

A 21-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Hillcrest Church seeking God's guidance for
our future.

INTRODUCTION

The Hillcrest congregation is at a significant crossroad. On November 9th those who are members of the congregation will be voting for one of two directions for us a church. One is to close and have the district launch a new congregation which would meet in this building. Two, is not to close and work toward revitalization. The Ministry Stewards Team believes that before making this decision it would be good to call our congregation to a season of increased prayer and fasting for God's direction.

This prayer guide is just one prong of our emphasis on prayer. We will also be having some special times for corporate worship and prayer as we seek God's direction for our congregation.

The QR code below is for a playlist of songs sung at HC. You might find listening through the day enhances prayer experience.



SUGGESTED SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

Days 1-8

Day 1 -- Monday, October 20

Celebrate the wisdom of God – verses for meditation

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NLT)

⁸ “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33–36 (NLT)

³³ Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! ³⁴ For who can know the LORD’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? ³⁵ And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? ³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

Colossians 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Colossians 2:2–3 (NLT)

² I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. ³ In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Prayer Prompts:

Praise God for his knowledge and wisdom.

Ask God to fill us with his knowledge and wisdom.

Ask for God’s grace to submit to his knowledge and wisdom.

What is God saying to me?

Day 2 – Tuesday, October 21

Celebrate our salvation through Christ – Verses for meditation

Ephesians 2:1–5 (NLT)

¹ Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

Titus 3:4–7 (NLT)

⁴ But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷ Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Prayer Prompts:

Praise God for what he has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Reflect on the transition in your life when you put your trust in Jesus.

Ask God for opportunities to share your story of new life through Jesus.

What is God saying to me?

Day 3 – Wednesday, October 22

Confession of sin – Verses for meditation

Psalm 51:1–10 (NLT)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. ⁵ For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

1 John 1:5–10 (NLT)

⁵ This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to reveal any disobedience to him in your life.

Clearly acknowledge any disobedient actions, words, or attitudes in your life.

Thank God for his forgiveness.

What is God saying to me?

Day 4 – Thursday, October 23

Surrender our life to God – Verses for meditation

John 14:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments.

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT)

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Prayer Prompts:

Pray God will show you the ways that he wants to transform your life.

Ask God to help you to more fully set your sights on the realities of heaven.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you need to more fully obey God.

What is God saying to me?

Day 5 – Friday, October 24

The filling of the Holy Spirit – Verses for meditation

Luke 24:49 (NLT)

⁴⁹ “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Ephesians 5:18–20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 11:9–13 (NLT)

⁹ “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Thank God for his presence in your life.

Listen for God’s guidance for areas in which you need to submit to the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

What is God saying to me?

Day 6 – Saturday, October 25

Focusing on Christ – Verses for mediation

Matthew 6:31–34 (NLT)

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. ³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

John 15:1–4 (NLT)

¹ “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

Colossians 3:1–4 (NLT)

¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to reveal the desires and distraction that keep you from obeying him in every area of your life.

Ask God to make Jesus your first love and primary obsession.

Ask God to show you changes that will help you focus on Jesus.

What is God saying to you?

Day 7 – Sunday, October 26

Focusing on the church – Verses for mediation

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NLT)

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

Prayer Prompts:

Pray that Hillcrest Church will be under the authority of Jesus.

Pray that there will be a practice of mutual care among the members of Hillcrest Church.

Pray that Hillcrest Church will reflect the character of Jesus.

What is God saying to me?

Day 8 – Monday, October 27

Focusing on the great commission – Verses for mediation

Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

Prayer Prompts:

Pray for the empowering of God’s Spirit for Hillcrest Church to make disciples.

Pray that we will have wisdom and guidance in way to share the good news with others.

Pray for a renewed passion for people over the world to hear the good news and become disciples of Jesus.

Pray about the decision to re-plant or continue as Hillcrest Church in relationship to our purpose of making disciples of Christ.

What is God saying to you?