



CHMC Stewardship Prayer Guide

A Pivotal Moment in God's Story

As Central Houston Methodist Church, we stand at a crucial moment. God has called us onto the ground floor of a beautiful startup - not just of a new congregation, but of a renewed Wesleyan witness in the heart of our city. The things that we put first, the priorities we set and the decisions we make in this season about how we steward our lives will echo through generations and shape the kingdom impact we'll have in Houston.

This prayer guide invites you into the foundational work of seeking first God's kingdom, recognizing that what we're building together isn't just for us - it's God's gift to our children and to a city that desperately needs to see His love in action.

Theme Verse: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* - Matthew 6:33

Daily Prayer Pattern

Begin each day with:

- Read the assigned Scripture passage
- Spend 2-3 minutes in quiet reflection on the day's theme
- Pray through the suggested prayer focuses and write down question, thoughts, revelations that come to mind
- Close by reciting the Lord's Prayer

Scripture Memory Verse for the Month: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* - Matthew 6:33

Week 1: "Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed Be Your Name"

Day 1 - Whose Name is Hallowed

Scripture: Matthew 6:8-9, 7:7-11, Isaiah 43:19

Reflection: God is doing something new through our church family. As we begin thinking about the future of our church and our role in the GMC in the loop, it would be easy to begin to think about our legacy. But if God's name is Hallowed, then it changes the focus of our gifts, our lives, and our talents. God has something beautiful in store for this church and for you as you live into this call.

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for the privilege of being part of a startup of God's fresh work here in the Kingdom of Heaven in Houston. You are witnesses of God's love, grace and call to scriptural holiness here in the city.
- Ask for wisdom to steward well the opportunities He's placed before us
- Pray for a deep sense of calling to the work God has begun in and through us

Stewardship Connection: *God has entrusted us with the sacred responsibility of establishing His witness in this place.*

Day 2 - Hallowing God's Name in the City

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, 6:9, Acts 1:8

Reflection: We are salt and light in Houston - called to preserve righteousness being uncorrupted by the world and illuminate truth corrupting the darkness of a hostile context that desperately needs both. Our stewardship of this calling will determine whether God's name is honored or dishonored through our witness.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to make our church a beacon of His love in Houston
- Pray that our collective stewardship would bring glory to God's name in our city
- Ask for courage to live out our orthodox Wesleyan values in a secular culture and to stand firm in the face of many trials.

Stewardship Connection: *How we steward our resources and relationships reflects God's character to our watching city.*

Day 3 - Secret Faithfulness, Communal Impact

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4, Micah 6:8

Reflection: The Wesleyan tradition has always emphasized that personal holiness leads to social holiness. This is not a social justice statement but means that our private faithfulness in stewardship creates communal impact in our community.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to make you faithful in private so you can have kingdom impact in public
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate God's love through quiet acts of service
- Ask God to multiply your faithfulness for the sake of those who don't yet know Him

Stewardship Connection: *Individual obedience in stewardship builds collective capacity for city-wide ministry.*

Week 2: "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done"

Day 1 (October 6) - Kingdom Pioneers

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12, 6:10, Hebrews 11:13-16

Reflection: Like Abraham, we're pioneers seeking a city whose architect and builder is God. The Beatitudes reveal what kingdom life looks like in our urban context - mercy for the hurting, peace-making in conflict, care for the poor in spirit.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to align our hearts with His heart for Houston
- Pray for vision to see our city through His eyes of compassion
- Ask for courage to be counter-cultural in our pursuit of kingdom values

Stewardship Connection: *We steward our lives according to kingdom priorities, not cultural expectations.*

Day 2 - God's Will for This Place

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21, 6:10, Jeremiah 29:7

Reflection: God has planted us in Houston for the city's good and His glory. Praying "your will be done" means surrendering our personal comfort to God's purposes for urban transformation and spiritual renewal.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to reveal His specific will for our church's role in Houston
- Pray for wisdom in stewarding our growing resources for maximum kingdom impact
- Ask for grace to trust God's timing and methods in building His church

Stewardship Connection: *Our stewardship decisions should reflect God's heart for the whole city, not just our congregation, not just our families, not just ourselves.*

Day 3 - Radical Love in Action (add something about Anger)

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-48, 6:10, John 13:35

Reflection: Jesus' command to love enemies and go the extra mile becomes our witness strategy. In a polarized city, our radical generosity and love will demonstrate that we belong to Jesus.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to reveal the barriers of Anger, Pride, Revenge, Lust, and Judgement from your eyes so that you can love with the heart of Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate generous love that can only be explained by the gospel, especially those who you feel persecuted by.
- Ask God to use our church's love to draw people to Himself

Stewardship Connection: *Generous love is our most powerful tool for urban ministry and church growth.*

Week 3: "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread"

Day 1 (October 13) - Provision for the Journey

Scripture: Matthew 6:11, 6:25-34, Exodus 16

Reflection: As a growing church, we're learning to trust God's provision daily. Like the Israelites gathering manna, we receive what we need for today while trusting God for personal and communal needs tomorrow.

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for His faithful provision in our church's early growth. Take a minute to write some down
- Ask for faith to trust Him with our expanding ministry needs
- Pray for wisdom to steward current resources while preparing for future opportunities

Stewardship Connection: *Faith-based stewardship demonstrates God's faithfulness to a watching city.*

Day 2 - From Scarcity to Abundance

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

Reflection: Ministry in the heart of the city requires moving from scarcity thinking to abundance thinking. God wants to show Houston His provision through our church's generous spirit and trust in His supply.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to transform any scarcity mindset into kingdom abundance thinking
- Pray for faith to give generously even while we're still establishing ourselves
- Ask God to demonstrate His abundance through our growing congregation

Stewardship Connection: *Our generous stewardship in the early years establishes a culture of trust and sacrifice trusting in His abundance*

Day 3 - Enough for Every Good Work

Scripture: Matthew 6:11, 5:6, 2 Corinthians 9:8

Reflection: God promises to make "all grace abound" so we can "abound in every good work." As a new and establishing church, we're positioning ourselves to be conduits of God's abounding grace to our city.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to multiply our resources for every good work He has prepared
- Pray for contentment with God's timing while maintaining vision for growth
- Ask for wisdom to balance current needs with future ministry opportunities

Stewardship Connection: *Faithful stewardship today creates capacity for greater ministry impact tomorrow.*

Week 4: "Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Forgive Our Debtors"

Day 1 (October 20) - Forgiveness as Foundation

Scripture: Matthew 6:12, 6:14-15, Colossians 3:12-13

Reflection: As we build community and greater fellowship here at CHMC, covenant love and forgiveness must be our foundation. The grace we've received from God creates the atmosphere where generous stewardship of time and talent flourishes. Unforgiveness leads to closing off from community instead of a heart bent toward giving and receiving.

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for the fresh start He's given us in his grace and forgiveness communally and individually
- Ask for grace to build our community on forgiveness rather than perfection
- Pray that our culture of love, grace, and accountability would attract people who need to experience the full spectrum of God's truth and love

Stewardship Connection: *A grace-centered community naturally becomes a life-giving and spiritually generous community. Because freely we have received, so we freely give.*

Day 2 - Heart Health for Community Health

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26, 6:12, 1 Peter 4:8-11

Reflection: The health of our young church depends on the heart health of each member. Bitterness, unforgiveness, and selfishness can stunt our growth, while grace and generosity of heart accelerate it.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to keep your heart tender and generous toward fellow church members
- Pray for wisdom to address conflicts quickly and gracefully
- Ask God to protect our church from the divisions that destroy community

Stewardship Connection: *Healthy hearts create healthy communities that can steward God's resources effectively.*

Day 3 - Building Bridges, Not Walls

Scripture: Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12, Ephesians 2:14

Reflection: In a diverse city like Houston, our church can be a place where barriers are broken down and partnerships are established. Our commitment to reconciliation to the righteousness of God across ethnic lines becomes part of our witness in the heart of the city.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to make our church a place of radical reconciliation
- Pray for wisdom to navigate cultural and generational differences with grace
- Ask God to use our unity to demonstrate His love to a divided city

Stewardship Connection: *United and outward facing communities can accomplish far more than divided ones in stewarding God's kingdom work. Division inherently forces you to focus on self, often at the expense of others.*

Week 5: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil"

Day 1 (October 27) - The Temptation to Compromise

Scripture: Matthew 6:13, 6:19-24, Daniel 3:16-18

Reflection: Growing churches face unique temptations - to compromise convictions for growth, to serve success rather than God, to lose focus on our primary calling. We must remain faithful to our orthodox Wesleyan identity in a way that engages the culture around us.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to protect our church from the temptation to compromise biblical truth
- Pray for leadership wisdom to grow while maintaining theological integrity
- Ask for strength to serve God rather than growth statistics or cultural approval

Stewardship Connection: *Faithful stewardship means staying true to our calling even when compromise might seem easier.*

Day 2 - Delivered

Scripture: Matthew 6:13, Ephesians 6:10-20

Reflection: Ministry requires an engagement with not just flesh and blood but the spiritual. The enemy wants to destroy our witness through fear, contentment, or discouragement. But God wants to deliver us and use us to push back darkness in our city.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for spiritual protection over our church family and leadership
- Ask God to deliver us from fears that would hinder our mission. Take some time to write these down
- Pray for divine strength to be a force for light in Houston's spiritual landscape

Stewardship Connection: *Courageous stewardship in spiritual warfare requires complete dependence on God's power and a willingness to engage his power in our daily lives.*

Day 3 - His Kingdom, Power, and Glory

Scripture: Matthew 6:13, 7:24-27, 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Reflection: Everything we're building belongs to God - the kingdom, power, and glory are His. This foundational truth keeps us humble as we grow more and more confident in His ultimate victory through our witness. When we begin looking at it as ours, we feel the need to protect. When it's His, we steward.

Prayer Focus:

- Acknowledge God's ownership of everything we're building together
- Commit to building our church on the foundation of God's Word and character
- Pray for perseverance to finish well the work God has begun through us

Stewardship Connection: *Building on God's foundation ensures our stewardship efforts will last for generations.*

Reflection Questions for Stewards of the Kingdom of Heaven

- How is God calling you to be a steward of His kingdom-work through our church?
- What fears about our church's future need to be surrendered to God's faithfulness?
- In what ways is God asking you to invest in this community for the sake of future generations?
- What ministry area needs the lampstand of your presence, time, and talents to help prop up the light of Christ? (Matthew 5:15-16)