

FALL 2022

FASTING & PRAYER GUIDE

FALLING IN LINE WITH HIS WILL

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Prayer and Fasting Guide

Introduction and Instructions

If you were unable to join us in the summer for our Prayer and Fasting guide, you are welcome to begin your Fall prayer schedule with the start-up guide. Use the following prompts to guide your prayer for each passage.

Ask God the following questions. As you ask Him these questions and listen to what He says, write down what you hear Him say, what He shows you, how you prayed, and what you need to do to obey God in each situation.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

Isaiah 58

Fasting is commanded by God and has an important purpose for every believer. It benefits those that do it with a right heart. Fasting is about us returning to obedience to Him and not just merely asking Him to fix everything. We will see our communities heal when we **obey His commands** to help the hurting, address evil, and share Him with others.

Matthew 17:14-21

Every believer struggles with unbelief from time-to-time. This passage tells us that some problems can only be overcome by prayer and fasting. **We may not like it, but our unbelief can hinder another's deliverance.** We often don't obey because we don't believe. Also, it's hard for others to see Jesus when we don't fully believe Him. We must do what's necessary to drive unbelief far from our minds. **Obedience and fasting helps us build our confidence in the promises and truth of God's Word.**

John 4:27-38

Jesus told His disciples He had meat that they didn't know He had. What was the meat? **To do the will of the Father.** Then, Jesus explained that the Father's will was to work in the fields of the harvest (the lost) because they were ready to be picked. So fasting and helping people come to know Jesus are connected, because **God's work of reaching the lost satisfies, sustains, and pleases us more than any feast.**

John 15:1-17

Jesus is the vine; we are His branches. And, if we stay connected to (abide in) Him, He promises that we will be fruitful. **We will bear fruit, MUCH fruit, and much fruit THAT LASTS when we pray in His presence and obey His words.** We bear this lasting fruit **when we make disciples who make disciples.**

Isaiah 1

What does God think of sin in the lives of His people? Especially when His people believe they can be disobedient in their actions, but please Him in worship. A sinful people will not be heard by our Lord. **We must repent and obey Him.** When we walk in His commandments, He blesses the work of our hands. Notice the specific kinds of sins that upset God in this passage.

Luke 14-15

What keeps us and others from experiencing the Kingdom of God? In the story, some were too busy and distracted to come to the great feast of Jesus and His bride. Some didn't want to join His way. But, only through Jesus can one enter. Christ invites us to enter His Kingdom, but to follow Him means to **deny ourselves and take up our crosses.** Salvation can't be earned, yet following Him will cost us everything. **We see His Kingdom expressed when we love our neighbors as ourselves. And only through our sharing Him with others can they enter His Kingdom too.** In this passage, Jesus portrays His burden to seek the lost and invite them into this eternal Kingdom of God's family.

II Chronicles 7

Solomon's offering shows us that **worshipping the Lord should be extravagant**. What was God's answer? Not only did His presence fill the temple, but also He instructed His people to pray when famine, crises, attack, and illness threatened the land. He wanted them to repent of all the sins of Israel (corporate) not just their individual sin. If we turn from sin and honor our Lord, then He will bless our land. **We must pray. We must repent. Only then will we see His harvest.**

II Chronicles 14-15

When we repent and tear down idols and address evil deeds, we do right in the sight of God. Following Jesus and living in His righteousness brings victory. When trouble and sinful people threaten us, will we seek His face or run away and hide? When we rely on the Lord and bring the light to the darkness, He will fight for us. **God will bring in a great harvest when we seek Him first.**

Acts 4:23-31

What did the early Church do when the wicked threatened them? **They prayed. Together!** The Father answered and poured out His Spirit upon them, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness. **When we obey Him, His Kingdom advances.** Disciples filled with the Spirit do great works for our King.

What is an "I Will" Statement?

We cannot read God's Word without resolving to obey it. To help us be intentional, disciple makers **commit to a simple action that we can complete in the next 24-48 hours or between the current meeting and the next.** This commitment is called an I Will Statement because they start with "I Will....."

'I Will' statements are all about obedience.

Obedience is the difference between a person who is just verbally and mentally assenting to a new set of beliefs versus one who is actually living them out and sharing them with others.

While the I Will Statement is simple, we can often make statements that either are too difficult to be helpful or aren't really obedience actions at all. Here are some examples of what to avoid when forming your own.

Watch out for:

1. Statements that Aren't Specific or Are Too Big

Some 'I Will' statement attempts can be deceiving because they often reflect good principles and general rules about how we should live and interact with others ("I should be more kind, generous, selfless, helpful, etc.") or important life changes that should happen ("I need to get clean and sober."). The problem is that these statements are either so vague that they cannot possibly be quantified or so big that they cannot be completed within 24-48 hours or a week.

It's best to ask questions that help you narrow down your statement to something small, specific and doable. Ask, "What would the first step in this process would be? How can I get started this week? How will I do that specifically?"

2. Watch Out for Statements that Don't Relate to the Passage

Example: You read Isaiah 53 and someone says, "I'm going to pray every day this week," or "I'm going to be nice to my neighbor tomorrow."

Statements that don't relate to the story could be a sign that you aren't connecting with what God is saying in the passage. Read it again. Ask God to speak to you through His Word and show you what He wants you to do.

3. Statements that Are Just Religious Practices

Sometimes we get stuck thinking that responding to God is always some sort of religious, ceremonial or devotional exercise like reading the Bible, meditating on what they read, going to church, lighting a candle, or praying about how to obey.

Religious “I Will” statements like these are typically nothing more than trained responses that have no relation to the passage or have no practical import for people’s daily lives.

Praying about God making us obedient is not actual obedience.

4. Statements that Are Abstract and Not Concrete

Someone may say, “I just need to walk in the light of God instead of trusting in my own strength.”

While spiritual metaphors like this feel or seem good, without a concrete, specific way to apply them, nothing will happen. As explained in James 2 (“Faith without works is dead”), trusting, believing, and having faith is realized by taking action—obedience to what God wants us to do.

Instead of settling for religious buzz words like “trust,” “faith”, and “believe”, we should ask:

- “Is there a particular action that shows where you can trust God?”
- “What is something a person who trusts or believes God in this area of their life would do?”

5. Statements that Illustrate What You've Already Done

A person may read the story, be reminded of something they did the other day, a week ago, 5 years ago, or something they currently do on a regular basis, and submit that as their ‘I Will’ statement.

‘I Will’ statements are all about living out what we’re learning in fresh and new ways. Life is about growing, and we are always looking for ways to grow.

Here are some examples of specific I Will Statements:

Non-specific: I need to help others more

Specific: I will visit my neighbor in the hospital on Thursday.

Non-specific: I need to be more grateful.

Specific: I am going to write down and thank God for three things each day this week.

Non-specific: I going to look for opportunities to hang out with lost people.

Specific: I'm going to eat lunch with my co-workers every other day for the next week.

Non-specific: I'm going to put God first this week.

Specific: I'm going to go to bed at 10:00pm so that I can get up in time to have my quiet time with God.

Week 1: Joel 2

We don't have to watch the news to know that trouble surrounds us— violence, economic strain, division, darkness. God's judgement often allows us to experience the consequences of our sin and inaction. But Joel reminds us that when danger, darkness, and destruction strikes, we need to call God's people together to fast, pray, and repent. For God is willing to hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and use our new actions of obedience to bring mercy and deliverance to our communities.

But we cannot expect deliverance without our sacrificial obedience to Him. Ultimately, God protects, heals, and provides for us if we seek Him, turn from our sins, and act as His emissaries to bring His love and ways to our cities and the world.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 2: Luke 3:1-14

How did John prepare the people of God for the introduction of God's Kingdom? He called them to repent and be baptized. But when people rushed to get in the water, John stopped them and said they wouldn't be baptized unless they acted to show their repentance.

When they asked him what they should do, notice he didn't tell them to perform anything religious or to focus on the temple. Those who had extra were to help those who didn't have what they needed. The tax collectors were to not use their power to extort and pad their own pockets. The soldiers were to not use their intimidation and strength to oppress others. He prepared the people for the Kingdom by instructing them to act like the Kingdom— to treat one another with sacrificial kindness and fairness.

From John, we learn that repentance requires that we change. Where will you get started?

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- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
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- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 3: John 14

In Mark 12:29-31, Jesus quotes Deut 6:4-5, "...love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." He calls this command the greatest commandment.

In this passage, Jesus tells us HOW to love Him and the benefit of loving Him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words..."

As David Watson says, "God spells love O-B-E-Y." God responds to our loving obedience with His presence. Ask God to show you in what ways your heart, soul, mind, and strength aren't in obedience to Him. Ask for forgiveness and then walk out your repentance by obeying His commands. In doing so, you will be loving God. And, your relationship and intimacy with Him will deepen.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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- What do You want me to pray for?
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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
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- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 4: John 15

Bearing fruit is not an option for a follower of Jesus. Anyone who does not bear fruit will be cut off. Here, Jesus mentions three degrees of fruit bearing:

Fruit -- MUCH fruit -- much fruit that LASTS.

We bear fruit when we abide in Christ. And we abide in Christ by obeying His commands. Therefore, fruit is the product of loving obedience.

Much fruit comes with consistently growing in obedience in every part of our life. As we become aware of sin, we repent and bring total transformation to our heart, soul, mind and strength. Our fruit grows as a result of more deeply abiding in the vine.

But how does fruit last? By reproducing. So, we bear fruit that lasts by helping others learn to obey God's commands. Their obedience to God's Word helps them bear fruit. Their fruit will outlast our mortal life and, God willing, will continue to bear fruit until the end of all things.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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- What do You want me to do?
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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
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Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 5: Eph 6:10-20

When people talk about spiritual warfare, they usually end with, “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” But the sentence continues, “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...”

Prayer is one of the tools God gives us to use as we fight our spiritual enemies. When you repent and bring your personal requests before God, you fight against Satan's attacks on you. When you talk with God on behalf of **your friends, your family, your church, your government leaders, your schools, your city, your state or province, your nation, and the world**, you are fighting against all the invisible dark powers and strongholds that wreak destruction upon our world.

Prayer is such a simple and profound act. Pause for a few minutes. Focus your attention on God and talk with Him about your concerns in one of the areas listed above. Tell Him how you know things should be. Ask Him to intervene. And, perhaps the most important of all, ask Him to show you what He wants you to do about it. In that moment, you have donned the weapons of heaven and driven back the darkness, making this day just a little brighter, and the Kingdom of God just a little more present.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
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- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 6: Luke 8:26-39

Nobody wanted to be around him. He was enslaved and tortured by demons, dirty, perverse, crazy, dangerous, not fit for polite company. But instead of allowing Himself to be repulsed by the man and withdraw, Jesus drew near to address the darkness out of compassion.

Can you imagine the people outside of your church who are also enslaved and oppressed by Satan? Tricked and fooled through demonic lies and entrapped by sinful desires and practices. Whether they're gang members, sexually perverse, or even rich elitists, so many suffer with addictions, loneliness, broken relationships, and hopelessness. They don't what it's like to have Jesus as their Lord, Savior, Father, and Friend. We need to pray for them and be willing to leave our places of safety and comfort to bring Jesus to them.

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- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 7: Acts 16:11-40

Releasing the possessed woman from her spiritual captors had its consequences. Those that profited from her pain falsely accused Paul and Silas and had them beaten and thrown into jail. Yet Paul and Silas were not only willing to suffer for Christ, but also willing to proclaim Him even in the most dire of circumstances. In both cases, their faithful witness of Christ set the stage for God to do a great miracle, not just shaking the jail, but the heart of the jailer. As a result, the jailer and his entire household eventually came to know the Lord. Eventually, Paul and Silas received political justice and were cleared of wrongdoing.

Being a witness for Christ is often dangerous, difficult, and painful, but our obedience sets the stage for God to work miraculously both in people's hearts and our hard circumstances. What are we willing to do to see people set free?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 8: Proverbs 24

Whenever we encounter or hear about wicked people in our nation or communities, we can be tempted toward several things. 1. We could be tempted to envy their success and follow suit. 2. We could give in to their demands. 3. We could be frightened into silence and hide when they intimidate, threaten, and hurt others. 4. We could be discouraged by the amount of conflict, cost, and work it would take to address them and decide to do nothing.

Instead, we recognize that God is the judge. Not only will He personally judge those that do evil, but He will judge all those that are silent and do nothing to stop evil and save others from danger. Even claiming or seeking ignorance of the evil around us does not absolve us in His eyes. What are we going to do to stand against evil and deliver many from destruction?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
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Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 9: Acts 5: 12-41

There are many kinds of authority and power in life: social, political, spiritual, economic, cultural, etc. In their proper place, all these are meant to serve God and people. But what happens when what they do or dictate goes against God's commands?

"We ought to obey God rather than man."

We ought to fear God more than what other people can do to us- even if they rob us, shame us, attack us, abandon us, cancel us, sue us, etc. Because what Gamaliel said was right, "If it be of God, you cannot overthrow it; lest haply you be found even to fight against God."

We declare that Jesus is Lord, not just by what we sing in our churches, but how we act and respond to those with power. We must have the courage to say no when the powerful's edicts and wishes go against God's. And in our standing, we give God glory. And He brings victory over every trial to show Himself to those who are lost.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 10: II Kings 18-19

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and honesty. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." - I Tim 2:1-3

God wants us our government authorities and our entire nation to know Him and obey Him. God blesses a nation when its rulers are guided by God and His laws above all else. Hezekiah not only personally worshiped God, but tore down idol worship and evil practices within the country.

As God's ambassadors within our nation, we should recognize His law over every other law and authority. We need to pray, address evil, and act so that God's will is done here within our communities as it is in heaven. God wants people to experience the peace of knowing Him and what it would be like to be ruled by Him. What would our city look like if His will were done everywhere and in everything?

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Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 11: James 1:22-2:26

We experience the truth we believe in when we act on it. We and others experience the healing, help, and wholeness of God's commands when we obey them and not just talk about them.

Obedience is not an intellectual or emotional pursuit. Obedience is not an abstract feeling or mental awareness. True obedience works to see God's will done, and not just to pray for it to happen.

How are the lost within our cities going to come to know God if we don't go to them? How are the poor, the hurting, the oppressed, the lonely going to be helped unless we help them? How are evil actions going to be stopped if we don't stand against them? Ask God what He would have you do.

We need to doers of His Word, repent of our inaction, and be the hands and feet of Christ within our communities. Only then can the truth set us free.

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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

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Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 12: Mark 12:41-44

The generosity of a gift- whether money, time, or resources - isn't primarily measured by its size. What makes a gift truly generous is what it costs the giver. If I give time or money that I will quickly forget, then I probably wasn't being generous. Disciple-makers give generously and sacrificially of their time, resources, and emotional energy to see God's Kingdom come and heaven filled with members of every tribe and tongue. If I have five hours of free time and I use 5 minutes to call and pray for someone and spend the rest on myself, I haven't been generous with that time. However, if I spend a lunch break in the middle of an exhausting day with a co-worker who is far from God - getting to know them and having meaningful conversations with them - then I am being generous. I am generous when I use all God gave me to expand His Kingdom and create opportunities for the lost to fall in love with Him.

You cannot have generosity without sacrifice. And yet, when you see the joy in the face of a newly baptized family, the momentary pain of whatever it cost you and your family to get to that moment fades, and you're filled with the joy and satisfaction of the Lord.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

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Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

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- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 13: Luke 12:1-48

I will not take anything I earn or own into heaven with me. I will, however, sit at God's table and worship at His throne with families and friends who discovered Jesus because I took the time to:

- Pray and fast for God's direction.
- Invested time in intentionally, regularly, and meaningfully engage the lost.
- Find those who are ready to engage with God's Word.
- Help them discover God, fall in love with Jesus, and obey His commands.
- Baptize them as brothers and sisters who commit their lives to helping others find God the way they did.

A car will never love me. I cannot take a house to heaven. But, I can laugh with a neighbor while eating and drinking in heaven at Jesus' table while sharing stories of God's incredible love.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 14: I Cor 9:16-27

Our call is to go. Go to those who are outside of our churches and be with them. When we join the lost within their communities, we bring the Gospel to people who possibly would have never come to church. We can play games with the board gamers, practice music with the musicians, hike with other men from our neighborhoods, work on community business projects with councilmen, teach English to refugee families, get to know the soccer families at the local public school, etc.

We need to rethink how we celebrate our holidays. What are the parties and holiday activities of your city? How can you celebrate alongside those that don't know Jesus this year?

We share life and community with the lost so that we can share His story with them. And while it is comfortable to hang out with other believers, we will have all eternity to celebrate with our Christian family, but only now to spend time with the lost. Let's bring Christ to our communities this year by going where they are and doing what they love.

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 15: Luke 10:25-37

What could have been the reason why the Levite and priest didn't stop to help the beaten man? Perhaps they were too busy doing the work of the Lord to stop to help. Perhaps they told themselves it wasn't their ministry or call to help that man. Perhaps they really just didn't want to bother with such a difficult, dirty, maybe even dangerous task. It would cost them too much.

But look how the Samaritan helped the man. Taking care of the man cost him money, time, energy, even his own possessions. Not only did he bring him to get care, but he also committed to come back and pay for his continuing needs. And while he worked with others to accomplish the task, the Samaritan was willing to take extreme ownership of the problem and the man until he could be sure that all would be well.

What about the hurts, issues, and needs of our community and the people around us? Not just the ones on the street corners, but those within estranged neighborhoods or across the street from us. Not only should we pray for them, but they may be praying for help too. God calls us to address the hard things that are happening around us. It's His second greatest command. Are we good neighbors to those in our communities and city?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 16: Luke 2:1-20

When God reveals Himself to you, you're not supposed to keep it to yourself. The shepherds sure didn't. "When they had seen Him, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it were amazed about the things which were told them by the shepherds." They weren't ashamed or afraid they would look foolish— they were eager for all to have a chance to see Him like they did.

So they traveled throughout the town. Rejoicing, telling all who would hear about the Savior. So it wasn't such a silent night after all.

Are we willing to go out within our own cities so that others can experience the Savior?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
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My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 17: Luke 4:16-22

Jesus describes the Kingdom with imagery that is both spiritual AND physical. He wasn't merely being metaphorical. He literally meant that the Kingdom was something that could be experienced in the here and now and not just in the sweet by and by. God's healing and freedom is not just positional, theological, or abstract. It affects our bodies, how we live, how we treat one another, how we educate, how we govern, how we address evil, how we use our money, etc.

The Kingdom is a place where God's love and commands rule in every area of society. The Kingdom is marked by community and personal freedom— healing, freedom from oppression, and relief of suffering. He calls us to build and expand His Kingdom here on Earth by doing His will. And while we will never achieve perfection, we can experience greater wholeness and life as God intended while showing a lost world what it looks like to be ruled by God. What can we do this coming year to bring His healing and freedom to our lost cities and communities?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

Week 18: The If's of Being a Disciple

Passages: John 13:35, John 8:31-32, Mark 8:34-35, Luke 14:26-27

What does it mean to be a good Christian? This is a great place to start in setting this year's goals and commitments.

Instead of using the term "Christian," Jesus refers to His disciples as those who follow after Him. "IF you're going to be a disciple of Me, you must..." We must let Christ define the standard and goal post of being a good follower of His. Nothing should stand in the way of us obeying and dedicating ourselves to His mission. We don't just follow some of His commands— but all of them. We don't just owe Him some of our lives— but all of it. Our lives must be marked by sacrifice, self-denial, and fruitfulness in expanding His Kingdom.

What specifically does He say marks a disciple of His? What new thing will you do to follow Him today? this week? this year?

Praying for the City | In light of this passage...

- What in my city hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in my city?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?
- Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for the Church | In light of this passage...

- What about my city's Body of Christ hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen within my city's Body of Christ?
- How do You want us to change?
- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want me to pray for?/ Whom do You want me to pray for?

Praying for Myself | In light of this passage,

- What in me and my life hurts Your heart?
- What do You long to see happen in me and my life?
- How do You want me to change? What do You want me to do?

My I Will Statement | I will obey this passage today/this week by....

What Now?

As you worked through this guide, we hope God developed in you **both a brokenness over sin - and its effects** on ourselves, our churches, and our cities - and a confidence that - through His power and our obedience - we can see **Him work in more mighty ways than we've seen before.** We can see many become disciples who help whole communities come to faith and experience wholeness through obeying God's Word and loving one another.

Please share this guide and what God has shown you through it with others. It's His Word, His Spirit, and our obedience to Him that changes our lives and those in our community.

Learn more about how **you** can grow and participate in a prayer movement for your city by connecting with us at **Contagious Disciple Making.** We seek to plant and build communities of praying disciple-makers in every city who will revive a culture of prayer and good works in the Church and disciple the lost to faith through helping them read the Bible for themselves. We want to connect you with others who are doing the same locally and globally and help you start your own community. **Together, we can see our cities transformed by the power of Christ and for His glory.**

1. **Download our CDM App!** Just search for Contagious Disciple Making App on any app store.
2. **Join our CDM Prayer Page** to post your prayer requests for your city and pray for other's (link) You can also the link to our page on our CDM App.
3. **Join our weekly CDM prayer meetings** with disciple-makers from around the world on zoom! You can find the zoom link on our app in the events section. We meet Wednesdays 8:15-9:15 am PST.
4. You can also **find more prayer resources and tools for doing good and making disciples** on our CDM app: podcasts, blogs, and videos to help you pray, make a difference, and make disciples who make disciples.
5. **Contact us** to find out how you can join others in your area and around the world in seeking Disciple Making Movements and transform our cities together. You can email us at **teamecontagiousdisciplemaking.com.**
Website: www.contagiousdisciplemaking.com