

Day 1

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Jesus Cares About The Number Of Disciples

Scripture - Matthew 28:19-20

We often get hung up on numbers, and rightfully so, for numbers tell a story. Statistics Canada is all about numbers and that governmental organization tracks the numerical trends, passing those numbers onto decision-makers in education, health-care and infrastructure for our communities.

Jesus cares about numbers, although He didn't assign a value to it. In the familiar Scripture above, Jesus tells His followers to "Go and make disciples." Those four words give us great direction for the mission of a church, we are to evangelize and encourage growth for those who choose to follow Jesus. We can't just look to see people come to Jesus by saying a quick prayer but we have to walk them to looking more like Jesus each day.

Let's break down these four words.

Go - We have to show and tell our communities about Jesus

Make - The Greek word here means its ongoing (We don't stop after just one is made)

Disciples - The 's' at the end of a word makes it plural. Again, we don't stop at one...it's ongoing.

What does Jesus care about when it comes to numbers? He cares for the on-going process of His followers telling and growing others to be more like Him.

Themes to pray over

- Pray for a desire to care for souls as Jesus does
- Pray for that person you know, who needs Jesus in their life
- Ask God for clarity in how to help us at Hope Fellowship see His people grow

A prayer for us all

I pray, Lord, use me to reveal you to this world. My life is an instrument in your hands to reveal your glory. Use me to touch lives with your transformative love and power. I pray for Heaven to invade earth. I pray against any distraction or snare of the enemy that would steal from my life. I forgive those who have wronged me. I am free in the name of Jesus. I pray for you to fulfill your will and purposes in my life every day. Empower me to make a difference in the lives of others through my actions and prayers. I thank you, Lord, that I am a world changer with every person who crosses my path. Your will be done. Amen.

Heart Question

Are we burdened for our communities? Then let's pray over them and talk to them!

Journal

Day 2

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Before We Pray For The Future, Let's Celebrate The Past

Scripture - Colossians 1:3-13

As we look to the future of Hope Fellowship, let's first take a moment and briefly look at the past. In the late 1980's, some of us were increasingly troubled that our denomination seemed to be leading in a direction that opposed biblical teaching. The thought of a new church surfaced about 2 years prior to it actually being born.

During those bleak 2 years families, began to quietly leave and scatter in various directions to other denominations as they felt lead. Near the end of 1990 a few of us decided to have an information meeting at the Avon hall and we invited Rev. Wally Riegert (the leader of the Congregational Christian Churches of Canada at the time) to come and tell us all about that denomination. The turnout was fairly good but several were just there out of curiosity. The response was hardly encouraging. The Signpost's Crampton news reporter wrote that she felt it would all come to nothing – and humanly I thought she might be right!

However, what does one do when morale is a bit low? Of course the answer is clear – one prays and throws a party! In December of 1990 , we had party at which we enjoyed good fellowship and lots of singing praise. I think only God knows how, out of that, came plans for our first new church service to take place at Helen Stratton's home in Avon January 20th, 1991. At that service we had 13 adults and 9 children. I am still in awe at the way God worked to bring back together those families that had left our prior church.

We read in Colossians today of how Paul celebrated what God has done in the life of that church and that he prays for continued growth in the future of that church. Let's thank God for the past years of Hope Fellowship and let's pray for our future years, just as Paul prays for that church in Colossae.

Themes to pray over today

- Praise God for the stirring to be faithful to the Scriptures back in the 1990
- Thank God for His persevering of His church over these years
- Pray for protection and vision for His church in the Greater Dorchester Area

A Pray For Us All Today

Heavenly Father, thank You that I am no longer under Your wrath, but by faith have become Your child, and a member of Christ's body. Thank You that He died for my sin and rose again, breaking the power of sin and death in my life, and clothing me in His own righteousness. I pray that I may not be enticed by the things of this world that entrap the sons of disobedience, and pray that Your Holy Spirit would convict many lost souls today of their need of salvation, by faith in Christ. This I ask in His precious name, AMEN.

Journal

Day 3

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Praying For Putnam and Dorchester

Scripture - Jeremiah 29:4-9

As we pray for our communities this week, we are reminded in the passage above from the book of Jeremiah to pray for welfare of the places we live. In Jeremiah 29:7, the exiled people are encouraged to pray for the people who took them captive. How much more should we pray for our neighbours and leaders of our communities?

Today, we lift up Putnam and Dorchester, and for the rest of the week we will lift up other communities in our region. Our prayer themes will be quite similar and that's quite all right. Please lift up the people you know by name in certain positions; government, teaching, healthcare, community servants, whatever and whoever....WE JUST NEED TO PRAY FOR THEM AND THEIR SALVATION. Let's Do THIS!

Themes to Pray Today

- Pray for the people you know in these areas that need Jesus in their lives
- Pray for opportunities to share/live Christ to them
- Pray for the local leaders

A Prayer For Us All

Lord, our Redeemer, bring revival to Putnam and Dorchester. I first pray for spiritual revival, bringing repentance, restoration, and renewed focus on You. May that revival begin in my own heart and spirit right now. May You give wisdom to our local leaders in government, that they would make decisions that honour You and bless these people. May this be a region of light. Amen.

Journal

Day 4

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Praying For Ingersoll and Thamesford

Scripture - 2 Chronicles 7:11-18

Today we want to lift up the communities of Ingersoll and Thamesford. You can pray for these communities with the same themes as yesterday or venture down a different road. The Holy Spirit will lead you down that prayer path. Enjoy it.

One thing we need to pray for all people is from verse 14 of the passage listed above...that there would be a humbling in the heart and spirit of a person. Humility is a beautiful trait in a person and it's desperately needed for all to experience the great blessings of a Christian life.

Themes to Pray Today

- Pray for the people you know in these areas that need Jesus in their lives
- Pray for opportunities to share/live Christ to them
- Pray for the local leaders

A Prayer For Us All

Holy God, help us not to seek revenge or bear a grudge against our neighbours in these communities, but to love them as we love ourselves. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us and pray for those who have mistreated us, so You will forgive our offences against You. Soften our hearts, Lord, and theirs as well; to be moved by the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ. I pray for Ingersoll and Thamesford, that there would be a mighty movement for the Kingdom of God in these communities. Amen.

Journal

Day 5

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Praying For Thorndale and Mossley

Scripture - Psalm 85

Today we lift up Thorndale and Mossley and pray for blessing, peace and salvation to envelope them, just as David prayed that theme over Israel in Psalm 85.

Themes to Pray Today

- Pray for the people you know in these areas that need Jesus in their lives
- Pray for opportunities to share/live Christ to them
- Pray for the local leaders

A Prayer For Us All

Mighty One, may Your blessings rain down over these communities. May You bring peace and harmony. May You bring prosperity and hope where there is despair. May You bless our leaders with wisdom and insight where there is confusion and a lack of understanding. May You bless our hearts with Your love and peace and joy where there is hate and unease and grief. Amen.

Journal

Day 6

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Praying For Gladstone and Harrietsville

Scripture - 1 Timothy 2:1-6

As we lift up the region that Hope Fellowship is in, we today focus our prayers for the people of Gladstone and Harrietsville (2 little 4 corner hamlets that matter to Christ as well.)

Paul instructs us in the passage above to pray for the salvation of all, because desires the salvation of all. Let's press on.

Themes to Pray Today

- Pray for the people you know in these areas that need Jesus in their lives
- Pray for opportunities to share/live Christ to them
- Pray for the local leaders

A Prayer For Us All

Sovereign Lord, You have commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help me to do that in these communities. Help me understand the problems my fellow people are going through and find ways to help them in ways they need it most. Help me to love others no matter what their circumstance. Help me to receive their love as well. Help me not permit grievances to block giving or receiving love. Amen.

Journal

Day 7

Weekly Theme -Praying For Our Communities

Today's Idea - Praying For Crampton and Avon

Scripture - Ephesians 1:15-25

We finish up this week where the early days of Hope Fellowship begin, in Crampton and Avon. Let's pray over those communities, for the people there to know and experience the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Themes to Pray Today

- Pray for the people you know in these areas that need Jesus in their lives
- Pray for opportunities to share/live Christ to them
- Pray for the local leaders

A Prayer For Us All

Dear Lover of our souls, may I and those in Your church seek to centre our focus on You. I pray that You will bring those in Crampton and Avon who don't know You into Your fold. May we who do know You draw closer in holiness and oneness with You. May we strive to live the life You modelled when You walked this earth. May we reflect Your image. Purge anything from us that doesn't look like You. Amen.

Journal
