

WEEK NINE

prayers OF hope

monday - PRAY FOR JUSTICE

What can we bring to the Lord? ... Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

micah 6: 6-8

As COVID-19 continues to spread, it's shown that it is disproportionately affecting people of color, and especially those in a lower socio-economic class. This fact, combined with growing unemployment, rising poverty, and tragic news of injustice, shows us how much our world still falls short of the glory of God. These injustices break the heart of God, and they grieve our hearts as well. Things are not as they should be. The earth still does not adequately reflect the kingdom of God. However, as believers, let's do our part to change that. Let's ask God to search our hearts and to point out areas where we harbor bias or stand complacent. As the people of God, may we lead with love, with equality, and humility. May we embrace and validate someone else's experience, even if it is different than our own. May we listen more than we speak, and may we speak when we see injustice taking place.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for the Kingdom of God to invade the earth! Ask God to search your heart and respond with humility. When you see someone who looks or thinks different than you this week, whisper to yourself, "You are my family."

tuesday - PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MOVE

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 john 4:4

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

acts 4:31

Our world needs the Holy Spirit to fall afresh! Let's pray boldly for that to happen! Sometimes we can go through life, praying for people, loving people, and even doing the things that Jesus did, all the while forgetting that the Spirit of the living God dwells within us! It can be easy sometimes to rely on our own strength and willpower to get through the day; however, that is NOT how God intended us to live! We have a Spirit in us that is GREATER than the one who is in the world. No virus, no fear, no financial crisis, is bigger than our God! So today, let's tap into the power that is within us!

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for the Spirit to move like the wind!

Surrender your own strength in exchange for the power of the Holy Spirit.

wednesday - **PRAY FOR PEACE**

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

john 14: 26-27

Peace has been the one thing that I've prayed for the most during this time. It has been the hardest thing to find when I am focused on my circumstances or on climbing number of confirmed cases on the news.

Peace in chaos is a hard thing to achieve on our own power, however, it is one of the things God tells us that he will give us. Jesus Himself says that He will give us, not what the world gives, but give us His peace instead. The ability to relax a bit, give over to Him our illusion control and rest in the One who is the source of hope. What Jesus offers is the opposite of what the world is offering, especially right now. The world will give you fear, uncertainty, tension, and confusion. Let's take today to intentionally turn away from what the world is trying to give us, and lean into the peace that Jesus promises.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Take a deep breath. Surrender the things that you're worried about and allow Jesus to "un-trouble" your heart. Be a promoter of peace in the world today.

thursday - **PRAY FOR GRACE**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 corinthians 12: 9

Praise God that His mercies are new every morning. I know I need a do-over most days. If there's one thing that this time has taught us, it is our deep, undeniable need for Jesus and His unending grace. We can't do this alone; but praise God that His power is made perfect in our weakness...because we've got a lot of weaknesses these days! So let's take a moment to allow God's grace to wash over us. Let yourself off the hook for the mistakes you made yesterday and take comfort in the fact that God wants to fill in the gaps for you. That is grace. Undeserved blessings and unearned power. And do-overs. Lots of do-overs. And hey, while we're at it, let's make a point to extend grace to others. Let's give it out to people as if we received it for free, because we did! Let's throw grace around like confetti! Throw it around on social media, to our kids, our loved ones...even our leaders that we disagree with.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Free yourself from guilt and shame that you may be holding on to. It's ok if your life doesn't look like Pinterest. Ask God to fill in the gaps where you fall short today. Spend some time thanking God for His unending grace. Who do you need to extend grace to today? If the Lord leads you, reach out to them to let them know.

friday - PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only
God's Good News but our own lives, too.

1 thessalonians 2: 8

The Central Coast is a very special and unique place. We are truly lucky to live here. Not only because of the beaches and great weather...but it's the people who make our community so amazing. I know we will get through this because we are a community who supports each other and, more often than not, treats each other with kindness. It's our amazing local businesses, which are ingrained in the fabric of the Central Coast that make us great! It's our churches who support each other. It's our teachers who go above and beyond to help our kids at this time. So let's take some time today praying for those who make the Central Coast what it is. Let's pray for those in our community who are struggling, whether financially, relationally, or physically. We are truly in this together!

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for the Central Coast. If you're comfortable and able, support a local business today! Ask God to put someone or some organization on your heart. Send them a note of encouragement and let them know you prayed for them.

saturday - PRAY FOR THE HOMELESS

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

matthew 25: 34-36

Under normal circumstances, there is no more vulnerable among our community than the homeless. This pandemic has furthered their vulnerability and increased their fear. With more limited resources and less people to help, this season has been especially trying for our homeless brothers and sisters. In addition, many of our homeless friends struggle with their mental health, and we all know how this pandemic has added to all of our anxieties

and worries. Let's spend some time today lifting up those among us who have no home to shelter in. Let's ask ourselves how we might love this community and treat them with dignity. Let's pray for their protection, for their health, and for their immediate needs to be met.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for God to move within our homeless community. Ask God how he might want to use you to meet the need of those who need the most. If you are in a position to, donate to a local pantry or organization that's assisting the homeless at this time. People's Kitchen in Grover Beach is still serving a hot meal every day for lunch. Pray for their ministry.

sunday - **PRAY FOR ACTION**

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then

God will bless you for doing it.

james 1: 22-25

I know it can feel like we are in a holding pattern; like we are sitting on the sidelines, waiting for the coach to call us into the game. However, that's NOT the case! No matter our circumstances, we are called to live out our faith in a way that points people to Jesus. Let's not allow this season to make us complacent, to forget the great opportunities God has given us. I'll bet that if each of us got in a quiet place and allowed the Holy Spirit to whisper to our hearts, that we would feel that nudge to take action, to reach out to someone that we've been thinking about for weeks. We'd feel a nudge to take a step of faith, to form a new habit, to quit a bad habit, to take a risk for the kingdom of God...to take a step of obedience. How different would today look if we allowed ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit and walked in obedience with God's Word?

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Do something. Ask God where He's asking you to take a step. Don't just say you'll pray for someone, actually do it. Choose to walk in obedience today.