



**Hong Kong Prayer Guide**  
**Week 5**

**Emmanuel English Church**



Day 1

## Heart Check — Honouring Authority is Not Conditional

*“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are unjust.” (1 Peter 2:13-18)*

*“Therefore, one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honour to whom honour is owed.” (Romans 13:5-7)*

In the Bible, submission, honour, and respect go hand and hand. To submit, we must also honour and respect. This is the attitude God commands when it comes to all authority. It’s still true even when authority has done nothing deserving respect and honour. We are commanded to submit not only to authority that is good, but also to authority that is unjust. Everyone owes a debt of honour and respect to authority, a debt that ultimately comes from God. He has chosen to give his authority and power for maintaining order in a sinful world to those in authority; any dishonour we have towards them is dishonour towards God. When we dishonour authority in our lives, we are not living with a clear conscience before God—our hearts are not right with God. And

since God has given real power to human authority, our disrespect to authority also works against the order that we desire to have. Submission starts with the attitude of our hearts. An attitude that does not seek to put down, discredit, and defame those in power. An attitude that treats those in power as servants of God. King David’s conscience was struck for cutting a small corner of Saul’s robe, because Saul was the “Lord’s anointed” (1 Sa. 24:5). Like him, we should feel guilty every time our words and actions are used to cut the honour of God’s chosen authority. Like Jesus, when he was arrested unjustly by the Jewish authority, we are not to revile or make threats, but to entrust ourselves to God (1 Pt. 2:23). When the authorities came to arrest Jesus, he did not resist. Instead, he respectfully asked who they were looking for and submitted to their authority by allowing himself to be arrested (Jn. 18:5). When Peter resisted by attacking, Jesus commanded him to stop and repaired the harm done by Peter’s resistance through healing the ear of the servant (Jn 18:10). When wrongfully questioned and accused, Jesus firmly spoke the truth (Jn. 18:20). May we follow in the example of our Lord and Saviour to respect authority in words and action, rebuke a spirit of rebellion to authority, and bring healing brought by conflict, while also speaking the truth with love and honour.

### Honesty

- Have you been respecting authority with your words and actions?
- Have you been honouring authority in your heart?
- If an authority figure came to you right now and asked you for something within their power to ask, would you respond with respectful submission?

### Confess

The ways you have been dishonouring authority in thought or action.

### Praise

Thank God that his authority is perfect and good and deserves full honour and respect. Thank God that his authority allows you to honour authority that does not deserve it. Praise God that he will hold authority accountable in the best way possible.

### Petition

- Ask God to bring the systems and structures of authority that Hong Kong needs to flourish peacefully
- Pray for those who hold positions of authority to use it to bring healing and reconciliation to the city

- Ask God to bring about the order and submission he wants in society through turning people to submit to His ultimate authority in Jesus



## Finding Strength in God — Faithfulness



### Following the Lord's Prayer

*“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”  
(Matthew 6:13)*

In his grace, God is constantly keeping the world from falling into temptation. Without his grace restraining our sin and evil, humanity would be much more miserable and corrupt than it already is. Our constant prayer as his people should be, “God, keep us from the sin and evil that we are in danger of falling into.” We should desire this both as individuals and for the world we live in. God has given us the responsibility to pray that God would deliver us from evil and uses our prayers for that purpose.

#### Honesty

Think about the last time you looked at the suffering and evil in the world and question if God cared.

#### Confess

The times when sin was so enticing that you wanted to be led in it and did not ask God to keep you from it.

#### Praise

Thank God that he has already delivered you from evil and temptation that you were not aware of. Thank God for his goodness and grace toward you to turn to him in repentance, even in the times you fall into sin.

#### Petition

- Pray for God to keep demonstrators, police, and authority figures from falling into temptation.
- Ask that God would not allow anger and frustrations on all sides to lead to greater evil.
- Pray for deliverance from evil, that God would not allow the worst-case scenario to happen.
- Ask God to keep us from temptation, to protect hearts from a spirit of anger and hate.

*“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God;  
he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love  
to a thousand generations of those who  
love him and keep his commandments.”  
(Deuteronomy 7:9)*

*“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,  
for he who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)*

God's faithfulness means that God will always do what he said and fulfill what he promised.<sup>1</sup> We can trust that God is doing and will do the good he promised. God is working his purposes of salvation out at all times and will not stop till it's done, no matter what. God's faithfulness should give us strength in all circumstances. When we sin and are unfaithful, God is still working his salvation out. When the situation seems dark and hopeless, and no one seems to be turning to faith, God is still working in the same way when things seem to be going the best. No amount of unrest, anger, violence, conflict, misunderstanding, or sin can stop God from doing his work in the world and in the city. He will keep on saving people in any and every circumstance. God's faithfulness also means that he is always with us and will not stop being with us. God promises that he will never leave us nor forsake us (Dt. 13:5). Jesus says he will be with us till the end of the age. God is faithful in our own circumstances for his purposes, including the bigger situation we are facing in the city. We can be encouraged that God is with us to do his work through us!

#### Honesty

When have you felt that God had forsaken you, and why? Do you believe that God is with the city of Hong Kong right now to save it?

#### Confess

The ways you have forgotten God's faithfulness to you and to the situation in Hong Kong.

#### Praise

Thank God for his faithfulness. He is here to stay and will not leave till his work to bring salvation to the city is complete. Praise God that even

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

when you fall short, God is still working. Praise God for how he has showed his faithfulness in Hong Kong through the work of many missionaries, churches, pastors, and ministry workers throughout its history and development.

#### **Petition**

- Ask God to help you see his faithful work in you and in the city.
- Pray for God to continue this work in the city, with full confidence that he will do it.



### **Day 4**

#### **Prayer Devotional — Love<sup>2</sup>**

*“This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has this world’s goods and sees his brother in need but closes his eyes to his need—how can God’s love reside in him? Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action.” (1 John 3:16-18)*

In this passage, John challenges believers to see how Christ’s love changes the way we view others. We cannot be indifferent to the needs of those around us, especially of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Love is not merely saying the right things, it is acting sacrificially for the good of others. But, love starts with listening. Listening to understand the real needs, the real situation of those around us. Listening to God’s heart for the person in prayer. Then, love moves to action. Where many around you are hurting, angry, frustrated, feeling judged, and fearful right now: what does love look like for you?

#### **Praise**

“Were the whole realm of nature mine, it were an offering far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” Praise God for his great love for us in Christ that reached down to us at our most sinful state and keeps showing us grace in spite of our sin.

#### **Honesty**

“We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” How does the thought of truly setting aside time, finances, a listening ear,

denying yourself what you want to do out of love for others—even those you don’t like—make you feel?

#### **Confession**

Draw to mind those who you find difficult to love at this time. Ask God to forgive you for any ways which you have ignored them or not loved them as you should. Ask him to fill your heart afresh with his love and the knowledge of his grace to love them. Ask him to show you how to love them.

#### **Petition**

- Pray for those the city sees as unlovable including: The disabled, ethnic minorities, the mentally ill, teenage mothers, the elderly, prisoners, government ministers, the rude and pushy, parents or family we despise. Pray that EEC and believers in other local and international churches across the city would be at the forefront of demonstrating sacrificial love and not resting in our own comfort.
- Pray for opportunities to proactively listen to and bless co-workers, family members, and friends around you, and to share the gospel of Christ’s love with them. Pray for boldness to take those opportunities with great sensitivity and love.



### **Day 5**

#### **Being Kingdom Citizens — Always Ready with Hope**

*“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (1 Peter 3:14-16)*

Kingdom citizens should be ready to answer with hope in every situation they find themselves in. This is especially true in circumstances when things are hopeless. In times of suffering and injustice. The key to answering with hope comes from “revering Christ as Lord.” Like a pipe

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

connected to a fountain of water, when we truly see Jesus as the King and Kings and Lord of Lords, hope naturally flows into our thoughts and feelings. We shouldn't need to go digging around looking for hope in a dry desert. Christ in us is the hope of glory and fountain of living water (Col. 1:27; Jn. 7:38). When we are in times of hopelessness, it means that we aren't connected to Christ. Our hearts are not holding on to the truth of the gospel and the promises of God. When we revere Christ rightly, we are connected to an endless supply of hope that speaks into every situation.

Having hope inside of ourselves is not enough. We must also be prepared to share it. We are always on the lookout for opportunities to speak into people's hopeless outlooks with our hopeful perspective of faith. Doing this effectively means living in a way that honours God. We must make sure that if we suffer, we do so for doing what is right because our hope is in Christ.

#### **Honesty**

- What is the hope that you have: For yourself? For Hong Kong?
- If you have no reasons for hope, what are the reasons that make you unhopeful?
- If you have a reason to hope, have you been actively seeking a chance to share it?

#### **Confess**

The things you feel hopeless about to God.

#### **Praise**

Thank God that we always have a reason to hope and that our hope is sure and secure because of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the promise that God will redeem and renew all things in the new heavens and new earth.

#### **Petition**

- Pray that God would expose people's false hopes (in other people, situations, countries, or powers) apart from Jesus as hopeless.
- Pray that people would turn to find true hope during this time.
- Ask that God would make the hope of Christians in the gospel attractive to unbelievers.
- Pray that your own thankfulness would be a witness to God's grace in this situation.