

THE NEXT STEP

40 DAY CAMPAIGN PRAYER GUIDE



CityView Church

MORE THAN A BUILDING

Serving is easy. Prayer is hard.

It requires you to forget yourself.

It requires you to stop doing things, and let God do things.

It requires you to not only humbly admit, but celebrate God's
greatness.

It requires you to offer up everything you are, and everything
you have.

It requires you to admit your helplessness, and rejoice in
God's power.

This isn't about a building. It's about building a community
of worshippers.

And worship starts in prayer.

ABOUT PRAYING

Can we get this out of the way? Prayer is HARD.

It goes against every fiber of our self-sufficient being.

It feels like doing nothing. And there's nothing harder for us to do than nothing.

It asks us to wait on God to provide- in an age where Amazon delivers in 2 days!

And yet, God asks us to pray (1 Thess 5:17). He tells us that mighty things will be done when we pray (James 5:16). He even tells us that giving up isn't when we stop doing things, but rather when we stop praying (Luke 18).

Prayer isn't the last ditch effort to fit around the edge of our days. It's the first measure we should take in every endeavor we make.

This prayer guide is organized into four 10-day sections:

Myself
CityView Church
Community
The World

Our final prayer will be for the building. Why set up our guide this way? Because this prayer guide is about much more than just a building. It's about worship in community. It's about changing our whole mindset about church, community, family, and even ourselves.

Let's do this together.

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PART I: PRAYERS FOR MYSELF

Day 1: I will see the value of prayer

*Pray without ceasing
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

If we're honest, many of us struggle to see the value of prayer. If God knows what he's going to do, then why should I pray? Prayer is the primary expression of faith in a God who loves us and cares for us. Prayer isn't about what we can get, but about a relationship with God. Our good Father he wants know us, and wants us to know him. He wants us to love what he loves, and see what he sees, in the way he sees them. This starts in the word and in prayer. Pray God impresses on your heart the value of prayer, and gives you a desire to pray.

Day 2: God will reveal to me where I am spiritually

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!
Psalm 139:23-24*

Kids get lost sometimes. We think we might be where we're supposed to be, but then we run out the front door and down the street... and that at 2 years old. We don't see danger, and we don't know we're in danger, but we're often in danger. A mark of a good father is to help us understand when we're in danger, and help us to get out of it. Spiritually, this equates to places like Selfishland, Lustville, Angerton, Faithlesstown or Hopeless City. Pray God shows you where you are spiritually, and leads you out into green pastures.

Day 3: I will confess my need for Jesus

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9*

We all have sin. In fact, we can't be Christians if we have no sin. Without sin, there's nothing from which Christ can save us, so there's no sense in hiding our sins and pretending everything is okay when it's not. Not only this, but the Bible says the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). We need Jesus. We need rescue from our sin. We need him to pay the penalty for our sin, and then show us how we can "go and sin no more" (John 8:11). Take a moment and express to God your need for Jesus, and thank him for coming to save you.

Day 4: I will see the depth of Christ's love for me

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

It's good to seek daily to see the depth of Christ's love for us. In the words of Sally Lloyd Jones, the author of The Jesus Storybook Bible, God has a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreakable, Always and Forever Love for us. Nothing we can do can ever separate us from the Love of Christ. Nothing. No hidden sin, no failing of our own, no governmental scheme, no angry friend. When God loves, it's unconditional. Thank him for that love this morning.

Day 5: I will see the greatness of the gift I've been given through the Holy Spirit

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 14:26

Do you feel like the Holy Spirit is the "third wheel" in the trinity. We don't know what to do with him. The verse above shows us that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to teach us and bring to mind things Jesus says. The Holy Spirit is God's love, shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), and the guarantee of our inheritance in heaven (Ephesians 1:14). He lives inside every believer, and if we listen, we will be changed. Take a moment and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

Day 6: I will appreciate the gift God has given us in the church

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Next to God himself, the church is one of the greatest gifts we have. In the church, we learn that none of us have it all together. (If our church teaches that we do, it's lying!) We find help when we are in need. We find people united on almost nothing except our mutual love of Christ, and in that, we are spurred on to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly. Without the church we wither, and make ourselves more vulnerable to Satan's attack. The church is the hospital where broken people, together, seek healing from the Great Physician. Pray and thank God for the church.

Day 7: I will learn to apply the Gospel to every area of my life

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22

The Gospel isn't just about becoming a Christian. It's also about Christians becoming more like Christ. It's for the battered and broken whose cheese keeps falling off their cracker. It's for the people looking to be renewed from the inside out. It seeps into our souls and into our hearts. It changes our perspective on family, finances, work, children, and every other area of our lives. Pray God teaches you how to apply the Gospel to all the nooks and crannies and hidden broken areas of our lives.

Day 8: I will be grace-filled in my relationships with others

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Do you feel like the Holy Spirit is the "third wheel" in the trinity. We don't know what to do with him. The verse above shows us that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to teach us and bring to mind things Jesus says. The Holy Spirit is God's love, shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), and the guarantee of our inheritance in heaven (Ephesians 1:14). He lives inside every believer, and if we listen, we will be changed. Take a moment and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

Day 9: I will be generous in my disposition towards others

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

*"Ain't no killer like pride
No killer like I
No killer like what's inside"
Switchfoot, "The War Inside"*

We are prideful and prone to selfishness. To be more generous to others, it'll take a work of the Holy Spirit. Literally, an "act of God" is needed for us to begin to consider others as more important than ourselves. Pray God works in your heart and enables you to be freely generous towards those around you.

Day 10: I will have a hunger for Scripture

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11

In Acts chapter 17, the Bereans were called "more noble" because they searched the scripture in depth. They didn't take even Paul at his word. Instead they explored the Word of God, searching it to ensure what he was saying was true. It's so easy today to feel satisfied with our knowledge of God when it comes from books, music, movies, or even social media, but too often, those arenas rob us of the joy, depth, and richness that's waiting to be found in the Bible itself. Pray God makes you dissatisfied with anything less than knowledge that comes directly from his Word.

PART II: PRAYERS FOR CITYVIEW

Day 11: Our church will be Christ centered

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

It's good to seek daily to see the depth of Christ's love for us. In the words of Sally Lloyd Jones, the author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, God has a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreakable, Always and Forever Love for us. Nothing we can do can ever separate us from the Love of Christ. Nothing. No hidden sin, no failing of our own, no governmental scheme, no angry friend. When God loves, it's unconditional. Thank him for that love this morning.

Day 12: Our leadership will lead well

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

James 3:17

Pray for our church leadership-Jason, the elders and the staff. Pray they will lead well, and be protected from Satan's schemes. Pray for purity and proper priorities in their lives. Pray they will be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, good fruits, impartial and sincere. Pray they will teach the word wisely, and protect and guide the members of our church. Though they will never be as wise or loving as the Good Shepherd, Jesus, himself, pray they grow into his likeness more and more.

Day 13: Our church will pursue true discipleship

And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

Discipleship is an act of war against the darkness. It's raising up men and women and teaching them how to fight against the darkness by living in the light and reflecting the Light of Christ. Pray our church will have a depth of teaching that transforms lives, and grows men and women into Christ-centered worshippers of God, that we may be trained and able to lead others as well.

Day 14: We will be a welcoming and hospitable congregation

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 4:9

Pray CityView grows in hospitality. Pray we will be a welcoming church, and one where visitors are loved and cared for. Pray we will be a church loving people the way Christ first loved us.

Day 15: We will not depend on our own effort, but on God's provision

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!
Luke 12:24

It's easy for us to believe we can do this all on our own, until we realize that even the breath flowing through our lungs and the regular tic-toc of our hearts is a gift from God himself. Truly, we can do nothing without God, but too often, we wrongly assume we are the ones holding up the universe. Pray we will not depend on our own wisdom, knowledge or strength, but rather on the provision of God. Pray we will prepare, but then stand patiently with open hands, waiting for God to provide everything we need.

Day 16: Our children and youth will come to know Jesus

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14

Kids are exhausting and their energy is boundless, but, as it turns out, they're humans just like you and I. Sometimes it's easy to forget that. Jesus didn't though. Where the world sees people to "put up with", Jesus sees human beings capable of receiving love in ways we may have forgotten. Pray no stumbling block will be put before them that cause them to reject Christ. Pray they will come to love Jesus and be part of his flock. Pray for protection for each of them, and lastly pray for those who work with them, that they skillfully point each of them to Christ.

Day 17: God will provide in unexpected ways

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8

Everyone loves the story where the underdog comes from behind to win the game, or the story where the loser protagonist ends up winning in the end. This is what it's like when God provides in amazing ways. We don't deserve his favor. We don't deserve his love, but he gives it to us anyways, because He IS love. Pray for him to give us that which we don't expect. Pray he will provide for our church in unexpected ways.

Day 18: Our life groups will be a safe place to grow

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
James 5:16

Life groups are where our members get to know each other the best. It's where we open up in small communities. Pray our life groups will be safe, good, and caring places. Pray those who are not currently involved in a life group will find one that pours into their lives. Pray life groups will be drama-free zones where everyone, at every stage, is welcomed and loved.

Day 19: God will raise up church planters from within

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
Matthew 9:35-38

CityView is a church planting church, but to do that, we need church planters. Finding laborers is hard. There are many consumers, but few willing to pour out their lives for the sake of the Gospel. Pray God will raise up church planters from within our congregation. Pray they will be trained, skillful church planters, ready to find soil and plant the Gospel.

Day 20: We will not grow weary

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Hebrews 12:1

Set up. Sound check. Childcare. Coffee. Teardown.

Repeat again next week.

Being part of a mobile church is exhausting. And it's even more exhausting when we're focusing on the tasks, and have lost sight of the reason we're doing what we're doing. Pray our hearts will be entranced by the beauty of the Gospel, and that it will be our love for Christ driving our efforts, and not primarily our love for CityView, so we won't grow weary in our efforts.

PART III: PRAYERS FOR COMMUNITY

Day 21: Our community will be transformed by the Gospel

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:7

We are exiled. The Bible says we are strangers and aliens in this land (1 Peter 2:11), and yet we are told to seek the welfare of the City in which we've been placed. Pray Houston area will be an area rich in love for Christ. Pray we see the city in which we're in exile transformed by the love of God.

Day 22: Our presence in the community will be seen as loving

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35

Transforming community starts by loving community. This is more than the yearly Easter egg hunt, or the block parties we host, but it goes to the smiles we offer at the grocery store, and the friendliness we have when approaching people in our community. It's in our daily lives, showing that the point of our lives is not our own customer satisfaction, but rather the person behind the counter knowing they're viewed as an eternal soul. Pray Christians everywhere will recognize this and respond by loving their neighbors and communities.

Day 23: Our first responders will be protected from harm

*He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

*You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,*

Psalms 91:4-5

Practical things matter. There are many men and women who have chosen to literally put their lives on the line for the sake of loving people. Pray for their safety. Pray God will bless their efforts, and pray those of them who do not know the love of Christ will come to know it, and quickly.

Day 24: Leaders will make Godly decisions

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

There is a power higher than the president. There is one who rules more than all leaders of nations combined. Jesus is King of kings, Lord of lords, and President of presidents. We are not called to be fearful of our leaders, nor are we called to trust our leaders blindly. We are called to appeal to the one who has the whole world in his hands, in prayer for leaders everywhere, that they will lead well and peacefully. When we appeal to the God of the universe, whose children we are, we confidently bypass the world leaders, and speak directly with the one who has all of time and space in his control. Pray for your leaders.

Day 25: Families in our community will be strengthened

*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
Ephesians 4:32*

Marriage is under attack. If you doubt this, look at the latest divorce statistics. Latest estimates predict only half of all first marriages will survive. In the time it takes a couple to recite their wedding vows (2 minutes), there are, on average, 9 divorces happening during that same time. It impacts the wife, husband, and children negatively. This is not God's design. Pray men and women in Christian marriages will love each other selflessly. Pray the quality of marriages among believers will be of such a quality that the world can't help but wonder at the difference.

Day 26: The community will see their need for Christ

*And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;
Acts 9:18*

Before people come to Christ, they have to see their need for Christ. Unfortunately, this process isn't usually a pleasant one. To be sure, Jesus will knock down any door necessary to bring people to him, but he often brings people to the end of themselves before they turn to Him. Pray community will see their need for Christ, and pray even more, that when they do, the church is ready to be present in their need, and show them the love of Christ.

Day 27: Churches already planted will be faithful and grow

*Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
Acts 2:47*

CityView is a church planting church. We've helped plant Image Church in Spring (led by Joe Ogletree), CityView Alvin in Alvin (led by Cary Perrin), and others. Pray the leaders of those churches will be faithful to the Gospel, their wives, and their congregations. Pray the members of the church grow under the care of those leaders. Pray God will make members of those churches disciples, and not merely attendees. Pray churches will be planted out of those churches, to the end of making Christ known.

Day 28: Those still displaced by Harvey will speedily return to their homes

*But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy,
and spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may exult in you.
Psalm 5:11*

Almost a year and a half later, there are still people displaced from their homes because of hurricane Harvey. Pray those still not able to go home will return home this year. Pray those of us in the community with specific skill-sets necessary to facilitate this return will be able to assist in this return.

Day 29: Churches area-wide will seek heartily to share the truth of Christ

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:2

Pray churches in Houston will not isolate themselves, preferring the company of other believers, neglecting the sharing of the Gospel. Pray believers throughout our community will recognize the reality that people are dying and going to hell, and pray we will make efforts to spare people this reality. Pray for a sense of urgency among churches, and that the Lord of the harvest will have enthusiastic laborers, ready in season and out to share the truth of Christ.

Day 30: There will be no spirit of competition among churches

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Hebrews 12:15

Pray a spirit of competition will be rooted out, and a spirit of unity will be fostered among Gospel-believing churches everywhere. Pray there will be no sense of jealousy for "what other churches have", but rather a joyfulness and thankfulness in Christ being made known. Pray there will be no competition among churches in style, music, preaching or community, but rather confidence God is providing people with every possible opportunity to come to know Jesus with no stumbling block placed in their way. Pray for cooperation, and that the world will see the unity among Christian churches everywhere.

PART IV: PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Day 31: World leaders will come to know Christ

*He makes nations great, and he destroys them;
he enlarges nations, and leads them away.*
1 Timothy 2:2

Satan attacks in many ways. We attack by praying. Pray leaders everywhere will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Pray trappings of power will not lead them into the arrogance of believing they are greater than others before God, but that humility will be the mark of the best leaders, as they seek to subject themselves to God. Pray loving, truthful Christians be present in every sphere of power—ambassadors for Christ, ready to bring good news from the Kingdom of God.

Day 32: Justice will be based on truth

*He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*
Micah 6:8

Our culture is screaming for justice. And if they're not screaming it, they're tweeting it. And yet, nobody cares about truth. Pray for a renaissance of truth. Pray justice and truth will no longer be divorced from each other, but that they will go together hand in hand. Pray believers will hold absolute truth, even when the whole concept is unpopular. And pray we will extend that truth to the realm of justice, that wrongs be made right.

Day 33: Churches in unwelcoming environments will thrive

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.
Revelation 2:3

We take for granted that we live in a friendly environment to churches. We worship freely, and we don't worry about government interference with our church services. This isn't always the case. Approximately 215 million Christians worldwide endure hard persecution. Brothers and sisters in North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan are persecuted and killed. Pray the churches in those places stand against the darkness, and thrive, and pray the leaders of those countries will be inclined to the church.

Day 34: Church planting movements will successfully infiltrate unreached people

And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,
Romans 15:20

One unique characteristic of church planting movements is their ability to reach people who have never heard the Gospel, and bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The danger though, is that these same churches will grow to the point that the unreached are neglected, and the church loses its mission to reach the unreached. Pray worldwide church planting movements will have a proactive stance towards reaching those who have never heard the Gospel, that Christ will be known among all people.

Day 35: Human trafficking, slavery, and injustice will be brought to a halt

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
Luke 4:18

One of the greatest evils plaguing every nation, in all times, including our own, is the sex slavery and injustice to the poor. From the Bible, we know Jesus has a special concern for those in positions of vulnerability, and we, as the church, should (and thankfully, often do!) take up the goal of helping those who are oppressed. This too starts with prayer. Pray justice will be served, those perpetrating these injustices will be held accountable, and slaves will be set free.

Day 36: Believers worldwide will work together for the sake of the Gospel

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
Ephesians 6:18

There is no room for competition among churches because we're all serving the same goal: to make Christ known. One of the greatest ways we show the world that Jesus is our Lord is in being united with those who are also serving the Lord. This proves to the world we are not only out to serve our church, or out to serve those in our community, but ultimately, our aim is in serving Christ in all these things. Pray churches everywhere work together and demonstrate unity as they work together to make disciples of Jesus.

Day 37: Persecutions will cease, and those who are under it will stand

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:10

Pray for relief in persecuted countries - The top 5 being North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan. Pray governments in those countries no longer turn a blind eye to their own citizens being persecuted for the sake of the Gospel. Pray their leaders are no longer the purveyors of persecution, but rather themselves become disciples of Christ, and show mercy and no longer inflict pain and death on those serving the Lord. Pray those enduring persecution endure until the end, knowing the great reward Christ has for them.

Day 38: Countries will choose life over death

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

Abortion. War. Genocide. Euthanasia. We live in a world where murder is reasoned about as nonchalantly as we discuss what to eat for dinner. We're lied to, and told these things are good, and our ability to live our lives well depends on the death of another. It's clear the world is looking for purity and life in death, but purity and life can only come through the death of the One who gave Himself for us willingly--Jesus. Pray countries choose life over death, and the dignity of mankind be rediscovered and appreciated, that more worshippers will be made for the Living God.

Day 39: We will not ignore the “world at our doorstep”

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
Revelation 7:9*

Pearland speaks over 80 languages.

80.

How do you reach the world? Walk across the street. Pearland Superintendent John Kelly is cited as saying Houston is the most diverse city in the United States, and Pearland is more diverse than Houston. We are at a unique location right where we are. Pray we don't waste this opportunity to reach the world merely by reaching out to those who live on our block.

Day 40: God will provide us with a building

*For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 3:11*

There's a reason this prayer is the last. CityView's goal is not just to build a building, but to build the Church by making disciples and making Christ known. Our goal is not only the salvation of Pearland, but the salvation of those scattered far and wide across the world. We do this by planting churches, and the Next Step for our congregation is to build a building of our own, so we will have a stable location from which to reach the ends of the earth. This isn't about CityView church. It never has been. It's about Christ. It's about laying Him as a foundation even as we lay concrete down as a foundation. Therefore, it's a good thing to pray for. Pray, then, that God will provide us with a building. A tent in which we can worship during our short tenure here on earth.

