

Hope Hill Church Prayers for Lent

Week 5: God's Compassion

Sunday

Call to Prayer

God's desire is for all of humanity to have an intimate relationship with Him. We are able to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We engage in a relationship with God through studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love, truth and compassion, which are found in Christ Jesus.

Spend a few moments in prayer and silence preparing your heart to receive from the Holy Spirit.

Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 86:15-17 (NLT)

But you, O Lord,

are a God of compassion and mercy,
slow to get angry
and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

Look down and have mercy on me.

Give your strength to your servant;
save me, the son of your servant.

Send me a sign of your favor.

Then those who hate me will be put to shame,
for you, O Lord, help and comfort me.

Micah 7:18-20 (NLT)

Where is another God like you,

who pardons the guilt of the remnant,
overlooking the sins of his special people?

You will not stay angry with your people forever,
because you delight in showing unfailing love.

Once again you will have compassion on us.

You will trample our sins under your feet
and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love

as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago.

Time of Reflection

Thank God for his compassion and mercy, that he pardons our guilt and overlooks our sins.

Reflect on your actions over the past few days. Have you been slow to get angry? Filled with unfailing love? Filled with faith? Praise God for how he is working in your life and ask that the Holy Spirit help in the areas that you are weak.

Missional Moment

God has brought people your way throughout this Lenten season. Pray a prayer of blessing on them. Pray that God's love and mercy would be poured out on them. Pray that you would have eyes that are aware to God's nudge this coming week.

Community Prayer

Pray that we learn to forgive others, especially neighbors in our community who we may have had issues with in the past. Give us the humility to let go of past differences and embrace love for our neighbors.

Monday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 103:6-13 (NLT)

The Lord gives righteousness

and justice to all who are treated unfairly.

He revealed his character to Moses

and his deeds to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

He will not constantly accuse us,

nor remain angry forever.

He does not punish us for all our sins;

he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

For his unfailing love toward those who fear him

is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

He has removed our sins as far from us

as the east is from the west.

The Lord is like a father to his children,

tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)

The Lord must wait for you to come to him

so he can show you his love and compassion.

For the Lord is a faithful God.

Blessed are those who wait for his help.

Time of Reflection

Spend a few moments in silence to rest in God's presence. Let this time be where you find your confidence and strength.

Meet God in prayer for the needs and desires of your heart, so that he can show you his love and compassion.

Missional Moment

What can you or your family do without? Give away any extra "baggage" you have in your house, but don't give away your crumbs. Allow your gift to be valuable to someone in need.

Community Prayer

Pray for a family in your community that is going through a difficult season. Ask God to show you a creative way to surprise them with a special blessing.

Tuesday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 77:4-9 (NLT)

You don't let me sleep.

I am too distressed even to pray!

I think of the good old days,

long since ended,

when my nights were filled with joyful songs.

I search my soul and ponder the difference now.

Has the Lord rejected me forever?

Will he never again be kind to me?

Is his unfailing love gone forever?

Have his promises permanently failed?

Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he slammed the door on his compassion?

Matthew 20:29-34 (NLT)

As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind. Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

"Be quiet!" the crowd yelled at them.

But they only shouted louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord," they said, "we want to see!" Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed him.

Time of Reflection

Spend some time worshiping God. Let your prayer and silence be a joyful song.

Have you ever felt like God slammed the door shut on his compassion? Why do you think you felt this way? Do you feel this way right now? If so, talk to God about it.

Pray that the Lord Jesus Christ would have mercy on you. Let this be your prayer throughout the whole day.

Missional Moment

As you go throughout your day don't be blind to the needs around you. Who needs mercy?

Community Prayer

Pray for those in our community who are dealing with chronic illnesses and diseases. Pray that God would bring healing and comfort and fill their hearts with peace and joy.

Wednesday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 135:13-18 (NLT)

Your name, O Lord, endures forever;

your fame, O Lord, is known to every generation.

For the Lord will give justice to his people

and have compassion on his servants.

The idols of the nations are merely things of silver and gold,

shaped by human hands.

They have mouths but cannot speak,

and eyes but cannot see.

They have ears but cannot hear,

and noses but cannot smell.

And those who make idols are just like them,

as are all who trust in them.

Luke 15:11-20 (NLT)

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."'

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

Time of Reflection

Praise God for the times that he has ran to you with love and compassion to embrace you.

Take a few moments to reflect on the times that people have wronged you or the people in your life who you have anger or resentment toward. What is stopping you from embracing them and forgiving them with God's love and compassion?

Missional Moment

Do you own a book that has really inspired you? Write a note to a neighbor or someone you have really appreciated and share the book with that person.

Community Prayer

Help us to remember all those who have inspired us. Lord give us the courage to step out and encourage others and to be intentional about speaking into their lives.

Thursday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 145:4-9 (NLT)

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;

let them proclaim your power.

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor

and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;

I will proclaim your greatness.

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;

they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

The Lord is merciful and compassionate,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

The Lord is good to everyone.

He showers compassion on all his creation.

James 5:10-12 (NLT)

For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

Time of Reflection

In silence, spend some time meditating on God's majesty and wonderful miracles.

Praise God that he shows compassion on all of his creation. Ask God that you would be a good steward of all that God has given you.

Ask God that he would give you compassion and mercy today, so that you can give of it freely to others.

Missional Moment

Buy a gift card for someone and give it to him or her...just because.

Community Prayer

Lord grant us a spirit of patience as a community. Help us to slow down in the midst of the busyness and keep our hearts fixed on you and our eyes on the needs of others.

Friday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 69:16-18 (NLT)

Answer my prayers, O Lord,

for your unfailing love is wonderful.

Take care of me,

for your mercy is so plentiful.

Don't hide from your servant;

answer me quickly, for I am in deep trouble!

Come and redeem me;

free me from my enemies.

Mark 8:1-9 (NLT)

About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance." His disciples replied, "How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?"

Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?"

"Seven loaves," they replied.

So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd. A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them.

They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were about 4,000 people in the crowd that day, and Jesus sent them home after they had eaten.

Time of Reflection

Thank God that he always gives you your daily bread, both in food and spiritually.

Read the psalm over again another three or four times. Let this be your prayer for today.

Missional Moment

Turn your loaf of bread into "enough food" to feed a neighbor. Purchase items for the Hope Hill food bank and drop it off at church.

Community Prayer

Let us pray for those in our community who are going through financial difficulties and are unable to provide for their families. Lord help us to be grateful for what we have, to remember that all we have is from you, and that we must give to others generously.

Saturday

Call to Prayer

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Psalm & Scripture

Psalm 123 (NLT)

I lift my eyes to you,

O God, enthroned in heaven.

We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy,

just as servants keep their eyes on their master,

as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,

for we have had our fill of contempt.

We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud

and the contempt of the arrogant.

Mark 1:40-45 (NLT)

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed." But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.

Time of Reflection

Thank God that he is merciful and compassionate.

If you are in need of healing, ask Christ, who is full of compassion, to reach out and heal you.

Ask God to give you the power of the Holy Spirit, so that you may bring healing and compassion into the lives of others.

Missional Moment

Stop speaking ill about others. You never know if God desires to bring someone your way for healing that will never receive it because they look too different from you. Grab some friends and go hang out with the people Jesus would hang out with.

Community Prayer

Lord, take us out of our comfort zone. Nudge us to build relationships with those that are different from us.

Challenge us to bring them in our communities and treat them no different than we would our own families.