



**Hong Kong Prayer Guide
Week 4**

Emmanuel English Church



Day 1

Heart Check — Anger Only Worsens

*“Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry,
because human anger does not produce
the righteousness that God desires.” (James 1:19)*

*“Be angry and do not sin;
do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and give no opportunity to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)*

Anger is a natural emotional response when things aren't going the way we think they should. Scripture doesn't say that it's wrong to be angry—but what it does tell us is that it's wrong to hold on to anger and let it control our thoughts and actions. We are not to “let the sun go down” on our anger. Holding on to anger allows the opportunity for evil to work. God also tells us that all human anger—good or bad—doesn't produce the right results.

During this time of unrest, it is especially important that we are constantly checking our hearts for anger. We may be tempted to angrily say something, do something, or post something online in reaction to someone or something that has happened. Even if the reasons for our anger are right, we must remember that anything done in anger doesn't help the situation. It only makes it worse and makes us accomplices in the devil's work to steal, kill, and destroy. If we want to be the witnesses of God's kingdom that he calls us to be, we must do nothing out of anger and repent of any anger we are allowing to stay in our hearts. May we be those that give opportunities for God's grace—rather the devil's schemes—to work in the city.

Honesty

- Think of your past few conversations, comments, or online posts: Were they done out of love or anger?
- Would “angry person” be an adjective that describes you during this time?

Confess

The ways you have reacted in anger or are holding on to anger about the things that have happened over the past few months.

Praise

Thank God that he doesn't hold on to anger; his anger only lasts for a moment. Praise God that he is slow to become angry; only his anger is perfect and brings about the right results.

Petition

- Ask God to turn your heart from holding on to anger to embracing his compassion for the people and in Hong Kong.
- Ask God to bring the righteousness that he desires in Hong Kong.



Day 2

Following the Lord's Prayer

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also
have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)*

As of June 2018, Forbes reported that total US student debt was \$1.52 trillion and that 44.2 million people owed debt.¹ Of course, the prayer we are to pray isn't that God would pay off our financial debts. The debt owed to God for our disobedience is much greater than any monetary value and only continues to multiply. When it comes to our debt of sin before God, Christians are called not only to stop contributing to the problem but to also be part of the solution. We do this by having a heart that constantly pleads God for his forgiveness and also constantly forgives others. As we are able, we cancel the debt when others wrong us. This qualifies us to plead with God to cancel the debt that no one but himself is able to pay off. In other words, we are called to intercede on behalf of the sin of others through our prayers of forgiveness. We are not asking God to only “forgive me of my debts,” we are asking God to “forgive us our debts,” identifying ourselves with the sin of those around us. As we do, God listens and responds with mercy instead of judgment.

¹“Student Debt 2018”. Forbes Magazine.

Honesty

- How often do you ask God to forgive you of your sins?
- When was the last time you considered it your responsibility to intercede and ask God's forgiveness—for the sins of others?

Confess

Spend some time asking God for forgiveness in your own life. Be honest. Be specific.

Praise

Thank God that he is able to forgive any sin and cancel any debt—no matter how big. Hallelujah, you walk in freedom!

Petition

- Think of the wrongs you have seen happening in the city.
- Plead God for his forgiveness over each person and circumstance.



Day 3

Finding Strength in God — All-Wise

“To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.” (Romans 16:27)

*“And they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength to our God forever and ever! Amen.’”
(Revelation 7:11-12)*

God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to accomplish those goals.² When we believe this about God, along with his goodness and power, we can be at peace in the situations around us. God is good. God is in complete control. God, in his infinite wisdom, is doing what is best for good to happen exactly in the way it needs to. The circumstances in Hong Kong are the best situation that can happen in a sinful world. It is the best situation to bring about God's plan of salvation in the city. It is the best situation because God is all-wise,

good, and sovereign. And God in his wisdom has placed us here to be a part of His purpose. Instead of living in fear and uncertainty, we are to respond as willing and obedient players in God's plan. He has called us for such a time as this.

Honesty

Have you accused God for making a mistake in how the situation has developed so far in Hong Kong? Be real.

Confess

The ways you have let unbelief and fear keep you from being a part of God's purposes.

Praise

Thank God for his wisdom, that he has made the situation the best that it can be in the best way possible.

Petition

- Ask God to help you trust his wisdom in your life and in the city.
- Pray that you can discern how to be a part of God's plan for the city.



Day 4

Prayer Devotional — Living Justly³

“Isn't the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to ignore your own flesh and blood? ...If you get rid of the yoke among you the finger-pointing and malicious speaking, and if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday... you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live...”(Isaiah 58:5-7, 9-10, 12)

²Grudem, Wayne A. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 1994.

³Adapted from Watermark Church's "Prayer Devotional for HK"

Isaiah is speaking to a religious people who attend all the right religious activities, who pray and fast and yet live in their own comforts. Their hearts are not concerned with the hurting, the needy, and those suffering around them. In Hong Kong, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, we need to actively seek to bring hope, light, and practical support to those with much less. Use this passage as a prayer of:

Praise

Thank God that he is a God who does not favour rich or poor but is just and merciful. Thank him that when we were enslaved to and oppressed by our own sin, shame, and guilt, Jesus died to set us free. Thank him that he is right now still leading and in control of the situation. And that he will bring about the restoration of Hong Kong.

Honesty

How have you been living justly, for the good of those in need in the city?

Confession

Examine your heart. Ask God to forgive you where you lived for your own comfort or ignored the needy around you. Ask him to forgive you for any “finger-pointing and malicious speaking” towards others whether they are pro-government or protestors or those with no strong stance.

Petition

In a city of much injustice, pray for:

- EEC and the church in Hong Kong to be a people of justice who step out of our comfort zones to truly “bring the poor and homeless into our homes” and to stand up for the oppressed.
- The people of Hong Kong to work together for the good of the city instead of accusing each other.
- For HK, to be restored where it is broken (relationships between police, protestors, and the government to be mended through forgiveness, truthfulness, and understanding).



Being Kingdom Citizens — Live in Thanksgiving

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Christians often focus on asking God what they should do when facing difficult circumstances. But before we do anything, God wants us to first be something. To have an inner attitude of the heart. The first attitude we are to have is one of thanksgiving. No matter what we decide to do in a situation, if we are not doing it in thanksgiving, we are not doing God’s will. Thanksgiving starts when we realize that everything we have is an undeserved gift from God. Even the worst circumstances we face are filled grace, because we deserved nothing in the first place. More importantly, we can give thanks because God has already given us the great gift that can never be taken away from us, no matter what happens: eternal life in Christ Jesus. Our ability to live in thanksgiving is a test of where our faith is, of how much we truly treasure the greatest treasure, and how much we still hold on to lesser gifts.

Honesty

- When was the last time you were able to thank and praise God from the heart?
- If you are not able to give thanks, what do you “need” to have to be able to thank God right now?

Confess

The priorities on your heart that are keeping you from treasuring the salvation God has already given you.

Praise

- Thank God that you can always give thanks in every situation because of his work in you and his grace in the world.
- Thank God for how he has been gracious and merciful toward Hong Kong so far.

Petition

- Pray for God to open the eyes of those who were arrested this past week to see his grace towards them, even in their circumstances. Pray that they will be able to receive God’s ultimate grace in Jesus.
- Pray that your own thankfulness would be a witness to God’s grace in this situation.