

## Prayer Guide for the week August 2, 2020

“Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.” Luke 14:33

We continue in the summer sermon series **Inside Story**. This week as we listen and learn from the gospel of Luke (14:25-35) we are encouraged as the disciples of Jesus to give up everything to follow Him. We cannot carry our cross and our preferences at the same time. For all who are willing to hear, the parables of Jesus give us the inside story into God’s Kingdom and His heart for us. Behind each regular story is God’s redemptive story which invites us into radical life with Him. “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31

### **Suggested Prayer Points for this week:**

- 1. Pray for your family** – The Lord lives! Praise be to our Rock! Exalted be God our Saviour! We thank you Lord and give you all praise for the cross. Thank you for the salvation and victory that is ours because of the cross. Thank you Jesus for all that you have done and continue to do for our family. Help us to truly understand the surpassing greatness of knowing you and what it means to take up our cross and live for you more fully each day. Help us by your Spirit to be Christ Followers who love and serve you more than anyone or anything else. May your praise forever be on our lips and in our hearts. Psalms 18:46; Luke 14:25-35; Philippians 4:7-8
- 2. Pray for your church family, friends and neighbours** – Praise God for the privilege and opportunity to be Christian witnesses to our friends and neighbours. Thank you Heavenly Father for the freedom to follow you and share our love for you with others. Help us to be more like Jesus in attitude, behaviour and character, so that our friends and neighbours will come to know and become Christ followers. Give us the strength, keep our ways secure, bless us with the shield of victory over our enemies and words of hope during this difficult time. Deliver us from our selfishness and pride to be your disciples on mission to the world. May we be willing to give up everything that others may gain Christ and be found in Him. Psalms 18:32-26; Luke 14:25-35; Philippians 3:7-8
- 3. Pray for pastors, staff and church leaders** – Praise the Lord! To the faithful you show yourself faithful and to the blameless you show yourself blameless. Lord we thank you for the faithfulness of our pastors and leaders these past months during the pandemic. Have your hand of blessing upon each one, grant them and their families rest and refreshment during times of vacation. Thank you for their wisdom and guidance, continue to lead them in your ways each day as they are faithful to surrender all for you and your kingdom purposes. Bless and protect them and the work they do to encourage their flocks to become disciples who make disciples. Psalms 18:25; Luke 14:25-35
- 4. Pray for healthcare and front line workers** – In our distress for this world we call to you Lord, we cry out to you for help against the pandemic. Thank you that you hear our voice as we cry out to you on behalf of all the front line workers who continue to work to protect and save lives. We ask and pray for your mercy Lord. We humbly ask and pray for guidance and wisdom for all those who are working to find a vaccine against COVID-19. Look upon them with your favour and grant them Godly wisdom and success. Thank you Lord that you reach down from on high and rescue us from the powerful enemy, rescue us from the virus we pray. In this time of disaster be our support and hope, continue to work mightily against the evil forces of sickness and death in our world. Psalms 18:16-19; Luke 14:25-35
- 5. Pray for our city and government** – The Lord is our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Praise God, that you are our shield and stronghold in times of trouble. Lord we cry out to you for our city and those in need in our city. We claim the promise that you hear our prayers as we intercede for those who are in desperate need of physical, emotional and spiritual help. Use us as your people to respond with kindness, compassion and generosity for those in need. May we truly be the hands and feet of Christ. Thank you Lord for the many organizations in our city who serve and minister to the vulnerable and marginalized. Help us be willing to give, serve and pray; to give up everything to be your disciples who follow you in humble obedience. Psalms 18:1-3; Luke 14:25-35
- 6. Pray for EMCC and Mission Partners** – Praise the Lord! We praise you among the nations and sing praises to your name. We thank you for your faithful servants who have surrendered all and taken up their cross to serve you here in Canada and around the world with EMCC. Show your unfailing love to your anointed. We claim the promise that you will be their strength, their rock, their fortress and deliverer. We pray your continued hand of blessing on each one for their faithfulness to daily serve. Be their shield and stronghold each day and multiply their efforts by your grace and for your glory. Psalms 18:49-50; Luke 14:25-35