

Prayer Guide for the week August 23, 2020

“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God.” Luke 14:15

We continue in the summer sermon series **Inside Story**. This week as we listen and learn from the gospel of Luke (14:15-24) we are invited to the banquet prepared by Jesus. This banquet is not for insiders; but for outsiders who know they need grace. 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** – O Lord, you are our God; we will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous thing that you planned long ago. Thank you Lord for the banquet that you have prepared for each one who accepts the invitation to come and dine with you. Thank you Jesus, you and your word are the bread of life to feed and sustain us each day. We pray for each member of our family to accept this amazing gift of grace. We pray no one would be too busy or distracted by the things of this life to accept your generous invitation to the banquet table. For truly blessed is the one who hungers and thirsts for you and your righteousness. May our family hunger for more of you and your kingdom here on earth. Luke 14:15-24; Isaiah 25:1
- 2. Pray for your church family, friends and neighbours** – We thank and praise you Lord that you have been a refuge for the poor and needy in their distress and a shelter from the storms of life. Lord, for those we know, our friends and neighbors who are going through difficulties, we pray that you would give us the words of hope to share and the grace of God to extend the invitation to taste and see that you Lord, are so good. We have enjoyed the banquet table of abundant love and mercy that you have prepared for us. Help us to spread the invitation far and wide for other friends and neighbors to come and share in the banquet of grace you have prepared for all who will accept the invitation. Luke 14:15-24; Isaiah 25:4; Psalms 34:8
- 3. Pray for pastors, staff and church leaders** – Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of heaven. Thank you Gracious God for your faithful servants, our pastors, staff and church leaders who continue to extend the invitation as they teach truth and wisdom from your living word each week. We continually ask Lord God that you would fill each with the knowledge of your will through all wisdom and understanding. May your kingdom come and your will be done in and through each one. Give us all an extra measure of patience and understanding in this season. Help us to trust and support our leaders in the difficult decisions they must make in the coming weeks and months for the church to meet together to worship and fellowship in safety. Luke 14:15-24; Colossians 1:9-11
- 4. Pray for healthcare and front line workers** – Thank you Lord that there is always room at your table of grace. Lord God we pray for those who are working with the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame; the sick the elderly and the lonely – those in much need of your blessed invitation to the banquet table of your generous goodness and grace. Heavenly Father we pray for receptive hearts for those who are needy – physically, emotionally or spiritually. May your kingdom come and your will be done in their lives. We pray your blessing of refreshment on all the care givers and those working on the frontlines during this pandemic, protect them, strengthen them and encourage them by your Spirit we pray. Luke 14:15-24; Philemon 1:4-7
- 5. Pray for our city and government** – Heavenly Father we continue to ask and pray for Godly wisdom and discernment for our local, provincial, national and world leaders. They have such an overwhelming task in this season of COVID. We ask and pray Lord that they too would hear and heed the invitation to the banquet that you have prepared for each one, that in knowing you and your promises they would have wisdom and grace to lead effectively in this difficult season. We pray wisdom and grace especially for school trustees, teachers and staff as they make plans to begin school in a few weeks. We pray for much grace and peace for parents and students as everyone continues to learn to live within the limitations of the pandemic. Luke 14: 15-24; 2 John 1:3
- 6. Pray for EMCC and Mission Partners** – Lord God thank you for the promise that people will come from east and west, from north and south and will take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God. Lord we thank you for those who have been working for and with EMCC churches around the globe to share the gospel message of salvation. Thank you for those who have responded to the invitation, we ask and pray in the powerful name of Jesus that many will respond and not ignore the invitation to the banquet. We do pray that ‘all the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all families of the nations will bow down before Him’. Luke 14:15-24; Luke 13: 29; Psalms 22:27