

God, Our Provider | Day 15



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. - Matthew 6:33

God, thank you for being a sovereign ruler that we can trust with our whole hearts. Thank you for showing love and mercy to your creation by your providence. And most of all, thank you for your promise of eternal providence for those who put their faith in Christ Jesus. Help us to trust in your good and perfect plan, providing for us how you see fit, so that we may fulfill the good works that you have laid out for us to do. May you be glorified in all that we do! Keep our faith steadfast in your goodness and give us the alertness and strength to cling to the cross. Our trust in you is not because of promises of worldly gain because we know that believers around the world are suffering, but we put our hope and our trust in you because of Christ's death on the cross for sinners like us. We know that if we can trust in you with eternity, then we can trust in you with tomorrow.

Lord, we are sorry that we doubt your goodness towards ourselves and the church. We're sorry that we get anxious and worry when we think about the future and how you will provide for us and those within the church. Please forgive us for not trusting in your promises and sovereign hand, and instead, trusting in our own feeble understanding.

God, we ask that you would provide for the needs of the church, for the physical, spiritual, and material needs. The needs of just one person are overwhelming, and the needs of the church are unfathomable, but God you are able to do what no man can conceive. Our greatest need was fulfilled when you made a way for us through your son, Jesus. Thank you Lord. Please continually remind us of this incredible grace and love shown to us on the cross. Realign our priorities and redirect our eyes onto the author and perfecter of our faith, Jesus, so that we may joyfully and whole-heartedly pursue, serve, worship, and glorify you.

In Jesus' name, amen

What are you anxious about and not trusting God with? What promise can you believe in to bring you peace?

Help Us To Love Our Neighbor | Day 16



It is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. - James 2:8-9

God, you are a magnificent creator and your word says that you designed and created each of us individually. You know everything about us, you saw us before we were born. Every day of our lives was recorded in your book, every moment was laid out before a single day had passed (Psalm 139:16). Every thing, every intricate detail, that makes us unique was by your design and for your glory.

We confess, God, that we don't always celebrate the uniqueness of your creation in other people. It is much easier to love people that are similar to us, people that grew up near to us, people who like similar foods, listen to the same music, work at similar jobs, or are in our same life-stages. We notice differences and they are distractions from seeing someone how you do, as a loved creation. God, we confess that we don't perfectly love our neighbors as ourselves and that we favor some people more than others.

We pray that individually, and collectively as a church, that we would truly love our neighbor. Holy Spirit, work within us and empower us to see others as you do. James reminds us that we are all in need of your grace. The psalmist prays, *may all the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you* (Psalm 67:3,5). God, empower us to love our neighbor amidst our cultural, racial, and socio-economical differences so that all that nations will praise you. Remind us to follow the example of Jesus who modeled this perfect love to us, even leaving heaven to become one of us. May we cross barriers with your love, embracing the differences you created, and choosing to worship you together and bringing you glory with all of creation.

Amen.

What do you find different about someone else that makes it hard for you to love them? How specifically can you ask God to help you cross a barrier to love someone that is different than you?

Make Us Quick to Forgive | Day 17



*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32*

Father, we reflect on your kindness toward us and we're overwhelmed with gratefulness. We have given you a thousand reasons to turn your back on us and you would be justified to do so. Yet, Jesus has paid the penalty for our sin and foolishness. Instead of receiving wrath we deserve, we are forgiven and we receive your favor we don't deserve.

How could such extravagant kindness not color our relationships? And yet, we admit it's much easier to let bitterness fester in our souls than to forgive someone who we perceived has wronged us. Why do we find it so hard to show them grace? Why can't we overlook the infraction like you have done so many times for us?

And as difficult as it is to grant forgiveness, asking for forgiveness often seems unattainable. Our pride hinders us from apologizing. We fight to be right; saying sorry feels like death. And as time goes by, we convince ourselves the wrong wasn't a big deal, or worse, we were never wrong in the first place. In these moments, we sense a growing hardness of heart.

Father, we know you stand ready to receive us and bury our offenses if only we come to you with repentant hearts. What matters most is not whether or not people who have wronged us seek our forgiveness. Instead, what matters most is that we reflect your kindness to the world. And we believe we do that by not counting people's wrongs against them. We ask that you would direct our hearts to the compassionate love of Jesus who even on the cross asks you to forgive those killing him (Luke 23:34). Work in our hearts so that out of a love for you and them, we too can be quick to forgive.

We also ask that we travel down the path of humility and seek forgiveness when we know we have hurt someone. We know even small wrongs can cause great tensions in our friendships. As soon as we feel we've stung someone with our words or actions, let us move swiftly to apologize. Empower us to kill the pride that hides in our hearts. Help us to value the reconciling of a relationship over the desire to be right. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take time to reflect on the kindness of Jesus expressed in the Gospel. Ask God for a compassionate tenderness to characterize your life. Ask God to search your heart to see if there is any bitterness you might feel toward someone. Ask God also if he might lead you to someone you need to ask forgiveness from.

Guide Our Leaders | Day 18



*Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance
of counselors there is victory. - Proverbs 11:14*

Lord, thank you for all of the amazing talent within our church. We are blessed to have capable leaders already doing great things. We pray that we will not depend on our strengths alone but look to you for your vision and strength for us and King's Hill.

Grant us a renewed vision for the new year and in our new space. Give us the strength and courage to not only change ourselves but also the community that surrounds us: *[We] can do all things through Him who strengthens [us]* (Philippians 4:13).

We pray that you will fill the leaders with passion, conviction, and dedication to your word, oh God. Protect their minds and hearts from complacency and harmful thinking.

Give each leader godly wisdom day by day as they tackle their designated ministry work, and keep them from adopting the actions and attitudes of the world, in order to accomplish your work.

We pray that you will not only strengthen the current leaders of the church but also help develop and empower future leaders within the church. Allow King's Hill to serve as a training ground for leaders and disciples of your word.

Amen.

Would you take a moment and pray for the pastor and the directors and other leaders at King's Hill Church? Would you pray that God would give each of them vision for seeing his kingdom grow? Ask God how you might be a support to them in the coming days, weeks, and months. Ask God which ministry you could serve with to help the leaders carry the load.

Raise Up New Leaders | Day 19



You're going to wear yourself out—and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself. Now listen to me, and let me give you a word of advice, and may God be with you. You should continue to be the people's representative before God, bringing their disputes to him. Teach them God's decrees, and give them his instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives. But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten.

- Exodus 18:18-21

God, you are extremely caring towards us collectively and to your people, the Church. You are a good shepherd (John 10:1-19) who knows our needs, our strengths, and our weaknesses and you alone care for us perfectly. Like a loving father you watch over us, shielding us from danger, and teaching us wisdom so that we can live a joyful life that is found in you.

We confess that our tendency is to try to do too much on our own. If we are overwhelmed or if we don't know how to do something we will just keep trying instead of asking for help. God, forgive us for being too individualistic and not asking for help both from you as our provider and also from those in the church whom you have been preparing to help.

God, this was true with Moses in Exodus 18. He kept trying to do everything on his own, but the burden was simply too great for any one person to bear. You used Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, to speak your wisdom into his life. Instead of one person having to bear the load it would be shared through a network and hierarchy of leaders whose responsibilities would vary from being over just a few to others who would oversee thousands.

God, as you are working through King's Hill would you be preparing and raising up leaders from within our church. As a church may we be faithful in equipping each person for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12) and passing on your truth from generation to generation of new believers (2 Timothy 2:2). God, work within us so that when people look at King's Hill Church they will see a body that is working well together, because each part is at work (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Raise up leaders so that this would be true for us.

Amen.

Who is 1 person (typically older) that is investing biblical truth into you? If there isn't one then that may be a first step for you. Who are 2 people that you are sharing the gospel with who haven't come to faith? Then, who are 3 people that you are investing and passing on biblical truth to? Take time to evaluate these "1-2-3" people. If you have these relational gaps, ask God to guide you so they can be filled.

We Want to Make Much of You | Day 20



But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ. - Philippians 3:7-8

Jesus, you are eternally valuable to us because you are our only hope, and if you are our only hope, then you are the most valuable thing in our lives and everything outside of you is “rubbish” compared to the worth of being known by you and knowing you. Outside of you, there is only the fearful expectation of judgement.

God, thank you that you have given us eyes to see Christ’s beauty in some way. But Lord, we confess that we carve idols in our minds moment by moment. We are constantly seeing other things as more valuable than your Son. Every time we sin, whether it be by thought or deed, we are valuing the fleeting and deceptive pleasures of this dying world over the true and eternal value of the life found in Christ. We understand there are two ways to magnify something: a microscope takes very, very small things and blows them up. That’s what we do all the time. We take worthless, worldly things and turn them into big things that consume our lives. This is idolatry. But a telescope magnifies something a different way. It takes a distant object that is glorious and massive and it makes that object appear as it really is. That’s what we want our lives to be about —your glory and majesty are infinite, so we ask you make us like a telescope bringing your worth into focus for the world.

Lord, we pray that you would enable us to see Christ’s beauty and value. We ask that you would enable us to be a church that your Son simply seeps out of our lives and conversations. Please protect us from getting too caught up in the details and forgetting that we are here to proclaim and show those around us that Christ is more valuable than anything in this world because he reconciles us to God and gives us an eternal hope. We pray that you would protect our hearts and our minds from vain pursuits of worthless things. We pray for protection from indulging in meaningless entertainment. We ask that you would allow us to be a part of bringing others into your kingdom through sharing about Christ. We know that nothing will ever be achieved without you working through us, so we ask that you would do a powerful work through King’s Hill Church in making Christ known to those around us.

We ask all of this in Jesus’ name, amen.

By your pursuits, what are you making much of in your life? Ask God to make the verses in Philippians true for you.

Grow Us | Day 21



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42; 47

Father, thank you for the church body that is King's Hill Church. Thank you for each individual person that is a part of what is happening through this church, and that you have opened their eyes and heart to your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to always remember that it's not about us, or the church, but it's ultimately about you and bringing you glory here in Mission Hill and in Greater Boston.

Make us a church that has a deep passion and urgency to share the Gospel with those who are lost. You tell us: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you* (Matthew 28:19-20). We pray for King's Hill Church to grow as we share the Gospel with those who are lost. We confess, though, that we shy away often from opportunities to make much of You. We fear what people may think or say, that a job opportunity may be lost, that we may offend someone – but yet we forget that you tell us, *“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10:28). Let us not fear man. Make us bold in Christ.

We not only pray, God, that you will grow us by adding new believers to this body, but that you will grow us in wisdom and understanding of who You are. We pray alongside Paul as he did for the church in Colossae, that we *may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God* (Colossians 1:9-10). Give us a desire for your Word and for fellowship with other believers. Give us a desire to be holy, O God. Help us do whatever it takes for our lives to be pleasing to you. Make us open to spiritual accountability, to testing our actions against your Word, and to vulnerability in prayer.

Amen.

Would you ask God for a greater desire for holiness in your life? Would you ask him to show you hidden sin in your life you may not be aware of? How would you like to grow spiritually this year and be specific as possible. Share this with a friend or your pastor.