

PRAYER FOCUS NOVEMBER 2020

As we wrap up our month of prayer and fasting for the ETC property and for staff/elders, this prayer guide will have more of a focus on listening to the Lord and asking questions of Him. I would encourage you to find a quiet space for your prayer time today, being willing to wait upon the Lord, to listen, and have a pen and journal handy to jot down any impressions you think the Lord may be giving you/us as we seek to discern His leading together. Waiting and being still before God can feel like wasting time, but it is one of the greatest applications of our faith. It shows we are placing our hope in Him, our entire confidence is in Him, and we wait because he is God and we are not.

Would we please email shelley@southside.ca at the end of your time of prayer. It is time for sharing feedback. We need to hear from the church. Some suggestions are:

- I think I heard the Lord say _____ about properties/staff/elders
- I think I heard the Lord prompt us with scriptures or pictures or words like...
- The fasting stuff is hard. I need help.
- I had trouble hearing the Lord when I prayed... how can I grow in this...?

A. Isaiah 48:17 (NIV) (2 mins)

"This is what the Lord says - your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you,
Who directs you in the way you should go."

Isaiah 48:17 (The Message)

"I am God, your God, who teaches you how to live right and well. I show you what to do, where to go."

***pause and spend a moment worshipping the Lord out of these verses.**

As we near the end of this month of discernment regarding the property next to ETC and for new staff/elders, we must cultivate a listening posture, times of silence and waiting in His presence, in order to discern what the Lord is saying to us.

B. In Gethsemane Jesus cried out to His Father, "Not my will but yours be done." (3 mins)

i)-spend a moment asking the Lord to make you “indifferent” to your own desires and agendas when it comes to praying for the focuses of the month.
Are you already attached to an outcome you think is best, thereby making it harder to hear God’s voice? Release these to the Lord.

ii)- What assumptions, lenses, tensions are clouding your openness to God's leading in this time of discernment?

iii)- Ask the Lord to give you a desire for His will alone.

C. PROPERTY: (3 mins)

Enter into a time of listening to the Lord as to how He wants us to proceed or not with the property next to the Edmonds Campus:

Spend one minute in silence before the Lord before you talk to Him or ask Him a question...

- i) Is there a passage of Scripture, a Word, a picture that the Lord has or is impressing upon your heart as you pray for guidance ?
- ii) Is there a sense of peace or hesitancy as you pray toward this end ?

D. ELDERS: (1 min)

- i) Are there any names of people within Southside who you sense should be nominated for the role of elder?

Take one minute of silence just listening to the Lord and any names he might lay on your heart.

E. STAFF: (2 mins)

Ask these questions of the Lord and listen for His voice..

- i) Are we to continue down the road with the Duffields? What does that look like?
- ii) Is there a word, picture or Scripture that comes to mind as you pray ?
- iii) Is there something different you sense the Lord may be asking us to do in seeking a new staff member ? (Do we just Wait? Pursue a different route?)

F. PROVERBS 3:5-6 (4 mins)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."

* Thank the Lord that He has heard our prayers and longings, and that He leads and guides.

- * Thank the Lord that He has never failed us.
- * Pray that we would trust Him with these decisions that are before us
- * Pray that we would be unified as a Body with the decisions that are made
- * Pray that we would have an anticipation of God's voice to break through in both usual and unusual ways.

****Don't forget to email shelley@southside.ca with some thoughts or reflections. Some suggestions are at the top of this guide.