

A 21-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Hillcrest Church seeking God's
guidance for our future.

INTRODUCTION

The Hillcrest congregation is at a significant crossroad. In this time of transition. The Ministry Stewards Team believes that 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

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?

Day 9 – Tuesday, October 28

Focusing on fasting – Verses for mediation

Joel 2:12–13 (NLT)

¹² That is why the LORD says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. ¹³ Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

Matthew 6:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ “And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get.

Acts 13:2–3 (NLT)

² One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” ³ So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to show you if you should fast during this season of prayer.

Ask God to show you how you should fast.

Option 1: Abstain from food for a meal, for one day a week, etc.

Option 2: Adopt a restricted diet for a period of time.

Option 3: Abstain from a specific activity to free up time for prayer.

If you are fasting, ask God to guard your heart from pride.

What is God saying to me?

Day 10 – Wednesday, October 29

Focusing on living in the Spirit – Verses for mediation

Joel 2:28 (NLT)

²⁸ “Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

John 14:15–17 (NLT)

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Romans 8:5–6 (NLT)

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

Galatians 5:22–25 (NLT)

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Ask God to make us sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that fruit (character) of the Holy Spirit would be clearly seen in our lives.

What is God saying to you?

Day 11 – Thursday, October 30

Focus on the love of God – Verses for mediation

Psalm 36:5–7 (NLT)

⁵ Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. ⁶ Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O LORD. ⁷ How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.

John 1:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Romans 5:5–8 (NLT)

⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. ⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Ephesians 3:17–19 (NLT)

¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for making known his love through Jesus Christ.

Thank God that he loved us while we were still sinners.

Ask God to allow you to grow in your experience of his love.

What is God saying to you?

Day 12 – Friday, October 31

Focus on sharing God's love with others – Verses for mediation

Matthew 5:44–47 (NLT)

⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

Matthew 22:37–40 (NLT)

³⁷ Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

John 13:34–35 (NLT)

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NLT)

¹² And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to show ways to love your neighbors and other people in your lives.

Pray for the people whom you have difficulty loving.

Ask God to make you aware of unloving thoughts and attitudes toward others.

Ask God to show you someone to whom you can show love today.

What is God saying to you?

Day 13 – Saturday, November 1

Reflect on developing humility towards others – verses for meditation

Matthew 7:1–5 (NLT)

¹ “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. ³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

1 Corinthians 13:4–5 (NLT)

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

Philippians 2:3–5 (NLT)

³ Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

James 3:13–18 (NLT)

¹³ If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to reveal attitudes of pride in your life.

Pray that God will give you the grace to put the desires of others before your own desires.

Ask God to show you one specific way that you could practice humility in a relationship?

What is God saying to you?

Day 14 – Sunday, November 2

Reflect on practicing forgiveness toward others – verses for meditation

Matthew 6:14–15 (NLT)

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21–22 (NLT)

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT)

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12–13 (NLT)

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to reveal any person toward whom you have bitter feelings.

Ask God for the grace to genuinely forgive those who have wronged you.

Reflect on whether there are individuals to whom you may need to acknowledge and address past wrongs. (Matthew 5:23–24 (NLT) ²³ “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.)

What is God saying to you?

Day 15– Monday, November 3

Reflect on what it means to trust God – Verses for meditation

Isaiah 40:25–31 (NLT)

²⁵ “To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?” asks the Holy One. ²⁶ Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing. ²⁷ O Jacob, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights? ²⁸ Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. ²⁹ He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. ³¹ But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Matthew 6:33–34 (NLT)

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.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT)

⁶ Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6–7 (NLT)

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for ways that he protected and provided for you in the past.

Ask God to reveal areas of fear and worry in your life.

Ask to help you to respond to fear and worry by focusing on his power and love.

What is God saying to you?

Day 16 – Tuesday, November 4

Reflect on God’s power in us – Verses for meditation

John 14:12 (NLT)

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Ephesians 1:19–22 (NLT)

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for guidance on how you can serve God's Kingdom by trusting in his strength.

What is God saying to you?

Day 17 – Wednesday, November 5

Reflect on spiritual warfare – verses for meditation

Luke 10:17–19 (NLT)

¹⁷ When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!” ¹⁸ “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NLT)

³ We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NLT)

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to make you sensitive to the deceptions of Satan.

Ask God to give you confidence in the authority we have in Christ.

Ask God to give you confidence to act against the spiritual forces of evil in our world.

What is God saying to you?

Day 18 – Thursday, November 6

Reflect on our call to prayer – Verses for meditation

Romans 8:26–27 (NLT)

²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Colossians 1:9–12 (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. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

Colossians 4:2 (NLT)

² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

James 5:13–16 (NLT)

¹³ Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴ Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to reveal ways that you could become more consistent in prayer.

Pray that Hillcrest Church will experience the power and love of the Holy Spirit in our ministry.

Pray that God will give us complete knowledge of his will, spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Pray that others will come to know Christ.

Pray for specific people.

What is God saying to you?

Day 19 – Friday, November 7

Reflect on the unity of the Church – verses for meditation

John 17:20–23 (NLT)

²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

Romans 15:5 (NLT)

⁵ May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (NLT)

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3–6 (NLT)

³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Prayer Prompts:

Pray for the mutual love and unity of Hillcrest Church.

Ask God if there are relational conflicts between you other members of the body that you need to resolve.

Ask God if there are ways that you could encourage or serve other members of Hillcrest Church.

What is God saying to you?

Day 20 – Saturday, November 8

Reflect on the faithfulness of God – verses for meditation

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT) ⁹ Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NLT)

²³ This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. ²⁴ But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!

Lamentations 3:23–26 (NLT) ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

Romans 8:28–29 (NLT) ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NLT) ²³ Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23–25 (NLT) ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Prayer Prompts:

Pray that we will thank God and proclaim his past faithfulness to others.

Ask God to cause us to trust fully in him rather than any person, program, or strategy.

Pray that Hillcrest church will be faithful to his call on our lives.

What is God saying to you?

Day 21 – Sunday, November 9

Celebrate the character of God – verses for reflection

Psalm 103:1–6 (NLT)

¹ Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. ² Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. ³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. ⁴ He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. ⁵ He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's! ⁶ The Lord gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.

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Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Revelation 5:9–14 (NLT)

⁹ And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. ¹² And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered— to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." ¹³ And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever." ¹⁴ And the four living beings said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

Prayer Prompts:

Spend time praising God for who He is and what He has done for us.