

YOUR KINGDOM COME

PRAYER GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Your Kingdom Come Prayer Guide

As we journey toward Easter together as a church our hope is that this prayer guide would help cultivate in each of us a heart that desires to see God's kingdom in Abilene more and more. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, His first instructions included honoring and praising God the Father - then asking Him to make His kingdom come and will be done on earth as in heaven. We have permission from Jesus himself to ask that God would transform the brokenness of earth making it consistent with what is true in Heaven! While we know that all things will not be made new until Jesus returns, God does desire to give us glimpses into His everlasting Kingdom by redeeming and restoring broken things in our lives, neighborhoods, and communities through His people, the Church! As we grow in our dependence on God and a desire for Him to continue to work, we know that he will continue to save the lost, free people from addictions, rescue broken marriages, and start new gospel communities. We know that areas of brokenness in our city will be met with a compassionate gospel presence!

Habakkuk 2:14 says,

For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

This text tells us there will be a day when the whole world will be saturated with the knowledge of the glory of God! Until that day the invitation for us is to participate in God's mission of seeing brokenness transformed through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Each week of this guide includes:

- Reflections
- Scripture Readings
- Questions to Consider
- A Prayer
- A Practice

You can spend time in the guide everyday or one day a week, but our hope is that you will engage with it and let the Lord speak into your life as we prayerfully consider what it looks like for God's kingdom to come in Abilene as it is in Heaven!

Week 1 | Me

Reflections

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."
- Augustine

"Discipleship is more about hungering and thirsting rather than knowing and believing."
- James K. A. Smith

"All corporate renewals begin with personal renewals. Personal renewals occur when women and men of God come to the end of themselves. Their discontent begins to solidify into a desire to live in a new way."
- Mark Sayers

Scripture Readings

- Psalm 51
- 1 John 1:5-9

Questions to Consider

What area of your life have you seen God most clearly at work in over the past year?

What are some areas of your life you are stuck or dissatisfied in and need God to work?

Are there any areas of unconfessed sin you need to bring to the Lord trusting that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us?

Prayer

Gracious Father,
You have made us for life with you but I confess I am often satisfied with far less than you offer. I often spend my days focused on me, missing out on life with you. Reveal to me the depths of my brokenness that I might live with a greater depth of dependence on the grace you supply. I long to see you work in my life, teaching me to walk with you, to enjoy you and to share your goodness with others. Begin a work in me that makes me a blessing to others.. Amen.

Practice

Consider turning your phone/computers/TVs off in the evening to create space to pray and consider how God might want to begin to work in you through these next few weeks. You can do this each night of the week, or even just one night. The point is to remove distraction so you can spend time listening to God and responding to His voice.

WEEK 2 | My Roof

"My Roof" refers to the home in which I live and the relationships within it. In this week we reflect on ways to love and care for the people God has placed within our homes during this season of life.

Reflections

Your father has covered your shortfall. In God's house you are covered by the roof of his grace.

- Max Lucado

Stego—I will always be your stego. Stego is shorthand for: I'll be your safe place. It's a Greek word that comes from that verse "Love bears all things..." Love stegos all things.

- Ann Voskamp

...open up my eyes in wonder and show me who you are and fill me with your heart and lead me in your love to those around me...

- Pat Barrett lyrics

Scripture Readings

- 1 Corinthians 13:7
- Romans 12:10

Questions to Consider:

How are you stewarding the relationships under your roof?

Do you regularly pray for the people you live with? Why or why not?

Do you really see and know the people that you live with? Do you know what encourages them and do you know how to love them well?

Thinking about 1 Corinthians 13:7, how can you become a safer place for the people under your roof? Are you so self-absorbed that you cannot detect the physical/emotional/spiritual needs of the people in your closest community?

Prayer

Father,

Help me see the needs of those closest to me and rush to meet them instead of often meeting them with complaints. Make me aware daily of your patience with me that I may have patience with others. Make me wise, forgiving, and welcoming - a safe place for those I share a home with. Thank you for covering my debts daily.

Practice

Begin and end each day thanking God for those you live with. Consider replacing personal shopping this week online, at Target, Amazon, or even thrift shops with prayer or time spent in relationships with those you live with.

Week 3 | My Regulars

"My Regulars" stands for the people whom God has sovereignly placed in the most regular spheres of my day-to-day life (my gym, my favorite coffee shop, my neighborhood, my kids' school, etc).

Reflections

Both sin and busyness have the exact same effect—they cut off your connection to God, to other people, and even to your own soul.

- John Mark Comer

To love someone means to see him as God intended him.

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 5:14-16
- 2 Timothy 1:7-9

Questions to Consider

Who would you identify as your "Regulars"? (see practice below to help answer)

How can I be more aware of the people God has placed near me in this season?

Why do you think God has put these people in your life?

Prayer

LORD of all,

I praise you because you are sovereign; nothing happens except through you and by your will. Though I am prone to forget, your sovereignty extends to the exact number of faces I come into contact with each day. I confess my deep lack of awareness for these faces because of a great many distractions that fight for my attention. Give me awareness of both these distractions and the people you are calling me into relationship with, I desire for you to produce in me a love for you that so deeply consumes my life that I am overcome by the longing to share you with my Regulars. Amen.

Practice for the Week

Process and pray through your current regulars by making a list of all the areas of your life in which you most often come into contact with people. It might be helpful to think chronologically through a regular week of your life (work, school, restaurants, neighborhood, etc). Then in each category, write out names of people you already know as well as descriptors of people you might not have connected with yet.

Every time you get in the car this week, consider giving up listening to music or talking with your family in the car in order to pray over the people and places that you just encountered. The point is to slow down and acknowledge who God has brought you into contact with that day and then to listen and respond to who he might be leading you to relate with further.

Week 4 | My Gospel Community

Reflections

God has created us for community, and Jesus has redeemed us for community. In doing so, he has made us into his very own body that is able to live, love and make known his 'good news' to our friends and neighbors.

- Robert Thune and Will Walker

A gospel-centered leader is characterized less by the exemplification of certain personality traits and more by being united to the Person of Jesus.

- Matt Chandler

Scripture Readings

- Romans 12:10
- 2 Corinthians 13:11
- Galatians 5:13
- Ephesians 4:32

Questions to Consider

What are some of the areas of weakness or brokenness in your GC?

How can you lead your group in praying for these things?

What areas of your leadership are rooted in prayer and listening to the Spirit's guidance? In what areas are you not?

Prayer

Perfect and Loving God,
I know and confess that you have created me for community, to love and serve you by loving and serving other believers. Would you show me where I have failed in loving the brothers and sisters in my Gospel Community and lead me to repentance? I confess that I am, of myself, inadequate to lead and change the hearts of the men and women you have placed in my life. Please give me guidance and discernment in the Spirit to help me lead in wisdom and in love.

Amen.

Practice

Set an alarm for a specific time every day this week that would remind you to spend time praying for (and perhaps with) a member of your GC.

Week 5 | My Church

Reflections

Jesus spoke His Church into existence. She is formed by the Word. When a local church lives as a local Creature of the Word, she is matured as she worships, lives in community, serves and multiplies.

- Matt Chandler

Scripture Readings

- Philippians 1:9-11
- Colossians 1:9-11
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Questions to Consider

What does it mean for a church to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him”?

In what ways do you believe The Well embodies this goal?

In what ways does The Well fall short?

Where do you see our church “bearing fruit”?

Where do we need to pray for a season of new growth?

Try to answer these questions with specific areas of ministry in mind. (If you need a reminder of some of our ministry areas, see the list under “Practices for the Week” below)

How do you see love “abounding” at The Well?

In what ways do you desire to see it “abound more and more”?

What do you think it means to love with “knowledge and all discernment?”

How could your GC lead the charge and model an abounding love for our church?

Prayers

Gracious Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of the Church. We know that you have called your bride, have given her purpose, and will sustain her work to your glory. Thank you for The Well. We have seen your faithfulness at every step, and we place our hope for the future in your steadfast hands. Help us to be a church that is worthy of your calling, that seeks the knowledge of your will, and all spiritual understanding. Convict us by your Spirit of the ways that we fall short and help us to abound in love as you have loved us. Draw close to us that we might find joy in your presence. Give us the grace to be faithful of your calling on us that the name of Jesus might be glorified in us and that we might delight in Him. By His name we pray. Amen.

Practices for the Week

Consider praying each day for a different area(s) of the church. Use the scripture from above to pray for specific fruit and flourishing in each of these areas. Here are a few areas of our church to start you off:

- Kids Ministry
- Student Ministry
- College Ministry
- Your GC
- All Gospel Communities
- Our Missionaries
- Sunday Morning Worship
- Preaching & Teaching
- Deacons & Elders

Week 6 | My City

Reflections

But if we allow our divisions to become breaches of love and occasions for pride and rivalry, then we will have failed in our calling, and our witness for Christ will be marred.

-Mark Ross

The goal of God's redemptive work is to restore his creation from the effects of sin upon it... The Kingdom banquet is ready to be enjoyed, but it does not begin just yet. More peoples must first be gathered at the banquet table so that they too may taste of the renewing power of the coming age.

- Craig Bartholomew & Michael Goheen

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 6:9-13
- Micah 6:8
- James 1:27

Questions to Consider

What are the broken areas of Abilene that grieve your heart or that you long to see transformed?

How are you willing to invest your time, resources, efforts, and prayers in that area?

How might you invite your GC into that?

Prayers

Our Father in Heaven,

In your perfect and gracious redemption, we know that we are welcome at your table and for this we thank you. We know that your Kingdom is coming and we confess that we are often working to build our own kingdom. Forgive us of this sin and, by your Spirit, unite us together with you for the work of your Kingdom. Show us the brokenness of the world around us and give us compassion for those who do not yet know you.

Practice

Consider your answer to question one. Take a walk or drive around that area and pray that God would bring his Kingdom to and restore that part of Abilene. You may want to invite some of your GC members to join you as a response to question three.

