



# CHT WEEK OF PRAYER

Seeking and discerning God's will together

“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”

— Soren Kierkegaard

**Mission:** THE SALVATION ARMY EXISTS TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST, MEET HUMAN NEEDS AND BE A TRANSFORMING INFLUENCE IN THE COMMUNITIES OF OUR WORLD.

**S.M.O.R.P.:**

**SCRIPTURE** – Which scripture spoke to you today?

**MESSAGE** – What have you heard from God through the scripture you read?

**OBEDIENCE** – What is God asking you to do in light of his word to you?

**REPENTANCE** – What is God asking you to confess and turn away from today?

**PRAYER** – Talk time to talk to God about what he is saying.

**JOURNALING:** Write out the thoughts and feeling you have as you read scripture and pray. This allows you to process and reflect on what God is saying. It also great to use it as a reminder of what God has said.

**INTERCESSION:** Praying for others. Either for people, groups of people or into situations.

**SUPPLICATION:** These are out personal prayer concerns brought before the living God.

**PRAISE:** Words of adoration spoken to God.

## DISCIPLESHIP WHEEL FOR CHT



**EXPLORE:** People begin journey of understanding who God is, while we take an active interest in them and their world.

**CELEBRATE:** People experience the love of God and his saving grace and begin to share it with others.

**COMMUNITY:** People become more involved in the life of church and join smaller groups where the teaching of scripture and learning to live a new life is the focus.

**CONTRIBUTE:** People begin to share their talents/skills, treasure and spiritual gifts with the body of believers in order to advance the Gospel and help others move through the discipleship wheel.

**USING THIS BOOKLET:**

This is a tool offered to help aid you throughout this week of prayer. We are suggesting you take a set time each day dedicated to prayer. Start with a few minutes of praise to God. Then invite him to guide your thoughts as you read through the devotions and scripture for that day. Read the scripture, underline or highlight anything that jumps out at you. Answer the questions from the devotion.

You may also want to use S.M.O.R.P. and take a few minutes to journal what God is saying to you. Also journal any prayers of intercession or supplication that you might have for that day. We believe that God will speak to many of you about our church. You can bring those thoughts and prayers to church on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> where there will be an opportunity to record them on a board or share them with a small group of people. You may wish to share these thoughts with the pastoral staff right away. Feel free to email [bill\\_blackman@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:bill_blackman@can.salvationarmy.org), or call Bill at 604-365-3935.

**“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.” *Mother Teresa***



## FORGIVENESS:

Read: Colossians 3:12-15; Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus' church needs to be a radical place of forgiveness. We co-exist together because we have all come to understand that: *"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."* (Romans 3:23-24). The scripture we read from Matt 18 highlights how offensive it is to God when we hold a grudge against someone when he has so generously forgiven us so much more. However, it's pretty easy to hurt one another as we do life together – personalities and ideas differ and that leads to misunderstandings. God is asking us to pay attention to where these little hurts pop up and deal with them right away so that they don't turn into long standing pain or division. Ephesians 4:26 tell us to: *"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."* Unforgiveness gives Satan lots of fuel to work with in our lives and in the church, sometimes the damage from even small unforgivenesses can impact generations – that's why unity and love are the constant call in scripture.

“  
Forgiveness is unlocking  
the door to set someone free  
and realising you were the  
prisoner!”

Max Lucado

## REFLECT:

1. Close your eyes and ask Jesus if there is anything that you are struggling to forgive someone else in. It could have happened yesterday or 30 years ago.
2. If something comes to mind visualize yourself putting that hurt back into Jesus' hands. Ask him to remove the sting of hurt and speak out: "I release \_\_\_ from my debt. I forgive \_\_\_."
3. Sometimes it doesn't come easily. Perhaps we have to start by just praying: "God I don't really want to forgive...but I know I need to. I'm asking you to move my heart to forgiveness in a way I can't do on my own."



“THE BIBLE IS NOT THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, IT IS THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH. BUT THE WORLD DOES NOT READ THE BIBLE, THE WORLD READS CHRISTIANS! “YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”” CHARLES

SPURGEON

## LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

READ: John 1:1-5, John 8:12, Matt 5:14

Stumbling around in the darkness is dangerous and scary. The bible likens darkness to the state of the world stuck in sin. And then it tells us that Jesus descended into the midst of that darkness as light. He illuminated the truth about who God was, He lit a path back to God for those who follow him. He also calls us to reflect his light to a world that is often “blind” to his truth: *“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt 5:16)

## REFLECT:

1. How does my life reflect God’s light to the world around me?
2. How does our church work together to reflect God’s love to our neighbourhood.

## PRAY FOR:

1. Ask God how He would like to see you/us radiate his light to those who don’t yet know Him.
2. Your unbelieving friends and neighbours – that their eyes would be opened to truth.
3. Schools & Universities (pray by name for those in your neighbourhood) where the messages of the Kingdom of Darkness are understood as “truth”. Pray for students & teachers that they would encounter Jesus as the Light of the World.



## PREPARING THE PEOPLE OF GOD – ABIDING IN HIM

Read: John 15:1-11

“Jesus invites us to abide in his love. That means to dwell with all that I am in him. It is an invitation to a total belonging, to full intimacy, to an unlimited being-with. The light of the Spirit reveals to us that love conquers all fear.” **Henri Nouwen**

What happens if a branch disconnects – even for a day – from its vine? It withers and dies. The vine is the source of nourishment, the lifeblood of the branch. Jesus uses this image to describe what our relationship with Him looks like. There is a constant, abiding friendship. There can be no compartmentalizing of the parts of our lives that we devote to God and parts that we manage ourselves. Jesus would tell us anything we hold back from him will wither and die. But when we spend time with him then our lives will look like his. There will be purpose and productivity that brings life and advances the Kingdom of God. There is no freedom or personal wholeness without abiding. There is no mission effectiveness without

abiding. We rely on Jesus as our only source of life in every way.

### REFLECT:

1. Am I daily abiding in Christ or have I been disconnected lately?
2. Ask Jesus: Is there anything you need to prune in me? If something comes to mind, confess it and release it into his hands.  
(i.e. Lord, I confess that I have a habit of gossiping instead of turning problems over to you. Forgive me for causing hurt or division in this way. I place my friend and their situation in your hands and ask you to help and guide them.)
3. Commit to daily time with Jesus in listening prayer and reading the Word.

### MINISTRIES TO PRAY FOR:

1. Abide discipleship groups – pray that those participating will learn to hear God’s voice speaking to them



## SEEK HIM FIRST:

Read: Matthew 6:19-33; Revelation 3:14-22

One of the challenging things about following Jesus is that he doesn't really let us go "half in". He is not a side dish in the buffet of life. He demands complete surrender: ***"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it prosper a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself."*** (or "his soul" in some translations) (Luke 9:23-25). One of the challenges for the Church in the West is we've been so comfortable for so long that most of us have never had to sacrifice dearly to choose Jesus (perhaps like some of our brothers and sisters around the globe who could literally lose their lives/homes/etc. for making that choice. And yet, we have suffered by being lukewarm we just don't realize it. Jesus tells the church of Laodicea: "You say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked" (Rev 3:17). Jesus defines "rich" and "poor" differently than we do and we would be wise to align ourselves to his truth. There is a much greater treasure he has to offer us. The faith that calls us to die to self is rewarded by a deeper intimacy with Christ, and the ability to live the gospel out with power now.

The world

You ask us: "What will best honor the glory of God, what is most loving to my brother & sister, how can I surrender to your call to see the salvation of the world – and what will it cost me."

## REFLECT:

1. The world asks us: What will be best for me? Jesus invites us to ask: What will bring glory to God? What will be most loving to my brothers & sisters? What will best serve God's mission of salvation in the world?
2. If you were honest how often do you stop and ask God: "How would you like me to use the money you've provided me with?"
3. Can worry and faith co-exist? Ask God to convict you of any worry that He wants you to hand over to Him.

**PRAYER:** God, if we're honest living by faith is very hard. Our culture has told us that money – its' acquisition and the celebration of it is the marker for success in our lives. You invite us to open our hands and allow you to be our provider. You invite us to invest in the kingdom to come, not the kingdom of this world. Would you, personally and as a church, convict us of areas we need to move in more faith with our resources.

**"Our first and foremost duty is to seek the Lord until we open the path of communication from God to our own soul." Brigham Young**



“It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men.”

C. S. Lewis

## PRAISE & PRESENCE:

**READ:** Psalm 100; Psalm 111

These psalms remind us that being in the presence of God elicits celebration. What does it mean when the psalmist writes: “**enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise!**” (Psalm 100:4). He is literally talking about a shift of perspective as he nears the tabernacle where the presence of God dwells. Suddenly earthly cares start to fall away and he focuses on the goodness and wonder of the God of the universe. Some days this comes naturally and on other days praise and thanksgiving is an act of will. But when we start to reflect on God’s goodness – past, present, and future to us discouragement starts to fall away, the lies of the enemy are quieted and joy reigns. Do you want to experience the nearness of God in your life and in the life of our church? Let’s rehearse his deeds – thank him for who He is and what He’s done. Celebrate that our God is eternal (unlike many of the things that can lead our thoughts into worry and sadness).

## REFLECT:

1. Read Rev 4 – this is a picture of God’s glory in heaven. Right now angels are worshipping him. How does their worship compare to our worship? Ask God what he would like us to learn about praise from this example.
2. Can you list at least 20 things you are thankful for right now in our church?

## PRAYER:

Holy, God – you are so good to us! Help us as a people to keep our eyes fixed on you – to enter your courts with thanksgiving and joy. Stir up in us a deeper gratitude, and a greater recognition of your Glory.



## THE WORLD FOR GOD:

**READ:** Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Romans 10:13-15

The third international leader of the Salvation Army General Evangeline Booth wrote these words: “I see forsaken Children, I see the tears that fall, from women’s eyes once merry, now never laugh at all; I see the sins and sorrows of those who sit in darkness; I see in lands far distant, the hungry and oppressed. But Behold! On a Hill, Calvary! Calvary! The world for God! The world for God! I give my heart! I’ll do my part!”

When we are captured by the sacrificial love of God, we find freedom and hope, and we see the gift that it is to those around us.

## REFLECT:

1. Who has God divinely placed into your life so that you might introduce them to his love and grace?
2. Ask God how CHT can best live out its mission to see the world won for Christ?

## PRAYER:

God of all love and compassion. Open the eyes and our hearts to those that you love. Help us to see their need for you, and empower and equip us by your Spirit to be in your mission.

“May God break my heart so completely that the whole world falls in.” **Mother Teresa**





“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14