

## Day 1

Weekly Theme - Direction of Hope Fellowship

Theme - That we would be one

Scripture - John 17:20-26

As we start week 6 of the 100 Days of Prayer, we are at the first of three sessions when we will concentrate our prayer focus on the direction of Hope Congregational Christian Fellowship of Dorchester, Ontario.

Do you ever think of yourself as linked with the life of God--so much so that you cannot be known or understood apart from that life? What is the purpose of this unity? Twice our Lord tells us--once in verse 21: "so that the world may believe that you have sent me," and again in verse 23: "to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

The unity of believers should have an effect on outsiders to convince them of the mission of Christ. In reading the PDF article on the download page of the 100 Days of Prayer on the church website, you will find Pastor Frances Chan speaking about unifying churches during divisive times. Our duty is not critique them, but love them, for God is larger than the chaos of disagreements. Chan suggests that prayer helps us focus and he decided to pray the Lord's prayer many times each day, which allowed him to centre his mind of Christ.

## Themes To Pray Today

- Pray for a passion to have your life linked undeniably with the life of Jesus
- Pray for opportunities for non-Christians to see and ask about your life as it looks more and more like Christ
- Ask God for protection from division at Hope Fellowship and other God-fearing churches.
- Pray for a strengthening of unity among our community of faith

## Prayer For Us All

**Lord, You have made me one with believers in all places in all times. May that unity be reflected in all that I do. Thank you Jesus for the model of prayer from the gospel of Matthew, as we focus on what truly matters when we pray,** Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

## Heart Question

What unity do we at Hope Fellowship demonstrate so the world can see how Jesus holds the key to reality and is indeed the revelation of the invisible God? If we can't answer that, then we need to search God for an answer to this.

## Journal

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## Day 2

Direction of the church

Daily Theme - Part of the Body

Hebrews - 10:24-25

We are seeking God and His direction for our church and as you read the Scripture listed above, you see the early church was doing this as well. The author of Hebrews said, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." The writer is asking the people to continue to be a part of the Body of Christ and step up the care aspect of each within the church.

But there is also encouragement to stay engaged with the church family, to not make church an occasional thing or have it fall to the side of the schedule. Some were doing that then just like it happens now. Scripture challenges us to be part of the Body of Christ and there are benefits that we may forget about.

We can forget that consistent church involvement brings a needed awakening to our souls, as we sometimes find ourselves in the fog of life. We need the constant assurance that we are not alone in this hopeless world, engaging faithfully with a community of faith offers that. We need the challenge each week to advance in our sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) and corporate worship helps with that. We need a shared experience of singing and learning together, being reminded of the hope we have as a follower of Jesus.

**Themes to pray today**

- Pray for a renewal of enthusiasm of church attendance for yourself and our church family
- Pray for vision as to how you can bring a greater care element to your brothers and sisters in Christ
- Ask God for a vision of how to increase the care aspect towards our community

**A Prayer For Us All Today**

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me so much that while I was still dead in my trespasses and sins, Christ completed His finished work on the cross.. so that by grace through faith in Him, I might have forgiveness of sin and life everlasting. Thank You for those who taught me about the Lord Jesus and who demonstrated the love of Christ in their own lives - provoking me to love and good works in my own life. Help me to be so in tune with You that others may be provoked unto love and good works through my witness, as Christ lives in me and I in Him. AMEN.

**Heart Question**

- What are some ways that God has shown you on how to bring a greater aspect of care to our Hope Fellowship family?

**Journal**

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**Day 3**

Direction of our church

Daily Theme - Excitement of the Bride of Christ

*Scripture - Revelation 19:7*

Weddings tend to be a big deal, there is great preparation for the big day and much excitement. In Bible times, a wedding celebration may go on for up to a week (who is paying for that?). A wedding in those days would have the bride getting ready at her parents home and the groom would prepare at his parents home. The groom and his attendants would then travel to pick up the bride and her entourage and make their way back to his parents home for a ceremony and a party that would go on for days.

One thing to understand is that the groom would arrive at the time of his choosing, no one knew when that was, so the bride and her attendants needed to be ready. And ready she was; quite excited for the love, protection and provision of her bridegroom.

A beautiful parallel of an earthly marriage to the relationship of Jesus Christ (the bridegroom) and His bride (the Church). When Jesus arrives, will He find our church prepared? Will we be devoted to the teachings of Scripture, praying over kingdom matters, living out a pattern of care in fellowship, remembering and appreciating the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary?

What's your excitement level as a part of the Bride of Christ? Excitement and enthusiasm for Jesus can be contagious...are we there?

**Themes to pray today**

- Pray for personal excitement and appreciation of who Jesus is
- Ask God for a vision on how Hope Fellowship can demonstrate an excitement for Christ in our own services and to our community
- Pray you will be truly prepared for the arrival of the Bridegroom

**A prayer for us all**

Heavenly Father, thank You that I have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ by faith. Help me to carry out the work that You have prepared for me to do in Your strength and not in my own power. I pray that I may live a holy and sanctified life that honours You in thought word and deed, by giving up myself to Your service and doing only those things that are directed by You, for Your praise and glory. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

- How can a church show excitement for their Saviour and the hope of their salvation?

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## Day 4

Direction for Hope Fellowship

Daily theme - Having the Excitement of the Gospel Penetrate Hearts

Scripture - Ephesians 3:7-11

We don't always like the responsibility when something falls into our laps but the reality is that Jesus has left the work of His kingdom to us. That may sound intimidating and we may be looking around as to how to do that? How do we get this world to be excited about the hope they can have in Jesus? Thankfully, Jesus modelled how to live and Paul followed that pattern and was able to be faithful 'to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God (Ephesians. 3:8)

Jesus observed people and listened to people so intimately that it did not take long for him to discern what really mattered to someone. Once he spoke to their hearts, he often called them to something profound. Jesus would organize people to care for the needs of others. When we focus attention on caring for people's individual needs, we can mobilize and connect people for change.

Finally, he organized people by communicating a better and greater way of life that exceeded what they assumed they could ever attain.

The church today can learn a great deal from Jesus about deepening commitment to organize people for kingdom growth. When we commit to speaking to people's hearts, calling and equipping them to model the holistic life that the world yearns for, caring for people's needs, communicating to people something greater than themselves, the church will truly be the catalyst that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Themes to pray today**

- First, pray for your personal excitement of the gospel of Jesus
- Ask God to help identify community needs that the church could help meet
- Ask God to prepare the hearts of Hope to organize a missional movement
- Pray for the words to communicate the hope and assurance of a Christian

**A prayer for us today**

Heavenly Father, thank You that I am part of the Body of Christ and am living this period in the grace of God. Help me to live by faith and not by sight, and I pray that I may be I willing worker, a faithful servant, and obedient to Your Word. I pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit, I may finish the good work that You have prepared for me to do - as I wait for Christ's any day return to take us to be with Himself, in heaven. This I ask in Jesus' name. AMEN.

**Heart Question**

How can Hope Fellowship live the model of Jesus that is outlined in the second paragraph above?

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**Day 5**

Weekly Theme - Direction of the church

Today's Theme - Direction to focus on christ

Rev. 5:11-14

Do you remember taking your drivers examination? There were two parts to get the first stage of your license, the written part and the vision test. During the visual part, they wanted to ensure that you could see what is in front of you but they also tested your peripheral vision to determine if you could see a flash of light from the side, all-the-while you looked straight ahead. If you had poor peripheral vision, then it may be determined that you had tunnel vision.

Tunnel vision is when a person can only see items that are directly in their field of view. To endure such a physical condition can be frustrating and dangerous. But when it comes to our spiritual lives, tunnel vision is exactly what we need.

In reading Revelation 5:11-14, everyone listed has spiritual tunnel vision because the only thing worthy to be focused on is Jesus Christ. We get a flavour of what heaven will be like when we eternally are in awe of the glory of Jesus. The question to us today is how do we bring that same attitude to the Church on this side of heaven?

**Themes to pray today**

- Pray that personal distractions will not interfere with our focusing on Jesus
- Pray that personal preferences will not derail the mission of focusing on Jesus and building His kingdom
- Ask God for opportunities to experience a Revelation 5-like season for our church

**A prayer for us all**

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to come to earth as the sinless Son of Man - the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Thank You that He paid the price for my sin and the sin of the whole world, through the shedding of His lifeblood on Calvary's Cross. Thank You that He paid the price for my sin and endured the wrath that I deserve. Thank You that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth and that a day is coming when He will judge the world in righteousness, and that all enemies will one day be placed under His feet. I pray that my focus would daily be on Jesus and I pray for a vision on how our church can elevate the name of Jesus. Thank You in Jesus' precious name, AMEN.

**Heart Question**

How can Hope Fellowship increase its focus on the beauty fo Jesus Christ? In our services, our groups, our social gatherings and our community?

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**Day 6**

Praying for direction of the church

Being devoted as a church

Scripture - Acts 2.42

I am well aware that we spent much time last week in Acts 2, but let's revisit that verse again by looking at it through the lense of the church. 'And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.' Acts 2.42.

How can a church be devoted to these four areas?

- The teachings of the apostles (Scripture)
- Fellowship (care) with each other
- Celebration of the breaking of bread (Communion)
- Prayer

Today we want to pray for a vision as to how our church can prioritize and experience these aspects that the early church was devoted to.

Begin to ask the Lord for a vision on how we as a church can experience new ways to worship in these areas.

- Consider what other ways Scripture can be taught?
- How can a care ministry expand and flourish?
- How can communion be experienced in more meaningful ways?
- What are some avenues of prayer to pursue as a church?

**Themes to pray over today**

- Look above, the previous 4 lines...that's what we are praying over today.

**A prayer for us all**

Lord, show us today and in the days to come, how we can experience church life much like the early followers of Jesus did. Give us commitment and passion to worship you in these areas and stretch our faith. Grow us, we pray. May our changed hearts show to this world what a life with Jesus means. Give us vision and boldness to follow your Holy Spirit's leading. Amen.

**The Heart Question**

- Has God started to give vision of what Hope Fellowship worship can look like in the areas listed above in Acts 2:42? THEN WRITE THEM DOWN AND GET READY TO SHARE.

**Journal**

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## Day 7

Weekly Them - Praying for the direction of our church

Today's Theme - Prayer for Love of One Another

Scripture John 13.35

New...and improved! Over our lifetime we develop a loyalty to certain brands and occasionally that product is tinkered with and the NEW & IMPROVED label is slapped on it. We pick it up and toss it in the cart, smiling at how our experiences with that item are just going to get better.

In John 13:35, Jesus informs us of a new commandment, that we are to love one another. The command to love is not new, we see it given in Leviticus 19, but what is new is the way we are to love. Jesus just took the bar of 'love one another' to a whole new level, because now we are to 'love one another as Jesus has loved us.' That takes your breath away, doesn't it? After all, Jesus...died...for...me!

How can the Hope Fellowship community of faith love one another to that level? Now that is something to pray about. Let's seek the Lord as to how we can demonstrate this degree of love to other. Obviously, the first step is internal and may require a change of attitude and heart for each of us. But, we need to demonstrate it which requires taking the focus off ourselves and looking to meet needs. It's not easy but it is Biblical.

## Themes to pray today

- Ask God to reveal the selfish areas of your life (action, attitude, thoughts)
- Pray to recognize the needs of others before yourself
- Pray for motive of 'Serving others in Jesus' name' to be evident
- Pray that conversations of spiritual matters would be started because of loving others.

## A Prayer For Us All

O Lord, this new commandment truly sums up so many commandments in one simple sentence. In your infinite wisdom you have given us these words, which are exactly what we need. Our love for others, not to mention our love for you, is so imperfect and falls so short. Forgive us for not loving your followers as we should. Take away the judgmental attitudes, the pride, the propensity we have to always think well of our own motives, opinions and values while assuming that others much less often get these things right. Fill us with the love that you have for us so that we might express it to others. Help us to love others with a willingness to sacrifice ourselves for their benefit, even as you gave yourself for us. Amen

## Heart Question

What are some tangible ways that Hope Fellowship can demonstrate sacrificial love for one another, as modelled by Jesus?

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