



**Hong Kong Prayer Guide  
Week 2**

**Emmanuel English Church**



## Day 1

### Heart Check — Forgiveness is Crucial

*“Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18:32-35)*

In response to Peter’s question about the number of times we are to forgive others, Jesus tells this parable of the “unforgiving servant.” Like the servant, we tend to count up the wrongs done against us and then lash out, demanding payment for them. As the list of wrongs accumulate, anger intensifies, and self-justification for our demands increases. The main point of this parable is found in the last line: “So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” A heart of forgiveness desires to reconcile and make things right with the party that has offended us. For every wrong done against us, our response is one of sorrow over the wrong, and longing that the offender would see his or her error and repent so that we can live in peace with them.

An attitude of ongoing forgiveness is crucial to live rightly before God during this time. Refusal to forgive means that we are not living in a way where God will accept our prayers and worship to him. Instead of asking like Peter, “How many more times must I forgive?” we should ask God to give us his heart of ongoing forgiveness.

#### Honesty

When you see the wrongs done in the city by different people, what is your first heart response?

- Is it to add the wrongs to your list of reasons for why you should continue to be angry and demand payment?
- Or does your heart respond with sorrow for the sin that has been done, longing for true repentance and humility?



## Day 2

### Following the Lord’s Prayer

*“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)*

This section of the Lord’s Prayer gives us three motivators for our prayers. First, God’s kingdom should be our constant and ultimate hope. Second, this hope leads us to want and submit to God’s will. Lastly, where we want and submit to God’s will is on earth, not just in heaven. These three things go hand in hand. The arrival of God’s kingdom happens when his will is done on earth. But, many times, we focus on one part without the others. We want God’s kingdom to come, but at the same time, we also want our will to be done. We want God’s will to be done, but only in heaven and not on earth. If we are praying with God’s heart, we will have all three.

#### Honesty

“Your kingdom come”: Is your present and future hope in God’s kingdom right now? When others look at your life, what “kingdom” would they say your hope is in?

- Who are those you are demanding payment from?

#### Confess

The ways you have been like the unforgiving servant during this time. Ask God to show you how much he has forgiven you so that you can express that same attitude to others.

#### Praise

Thank God that he has forgiven you of your sins in the past and continues to forgive your sins in your day to day life. Thank God that he has given you a real and concrete way to practice his forgiveness on a daily basis!

#### Petition

- Pray that God’s heart of forgiveness would shine through Christians in the city
- Ask God to give people a heart that desires forgiveness and reconciliation

“Your will be done”: Whose will do you truly want done in this situation? If God’s hidden will (how God directs the outcome of human history) turned out to be the opposite of what you would want to happen, would you still joyfully and willingly work to fulfil his revealed will (the things God has clearly commanded us to do in the Bible)?

#### **Confess**

Confess the ways you have sought another kingdom over God’s kingdom or desired your will over God’s will.

#### **Praise**

Thank the Lord that he sent Jesus as the one who perfectly completed God’s will and brought it to earth, so that we could have salvation and hope in his eternal kingdom.

#### **Petition**

- Pray that our hearts would truly desire God’s kingdom above all
- Pray that Christians can minister God’s kingdom peace and hope to those who are fearful and hopeless
- Ask that God will turn all people, young and old, who are spending all their time and energy pursuing their earthly kingdoms, to instead turn to seek God’s kingdom



### **Day 3**

#### **Finding Strength in God — Goodness**

*“You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.” (Psalm 119:68)*

God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.<sup>1</sup> Jesus tells us that God the Father is always at work (Jn. 5:17). This means that even in the darkest and most hopeless circumstances, God is working to bring good. More than that, nothing can stop God because he is powerful and in control. Because God is good and is always working to do good, there is always hope. Our job as God’s people is to recognize the ways God is working for good, to believe it, and to work alongside God to do good by learning more of his word.

<sup>1</sup>Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 1994.

#### **Honesty**

Have you been able to see God’s goodness at work? Do you believe God is still good even in the current situation?

#### **Confess**

Confess the doubts you have had about God’s goodness towards yourself and to the city.

#### **Praise**

Thank God that he is working good all over this city in ways we cannot see or imagine even right in this moment!

#### **Petition**

- Ask God to open your eyes to see his goodness at work around you.
- Pray that the people of Hong Kong will be able to see God’s goodness to them.
- Pray that God’s work of goodness would grow and expand in the city.



### **Day 4**

#### **Prayer Devotional — Strength in Trust<sup>2</sup>**

*“Jacob, why do you say, and Israel, why do you assert:  
‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and my claim is ignored by my God’?  
Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the whole earth. He never grows faint or weary;  
there is no limit to His understanding.  
He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless.  
Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall,  
but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength;  
they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary;  
they will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:27-31)*

Israel was under the domination of the Babylonian empire. They felt God had abandoned them into the hands of another nation. History has known countless periods of unrest, perplexity, and confusion. It can feel like God has gone missing. But Isaiah reminds them that God is sovereign and for those who wait for his timing, he will restore and

<sup>2</sup>Adapted from Watermark Church’s “Prayer Devotional for HK”

strengthen them. Use this passage as a prayer of:

#### **Honesty**

Do you ever wonder where God is in the current circumstances in Hong Kong? Be real.

#### **Praise**

Praise God that he is everlasting, sovereign, and does not overlook each of our individual and overall situations we face in Hong Kong. Thank God that he strengthens those who feel weak and powerless with his strength.

#### **Confess**

Confess the areas in your life where you feel weak and weary. Bring to God the things you rely on using your own strength, your own understanding, and power to fix or work out. Ask him to help you to trust him.

#### **Petition**

- Pray for those who feel tired and weary with all the protests and disruption to find strength in God and not become bitter and disillusioned.
- Pray for spiritual strength to patiently endure and stay faithful to God during this time.
- Pray for those who tend to be overlooked and neglected in the city: refugees, the poor, and those who are suffering economically because of the unrest.



### **Living as Kingdom Citizens**

*“Let your reasonableness (gentleness) be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.” (Philippians 4:5)*

*“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19)*

As citizens of heaven, we are called to be the voice of reason for the world around us. Where others are quick to point fingers and accuse, fuelling conflict and strife, we are to take a step back to impartially listen and

evaluate what is going on. More importantly, being reasonable here is an attitude of the heart. Another aspect of the word “reasonable” in the passage is “gentleness.” It refers to an attitude of kindness where the normal or expected response is retaliation. In situations that are unclear, we are to respond with a graciousness that believes the best instead of assuming the worse. Before we make a “guilt” judgement, we are to wait until the evidence is overwhelmingly clear. Christians should be the last to accuse. Even in situations where it is clear who is in the wrong, we are to express a gentleness to the opposing side that sees who they are in light of our own sinfulness before God.

#### **Honesty**

Have you been reasonable and quick to listen in your reactions to the conflicts that have been happening in the city? Would your heart be characterized as kind and gentle to those who have been in the wrong?

#### **Confess**

The ways you have been quick to make accusations in the heat of the moment instead of taking time to listen and thoroughly investigate the facts. Confess how you have been unkind in your words, actions, and thoughts to others.

#### **Praise**

Thank God that he is not quick to accuse us and that, when we sin, he treats us with the utmost gentleness to bring us back to repentance. “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory” (Mt. 12:20).

#### **Petition**

- Pray that God will mercifully restrain the sin in both the government, police force, and demonstrators from acting out of anger and frustration.
- Ask that everyone will listen to God’s voice of reason, which he has placed in their hearts, rather than their sin.

#### **Application**

Next time you hear someone being unkind in their words or quick to accuse someone, be bold as the voice of gentle reason.