

Prayer Guide

Coming Together for a
Week of Prayer

February 23 – March 1



MERCY HILL

“And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 20:4

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Welcome!

Thanks so much for taking part in Mercy Hill's Week of Prayer! The church is always called to be praying and seeking God together, but sometimes it is good to set aside special time to do so. That's what we are looking to do this week—Sunday (2/23) thru Sunday (3/1). Here are a few things to look forward to:

- We will have two special sermons delivered on either side of the week (2/23 and 3/1) to help our community see the importance of joining in this together.
- On the first Sunday of this week (2/23), we invite you to consider fasting from lunch or dinner and joining us in the afternoon after the Service for an extended time of prayer together (see the church calendar online at mercyhillchurch.org for more details).
- We will provide a *Prayer Guide* (you are looking at it right now!) to give you ideas of what to pray for as well as space to record your prayers and things God is putting on your heart.
- We will provide daily reminders coinciding with the *Prayer Guide* that will be posted to our Mercy Hill Community Facebook Group. Please do request to join if you haven't already so you can take part.
- We will be encouraging our Home Groups to give additional time during their weekly meetings to prayer.
- On the last Sunday of this week (3/1), we will linger over lunch together after the Service. During that time people can informally share with one another how their times in prayer during the week went and what they feel God may have put on their heart (see the church calendar online at mercyhillchurch.org for more details).

We really hope you will dive into this with us. We're excited to see what our God will do!

How to Use This Guide

The Mechanics

This *Prayer Guide* is organized by days of the week. We encourage you to make time in your schedules each day to wait on God and pray. You might consider even putting it in your calendar like an appointment. You wouldn't skip out on appointments with coworkers or friends. Let's commit to not skipping out on these "prayer appointments" with the Lord either!

You'll notice that each day in this guide consists of three elements: a Focus, a Meditation, and a list of Prayer Points. They can be understood as follows:

- **Focus:** This sets forth the area you'll be specifically focusing your prayers on for that day. As you will see, each day's Focus calls you to consider and pray through some aspect of Mercy Hill's Mission and Values.
- **Meditation:** This sets forth a text from Scripture to aid in your consideration of the day's Focus and provide fodder for your prayers.
- **Prayer Points:** This sets forth various items for you to consider praying through during your time with the Lord.

Each day also has space provided for journaling and reflection. Please do utilize this to record your prayers and make note of anything God is putting on your heart. Where appropriate, consider sharing with other Mercy Hill leaders, members, etc. We don't want to forget neither what we are asking of God nor how He has been answering!

The Flow

We have crafted this week with a view to the ongoing rhythm of *fasting* and *feasting* into which we Christians are called. We fast by faith, crying out to the God who alone can help. And then we feast by faith, assured that God has heard our cries and will indeed be merciful. So we'll begin the week with a corporate fast (2/23) and we'll end the week with a corporate feast (3/1).

The Schedule

Here is the week's schedule at a glance:

- Sunday (2/23): Launch Day!
- Monday: The Good News of Jesus Christ
- Tuesday: Restoring Us to God | Faith (Part 1)
- Wednesday: Restoring Us to God | Faith (Part 2)
- Thursday: Restoring Us to Neighbor | Community (Part 1)
- Friday: Restoring Us to Neighbor | Community (Part 2)
- Saturday: Restoring Us to City | Mission (Part 1)
- Sunday (3/1): Restoring Us to City | Mission (Part 2)

Our Mission and Values

At Mercy Hill we speak often of our Mission and Values. We believe these are the things God wants us to be about as a church. Because this *Prayer Guide* uses our Mission and Values as a way of directing our prayers throughout the week, we thought it would be good to briefly remind you of them once more here at the week's outset.

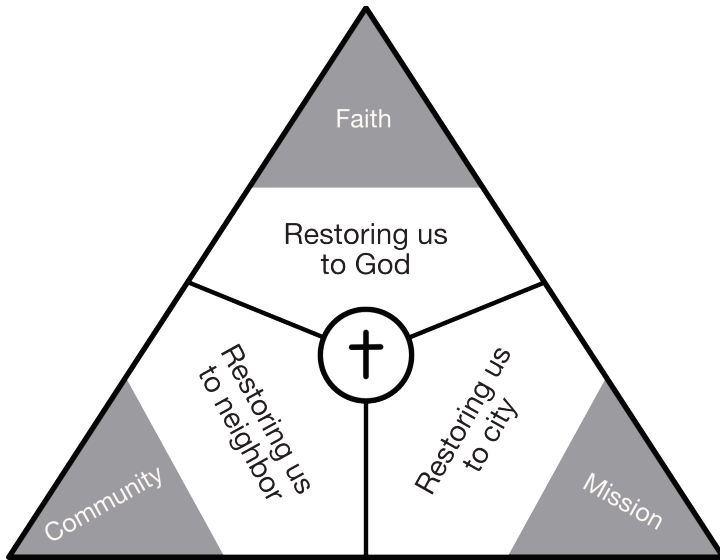
- **Our Mission:** Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **Our Values:** (1) Faith; (2) Community; and (3) Mission.

Our Mission locates the gospel as the centerpiece of everything and from there propels the church in three directions: *upward* (to God), *inward* (to neighbor), and *outward* (to city). We are restored in relationship with our Creator, restored in our relationship with other people, and restored in our sense of purpose and joy in the place God has put us.

Our three Values really serve to put a finer point on the three directions identified in our mission statement. In every case, they answer the question: *How?*

- How is a person restored upward to God through the good news of Jesus Christ? Answer: By *Faith* that is fixed upon that good news.
- How is a person restored inward to neighbor through the good news of Jesus Christ? Answer: By *Community* that is centered around that good news.
- How is a person restored outward to city through the good news of Jesus Christ? Answer: By *Mission* that is mobilized by that good news.

What follows is a diagram to help you visualize these things:



This is what we want to be about as a church. Therefore, this is what we want to pray about as a church. May God help us fulfill this Mission and live out these Values!

An Opening Plea

Before you begin, let us first say: Beware! Ours is an ADD generation. No longer can we say that Attention Deficit Disorder is merely a diagnosis concerning particular individuals. In one sense at least, it is now a characteristic that has come to mark our culture as a whole. As modern people in this modern world, we have lost the ability to wait, to focus, to stop, to sit. And such a thing is the death of true prayer.

We find ourselves unwilling to do that which we must do—what the Puritans and old pastors like Jack Miller often spoke of—namely, to *“pray until we pray.”* What is meant by these words is simply this: when we attempt to get alone with God in prayer, whatever else we are doing at the beginning, it isn’t yet prayer. Our minds are either distracted or else blank, either racing with anxieties or else slow and thick as mud. In either case we are not yet centered on the Lord and truly engaging Him from our hearts.

Such a thing takes patience and resilience. But, sadly, too often we flitter around in our “prayers” for a few minutes and then quit. And we walk away

wondering why prayer always feels so unfulfilling and God always feels so distant. We are like men who've heard rumors of gold in the hills but after digging around for a bit in the topsoil they conclude there's nothing to be found in them after all.

Brothers and sisters, let us assure you: there is gold in the hills! It just requires more than a passing effort to unearth it. We must resolve not to leave our times with God until we can say we have truly met with Him, until we have encountered something more of His presence and glory, until we are confident that we have been heard by Him and, more importantly, that we have heard from Him . . . until we have uncovered gold! We must learn to dig until we find, to pray until we pray, to push back on this ADD generation and make space in our busy schedules and cluttered hearts to meet with the God of all generations. We must truly have a prayer *life*!

May God be gracious to grant such a thing to you even this very week!

Okay, enough already . . . *let's pray!*

Sunday (2/23)

FASTING IN FAITH

Focus: Launch Day!

On this first day of our Week of Prayer, we invite you to consider fasting from lunch or dinner and joining us in the afternoon after the Service for an extended time of prayer together (see the church calendar online at mercyhillchurch.org for more details).

Before coming together, we recommend that you briefly flip through this guide and get acquainted with all the various ways you can be praying for our church. We anticipate this opening meeting will be a mash-up of all these items and more as the Lord leads!

Meditation: Psalm 27:8

"You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, Lord, do I seek.'"

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- Ask God to prepare your heart for this week and beg that He might be pleased to meet with us and do more than we can even think to ask or imagine (Eph 3:20).
- Consider your plan for engaging this Week of Prayer. When will you pray? Where will you pray? For how long will you pray? Will you ask another Mercy Hill member—perhaps from your Home Group or DNA Group—to pray along with you?¹
- Here at the outset of the week, consider what has already been on your heart for our church. What have you already been praying for? Ask God to give you His desires and burdens for Mercy Hill. Surrender yourself to Him.

¹ If you'd like help finding a "prayer partner," please reach out to us at info@mercyhill-church.org.

Monday

Focus: The Good News of Jesus Christ

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city, *through the good news of Jesus Christ*.

As we fully dive into this week of prayer together, let's begin with a focus on the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ! Too often we come into prayer with our laundry list of demands instead of our adoration and gratitude. His grace is all around us. Can you see it? God is and has been on the move for good. Let's identify what He's already been up to and give thanks for that before we start asking Him for more!

Meditation: Colossians 4:2

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- Spend time praising God for the glory of His grace (Eph 1:6). Consider the cross and the cost of your redemption. Recount how He has saved you and brought you to Himself.
- Thank God for the privilege of prayer. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. Jesus gave His life so that we could draw near. We are washed. We are clean. We are welcome in His presence. We are His kids and He is our Father. Hallelujah, what a Savior!
- Think about the past months and year. What has God done for you personally? What have you seen God do at Mercy Hill? Give Him thanks for these things. Record them in your journal as a memorial to His faithfulness (Josh 4:1-7). Tell someone else about them as a testimony to His glory (Ps 22:22; Acts 21:19-20a).

Tuesday

Focus: Restoring Us to God | Faith (Part 1)

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to *God*. We believe this happens when a person's *Faith* is fixed upon the good news of Jesus Christ. This aspect of our Mission and Values directs our energies as a church upward. Today, let's pray through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves *personally*.

Meditation: Psalm 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- How are you doing with God? How has your faith been lately? Where have you been strong? Where have you been weak? Where have you seen growth? Where have you been struggling? Ask God to take you deeper in your relationship with Him.
- Jesus says: "Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit" (John 15:5). Have you been abiding lately? Prayerfully consider what it might look like to pursue more of this in the months and year ahead. Do you spend time with the Lord daily in His Word and in prayer? If so, what ways might God be calling you to grow further in it? If not, how can you start? What needs to change in your schedule and routines to make space for meeting with God and abiding in Jesus?
- Sometimes people ask God to give them a Scripture verse for the year. You might consider doing the same. What verse is on your heart? What verse do you hope comes to fly like a banner over the months and year ahead?
- With regard to this day's Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!

Wednesday

Focus: Restoring Us to God | Faith (Part 2)

Yesterday, we prayed through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves personally. Today, let's pray with concern for our church *corporately*. Think of the ministries and members of Mercy Hill in particular.

Meditation: Acts 2:42

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- **Sunday Service:** Pray that God would meet us and be glorified; that there would be an "atmosphere of anticipation" as we gather together each week.
- **Preaching & Teaching:** Pray that God would anoint our preachers and teachers of His Word; that the gospel would be kept central; that people's eyes, ears, and hearts would be opened; that sinners would be saved and saints strengthened; that God would raise up more who are skilled in the handling of His Word.
- **Musical Worship:** Pray that God would equip, unite, and build out our Worship Team; that our community would authentically and happily participate in making a joyful noise to the Lord (Ps 100:1); that our worship wouldn't just be in way of music but in way of life (Rom 12:1).
- **Prayer:** Pray that Mercy Hill truly would be a "house of prayer" (Isa 56:7; Luke 19:46); that we would learn the secret of unceasing prayer (1 Thess 5:17); that our prayer meetings would grow in fervor and in number; that God's Spirit would fall, fill, and fuel for the furtherance of His kingdom in this city and world (Acts 4:31)!
- With regard to this day's Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!
- Consider other churches in our city. Pray for them along these lines as well.

Thursday

Focus: Restoring Us to Neighbor | Community (Part 1)

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to *neighbor*. We believe this happens when a person is brought into a *Community* that is centered around the good news of Jesus Christ. This aspect of our Mission and Values directs our energies as a church inward. Today, let's pray through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves *personally*.

Meditation: Ephesians 2:17-19

"And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- How are you doing with others in the church? How has your community been lately? Pray through your relationships with your spouse, kids, Home Group, friends, etc. Is the gospel at the center? Where have things been strong? Where have things been weak? Where have you seen growth? Where have you been struggling? Ask God to take you deeper in your relationship with others.
- Read Matthew 5:23-24. Here Jesus speaks of the importance of reconciling and being at peace with others. Insofar as it depends upon you, are you at peace with others (Rom 12:18)? Pray through your relationships once more. How can you go out of your way to show the love of Christ to these in your life?
- Paul says that, in the church, you should "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you" (Rom 15:7). Are there people you are avoiding or keeping at a distance? Are there estranged brothers or sisters that you should be inviting in? Ask God to open your eyes and your heart to them!
- With regard to this day's Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!

Friday

Focus: Restoring Us to Neighbor | Community (Part 2)

Yesterday, we prayed through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves personally. Today, let's pray with concern for our church *corporately*. Think of the ministries and members of Mercy Hill in particular.

Meditation: Ephesians 6:18

"[Pray] at all times in the Spirit. . . . [K]eep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- **Leaders:** Pray that God would guide, unite, and protect our Elders and Deacons; that He would be with our current Elder Candidates (John Lugo, Tolu Odulesi) and confirm their call to the office.
- **Members:** Pray for any church members that God lays on your heart; that those hurting would find comfort; that those in sin would be brought to repentance; that those on the sidelines would be brought further in; that those not yet serving would use their gifts; that those moving would find a new church home; that marriages and families would be healthy; that friendships would be formed; that the church would maintain heart in spite of saying goodbye so often here in Silicon Valley, etc.
- **Home Groups:** Pray for their health in areas of Faith, Community, and Mission; that the leaders would have vision and passion for the work; that every member of our church would find themselves plugged into one and doing life together; that the neighborhoods in which these groups meet would be reached for Christ!
- **DNA Groups:** Pray that God would raise up more; that our church would be full of disciples of Christ busy making disciples of Christ.
- **Mercy Hill Kids:** Pray that God would continue to bless and expand this ministry; that He would reach our kids with the gospel; that more volunteers would be raised up for the sustaining of this critical work.

- **Mercy Hill Youth:** Pray that God would help us be faithful to these students at such an important stage in their life; that they would be reached and raised up for Christ; that God would lead us to and bring in more families with youth.
- **Mercy Hill Men & Women:** Pray that God would continue to bless and build out these ministries; that the leadership teams would be united and have a clear sense of God's guidance; that the men and women of Mercy Hill would be built up in the gospel.
- With regard to this day's Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!
- Consider other churches in our city. Pray for them along these lines as well.

Saturday

Focus: Restoring Us to City | Mission (Part 1)

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to *city*. We believe this happens when a person's *Mission* is mobilized by the good news of Jesus Christ. This aspect of our Mission and Values directs our energies as a church outward. Today, let's pray through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves *personally*.

Meditation: Jeremiah 29:7

"[S]eek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- In Jesus, God calls and equips us to be on mission for Him in the place that He's put us (our "city"). There's a reason we are here. Pray through why God has you in the Bay Area. Have you been living on His mission or your own? What might God be calling you to change so that in the coming months and year you can live more for Him?
- In Romans 9:2 Paul says that, when he considers those who don't know Christ, he has "great sorrow and unceasing anguish in [his] heart." Do you feel this way as well? Have you ever felt this way? Pray through these things. Ask God to burden your heart for those that don't know Him. Begin to pray for the unbelieving in your family, neighborhood, workplace, networks, city, and world.
- Sometimes people ask God to put one person on their heart whom they might especially pray for and reach out to this year. You might consider doing the same. Jesus leaves the 99 to go after the one (Luke 15:4). Ask God: Who is my *one*?!
- Part of living on mission for God in this city also means using your gifts in service of His church. Ask God to show you what gifts He has given you and how He may be calling you to serve at Mercy Hill.
- With regard to this day's Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!

Note: If your Sunday mornings are busy, you might consider moving on into tomorrow’s agenda as well either now or at some point later today.

Sunday (3/1)

FEASTING IN FAITH

Focus: Restoring Us to City | Mission (Part 2)

Yesterday, we prayed through this aspect of our Mission and Values with concern for ourselves personally. Today, let's pray with concern for our church corporately. Think of the ministries and members of Mercy Hill in particular.

Meditation: Romans 10:1

"[M]y heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."

Prayer Points: See Below

- Pray through the meditation text above. Consider reading it in context. Turn it over in your mind and heart. What is God speaking to you through it? Let it inform and influence your prayers this day.
- **Vocations:** Pray for our members in their various callings; that God would equip and encourage us as faithful mothers, fathers, employees, bosses, students, etc.; that we would see God at work in and through our own work.
- **Evangelism & Missions:** Pray that God would move our church outward in compassion for the city and world; that we would minister the gospel in word and in deed; that we would have boldness to speak the truth in love; that we would fear God more than people; that we would see conversions and baptisms—people coming into saving relationships with Jesus; that God would pour out His Holy Spirit and bring revival in this place.
- **Ministry Partnerships:** Pray for our various partnerships around this city and world (e.g. Acts 29, Kids Club, Foster the Bay, Teen Challenge, RealOptions, The Sihora Clinic, Wycliff Bible Translators, Arms of Love, etc.²); that our partnerships would grow stronger; that more would develop.
- **Volunteers:** Pray that God would raise up volunteers to use their gifts and serve at Mercy Hill (current needs: Setup Crew, Multimedia Crew, Mercy Hill Kids Teachers/Helpers, and Kids Club).

² You can find more information about these ministries online at mercyhillchurch.org under the Mission tab.

- **Finances:** God has graciously provided us with abundant finances. Pray that we steward it wisely for the good of His people and the furtherance of His kingdom.
- With regard to this day’s Focus, what three prayer requests might you follow and monitor this year? Write them down. Pray for them often. Watch what God will do!
- Consider other churches in our city. Pray for them along these lines as well.

Thank You!

Thanks so much for taking the time to pray along with us this week! We encourage you to take what God has been laying on your heart and to share it with the leaders and other members of Mercy Hill as you feel led. Remember, on March 1st, after the Service, we will be lingering over lunch together as a way of providing space for you to do just this (see the church calendar online at mercyhillchurch.org for more details). We look forward to hearing from you!

“Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 20:27-28