



**Hong Kong Prayer Guide
Week 3**

Emmanuel English Church



Day 1

Heart Check — Love for Enemies is Essential

*“You have heard that it was said,
‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you, that you may be
children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to
rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain
on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:43-45)*

*“To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry,
feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something
to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning
coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:19-20)*

Love starts with a desire for someone else’s well-being. This desire is then expressed practically in speech and sacrificial action. As Christians, we are told to love even our “enemies”—but what does this look like in our lives? Jesus gives us the perfect way to picture it. We should have the same attitude toward our enemies as we do to those we love the most (our “neighbours”). Think of the ways you show affection, care, and sacrifice to your own friends, family, and those who hold the same beliefs and convictions. We are supposed to treat those we count as “enemies” in the exact same way! This is because God treats everyone this way too. He gives the same care to those who rebel and hate him and also to those who worship and love him. In God’s view, our enemies are our neighbours, and we should love them as ourselves. Any other view we have about our enemies is not God’s view. If we are not loving our enemies, any other cause we strive for is wrong.

Honesty

- Who do you consider your “enemies” right now? (Think of individuals and also groups of people.)
- What would it look like for you to practically show love to them?
- Are you willing to start sincerely praying for the good of these people?

Confess

The negative thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions you have had toward your enemies. Ask God to give you his heart of love.

Praise

Thank God for his love and care for you when you were still his enemy. Thank God for his love and care for you in the times when you still sin against him. Praise God that he has given you a concrete opportunity to love like he loves.

Petition

- Pray for your enemies by name (and/or by group). Ask God to bless their work and family. Ask God for care and support in their personal struggles and hardships.
- More importantly, ask God to open their eyes to see and believe the love he has for them in sending Jesus to die for their sin.



Day 2

Following the Lord’s Prayer

“Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)

Asking for “our daily bread” means we believe that God both has and gives us exactly what we need each day. As human beings, our needs are both physical and spiritual (Mt. 4:4). We have need of food, water, shelter, social support of friends and family—but we also need courage, hope, love, joy, grace, and faith to live in obedience to God. God is the source behind all these provisions. We are to have a heart that depends on God by asking him for these things on a daily basis.

Honesty

- How often do you ask God for your needs?
- What do you currently need in order to live a life that pleases God?

Confess

The ways you have been self-sufficient instead of depending on God in prayer. Repent (turn away) from unbelief and trust that God will provide what you need each day.

Praise

Thank God that he is our great provider and gives us the gift of life each day, even when we do not ask for it.

Petition

- Ask that God will provide for those in need in the city.
- Ask God to provide Hong Kong with what it needs to truly be at peace.
- Ask God to provide you with what you need to live for him in this time.



Day 3

Finding Strength in God — Merciful and Gracious

“The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.’” (Exodus 34:6)

God is good to those in misery and distress, and good to those who only deserve punishment.¹ More specifically, mercy is found in not giving the punishment one should rightly get. Grace is receiving a benefit or blessing one did not rightfully earn. God is constantly expressing his merciful and gracious nature in the world in big and small ways. He is merciful in delaying the punishment humanity deserves for its rebellion against him. He is merciful in restraining the sin and evil in people’s hearts from fully expressing itself. The wars and conflict we see happening in the world would be much worse without God’s mercy. Even now, God is restraining the power of lawlessness in our world (2 Th. 2:7). God is gracious by allowing us to enjoy the many good things in the world despite our sin. We can enjoy food, the love of friends and family, pursuing our interests, travel, etc. We deserve none of these things. We don’t even deserve life itself.

When we look at difficult circumstances through the lens of mercy and grace, our perspective should change from blaming God, to thanking God; from questioning God, to trusting God. It should turn us from

¹Challies, Tim. Visual Theology.

conflict with others, to seeking peace and reconciliation—all of us owe God an infinite debt, yet share in the same grace and mercy that God gives. This truth should humble us to be gracious in any conflict, no matter the differences or wrongs that have been done to us.

Honesty

How have you accused God or doubted him for being unloving in this situation?

Confess

The ways you have questioned God’s gracious love and mercy.

Praise

- Thank God for the degree of peace preserved in the city so far, in keeping the situation from deteriorating to the degree of conflict in other places around the world.
- Praise God for the good things that we are still able to enjoy.

Petition

- Cry out for God to continue his mercy to Hong Kong by keeping the situation from escalating further.
- Ask God to pour out more of his grace in our undeserving situation, for Hong Kong to be fully restored from all the negative effects the conflict has brought about (citywide, organizations, families, individual trauma, etc.).



Day 4

Prayer Devotional — Generational Healing²

“Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers.” (Malachi 4:6)

In a time of turmoil, Malachi speaks of God’s healing and restoration as a time of inter-generational healing. The hearts of rebellious children and condemning parents will be softened as God’s word goes forth and restores broken relationships. This is what Hong Kong needs. Use this passage as a prayer of:

²Adapted from Watermark Church’s “Prayer Devotional for HK”

Praise

That Jesus takes rebellious spiritual orphans like us and adopts us back into his family. We have a heavenly Father who listens and understands us when we run to him.

Honesty

What is your heart attitude towards those of different generations? What thoughts of critique or dislike come to mind? If you are young—towards the older generation. If you are from an older generation—towards the young. Be real before God.

Confession

Confess any sense of contempt or self-righteousness towards older or younger generations. Ask yourself, “Have I been judging them without understanding them first?” Ask for God’s forgiveness.

Petition

- Ask for a deep willingness from both older and younger generations to listen and seek to understand each other without condemning.
- Pray for churches to be a place of healing, where older, more-established families will reach out to young people, and young people will seek to bless older ones.
- Pray for EEC and churches across the city to be a place of inter-generational relationships, not just the young hanging out with the young and older people relating with older people.



Living Wisely

*“Who is wise and understanding among you?
Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done
in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you
harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition
in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.
Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven
but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you
have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder
and every evil practice. But the wisdom that*

*comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving,
considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit,
impartial and sincere...” (James 3:13-17)*

We wrongfully believe that wisdom is being able to prove that our point of view is the correct one. In this passage, true wisdom is actually seen in the effects of our words and actions, not in how well we can convince others about our convictions. Living wisely means that whatever we do brings about the attitudes and outcomes of being peace-loving, submissive, impartial, sincere, and full of mercy and good fruit. All of our words and actions should be aimed at producing these in all circumstances, with all people. If they do not, then we are not living as wise kingdom citizens.

Honesty

Reflect on the results of your recent action and words: Did they bring about the effects of “earthly wisdom” or “heavenly wisdom”?

Confess

- The areas in life you have not been bringing heavenly wisdom to your circumstances.
- The ways you have acted in “earthly wisdom.”

Praise

Thank God that, even though you may fail, he is working in his heavenly wisdom at all times to bring about good fruits!

Petition

- Pray that God will give heavenly wisdom to the leaders in all areas of the city, especially to those whose choices heavily influence the current situation.
- Ask God to give you heavenly wisdom in your own circumstances.

Application

Next time you are tempted to say or do something compulsively, take a couple minutes to examine the outcome of your action.