write down 3 things that you have received from God that you are thankful for. Then consider: What are 3 practical ways that you can live a life that is overflowing with thankfulness?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Father, thank you for rooting our hearts and our minds in your love. May we live out our lives devoted to you and glorifying you. May we find strength in your Word, and may we direct our energies FOR your tasks. Thank you for your indescribable love; it is truly overflowing!"

## DAY THREE

**READ:** “And on that day you will say, “Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted.” Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth. - Isaiah 12:4-5 (Extended Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6)

**REFLECT:** “Let this be known throughout the earth.” How can our gratitude glorify God and make His name known?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? How can you live a life of thankfulness and make known His deeds among your daily spheres of influence?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... “God, may we spread your Kingdom far and near. May you live and work and breathe through Mountaintop, and may we remain committed to the purpose of being FOR you throughout the earth. Begin in us and use us for your glory. May your incredible truths be known by the ONE, by families in our community, and throughout our city.”

## DAY FOUR

**READ:** “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!” 1 Chronicles 16:34 (Extended Reading: 1 Chronicles 17:7-27)

**REFLECT:** Why does this passage instruct us to praise God? How have you experienced God’s goodness and steadfast love in your life? Write down 3 statements of thanksgiving for how God has already shown up in the FOR campaign.

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? “His steadfast love endures forever!” That means that God’s love extends far beyond the next three years of this campaign. Write down 3 hopes that you have for how God will continue to show His love and goodness long after this campaign is over.

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... “Father, eternity is a long time. May we fix our eyes and hearts and minds on your promises of forever! Your goodness is so pure and so perfect. May we distill the essence of your goodness to cherish and keep with us all the days of our lives. May we live FOR Forever, with YOU!”

**PRAY FOR ONE:** Thank God that we get to make an eternal investment in the lives of people in Birmingham. Pray that He would continue drawing people here to be invited and equipped to follow Jesus. Pray FOR ONE person that you know who needs Jesus. Ask that God would give you influence with them so that He can change their life FOREVER.

# DAY FIVE

**READ:** "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." - James 1:17

(Extended Reading: James 1:2-27)

**REFLECT:** "Every good and perfect gift is from above..." It is tempting to think that the good things in our lives are a result of our own efforts. Why is it helpful to be reminded of the truth that all of our blessings come from above?

**APPLY:** How can you respond to these verses? How will you continue to recognize God's good and perfect gifts in your life and in the life of Mountaintop Church?

**PRAY:** Your prayer might begin with... "Father, you have blessed us with every abundance and are truly the light of the world. May we pay close attention to the blessings in our lives - taking special care to acknowledge the simple and the profound. Thank you FOR it all!"



MOUNTAINTOP  
CHURCH

