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ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

# Prayer Guide



## COMMITMENT SUNDAY • DAY 7

### God's Word

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

—2nd Corinthians 9:6-8

As we consider our gifts to God, let us also think about His gifts to us. He gave the ultimate gift, His life. He only asks us to give what we are capable of giving, and to give it joyfully. Let us put Him at the top of our priority list.

### Prayer Starter

*Lord, help us to be generous and cheerful givers. Help us make you our top priority, and let us spend our lives for you. Amen.*



## SATURDAY • DAY SIX

### God's Word

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's  
presence with singing.* —Psalm 100:1-2

As a young child, I remember how our Sunday School superintendent would come around and collect the offering from the children's classes. She would always say, "God loves to hear the coins "ching" for it makes the angels sing." According to her, we were making a joyful sound for the ears of God when we give. We've used this same scripture from Psalm 100 to encourage non-singers to join their voices in the offering of hymns in worship.

But a few coins and an off-key singer are not the only sounds that God enjoys. The sound of faithful effort and activity is the sound that is truly joyful in the ears of God. Whatever sound comes from your faithful Christian life becomes authentic worship and will make God smile.

### Prayer Starter

*O God, who hears our every sound, help make my life reverberate with faithful noise. Help me to make a joyful noise with my worship, my giving, my service, my life Amen.*



## INTRODUCTION

This year as our church attempts to move *Forward In Faith* through our annual stewardship campaign, our hope is to base our efforts on prayer not pressure.

The definition of stewardship is letting God's blessings flow through you so that you can bless God and others. Our sincere hope is that this Prayer Guide will be a great help to you as you discern what God would have you give to the *Forward In Faith* stewardship campaign. Through prayer, we hope you will hear God and respond to his divine leading about your stewardship commitment for the coming year.

Please consider reading one devotional each day for the seven days leading up to Commitment Sunday. May this prayer guide be a blessing to you.

May your heart be filled with insight into the loving nature and boundless grace of God.



*Forward in Faith*

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Note: Please begin your devotional time each day by praying the stewardship campaign prayer listed below.

*Loving and Gracious God,*

*I am grateful for the countless blessings that You have given to me. You have shown me so many times how the time and money that I offer to You and Your work are never missed yet always multiplied. You always return to me your goodness and abundance. Strengthen my faith that I may give sacrificially of my time, talents, and treasure to our church so that Your ministries may be sustained and expanded.*

*Thank You for my church where I find strength, comfort, peace, and grace. Help me to move Forward in Faith this year; help me to grow in love and generosity. Please let your blessings flow through me to bless others.*

*In Jesus name I pray,*

*Amen*



FRIDAY • DAY FIVE

God's Word

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...  
—John3:16*

As a parent, there is no greater love, and no greater gift, than that of a child. I can give no greater compliment or statement of trust than to say, “I trust you with my child.” To that end, God said to us, “I give you my child. Care for Him.” As keepers of a trust, it is our obligation and privilege to care for the living Christ, to be stewards of the faith. There is no greater responsibility. We live this out by caring for a child, taking care of the homeless, volunteering in the name Christ, supporting the mission of the Church, tending to the physical house of God, our place of worship, discipling others and helping them grow spiritually ... these all are ways of stewarding God’s trust in us.

Prayer Starter

*Giving Lord, bring to me and to our community of faith the wherewithal to tend to your Holy Name; in whichever means you deem adequate and appropriate. Amen.*



## THURSDAY • DAY FOUR

### God's Word

*Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty. —Malachi 3:8-12*

My intention is never to rob God or to ask Him to prove His word. But in reality, I know that I have done this unintentionally many times. I have not always brought all the tithes to Him. However, I noticed He did bless and even multiply what I offered to Him. Then it happened as I increased the amount I brought, the better I felt and the closer we became. The robbing part of this passage tends to get all the attention, and certainly we need to give generously. However, what is of even greater excitement to me is seeing the result of our giving in the following verses. The result of giving generously is God's promise to protect us and to use our generosity to bless the nations.

### Prayer Starter

*God, open the eyes and hearts of those who seek your will in all they do. Help us to see that giving back to you is the path to joy and increased intimacy with You. Thank you for your blessing and protection. Thank you for your power. Help us to give generously so it will bless the nations. Thank you, Lord.*



## MONDAY • DAY ONE

### God's Word

*“That all of them may be one, Father, Just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me and gave given them glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one...”*

—John 17:21-22

Jesus wants all believers to be united in love and grace. As Christians demonstrate God's love in concrete ways, people will be more convinced that Jesus was the ultimate expression of God's love. Through our faithful stewardship, we are able to play a role in spreading the love of Christ.

### Prayer Starter

*Dear God, may those around us see unity when they look at the Body of Christ. Help us to be generous with our gifts and resources so that the lost can be found. Amen*

TUESDAY • DAY TWO

God's Word

*“Honor the LORD with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops;  
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,  
and your vats will brim over with new wine.”*

—Proverbs 3:9-10

All we hope for belongs to God. Be sure you return to God a fair share, and you will be blessed. Notice that the assumption in the Proverb is that you have wealth. Then a command follows to give our first fruits to God. Giving should not be an afterthought or an “if I can afford it” proposition. When we honor God with what he’s first given to us, then we will have plenty to share with others. You will be an abundant blessing to others.

Prayer Starter

*Thank you, God, for all your goodness to me and your blessings on me. Help me to honor you with my wealth so that I will be a blessing to you, myself, my family, and others. Let your goodness and mercy overflow in my life.*

WEDNESDAY • DAY THREE

God's Word

*And God has placed in the church first of all apostles,  
second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then  
gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different  
kinds of tongues.*

—1 Corinthians 12:28

Christians need each other. There is no room for carnal rivalry in the body of Christ. We have all been given many gifts...expressions of God’s grace. As a result, we have been commissioned to take the gospel to the world, and there is work for all to do, guided by the God who gave us life and gifted us according to his will. We thank God for these gifts and for the many blessings he bestows. We thank God for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer Starter

*God, use us as an instrument through which the Holy Spirit can demonstrate your love. Thank you for all my brothers and sisters in Christ. Please help the church to put aside petty differences and focus on Jesus—the author and perfecter of our faith.*