

## Equipping Ministry Prayer Guide

(Consider asking your Prayer Team members to pray each of these things for two to four weeks' time. Also, remember, as you see God at work, to add praise items to this prayer list.)

1. Pray that all ministry leaders at our church carve out the necessary time to get good people in the correct positions for the best reasons—for (this season) and for the coming year of ministry.
2. Pray that as ministry leaders invite people to serve, they would not think just about what they need, but why people would want to serve in this ministry at our church. Pray that we would all be intentional in connecting with people's interests and passions so that their service is meaningful and ongoing. [Passion is an important motivator, and will sustain individuals through a tough season in ministry if what they are doing is connected to a purpose or a people group that inspires them.]
3. Pray that all ministries would be intentional about developing job descriptions for each position detailing clear expectations so all involved know what they are committing to. Pray that all who are already serving will know (and be told!) how vital their involvement is. Pray that as leaders plan ahead that they know time spent on the front end—planning, interviewing, training, recognizing, being intentional—pays off significantly the rest of the year!
4. Pray that all ministry leaders would be cognizant of people's God-given spiritual giftedness, and invite people to serve in ways that make use of God's call and equipping of each individual. Pray that for those who do not know their calling or spiritual gifts that they would take the online assessment or other assessment and begin to engage with what God might be saying to them through understanding His gifting of them.
5. Pray for all ministries—that they are intentional and generous with orientation, training, support, and resources for new and not-so-new volunteers so that they will feel less overwhelmed and more a part of a wonderful community. May we all be warmly welcoming to newcomers always, but especially in the summer and early fall when new families and students are likely to move here.
6. Pray that all who are engaged in ministries at our church remember that, by far, the best way to invite is to personally ask someone to be involved. Pray that no matter how big the need, that ministry leaders never sound desperate when asking, but are able to allow people prayer and processing time before having to commit to an invitation to serve. Pray that we never invite out of guilt.
7. Pray that all of us at our church truly believe that instead of "getting volunteers," we are inviting people to live their faith as disciples of Jesus by serving. Pray that we continue to use the kind of language Scripture uses, and call one another "ministers," part of the "priesthood of all believers," and value each other's involvement as a practical way to "administer God's grace" to others and use their gifts
8. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: Ephesians 4:11-13 *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

9. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-6 *Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*
  
10. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*
  
11. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.  
 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.  
 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I do not need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*
  
12. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*
  
13. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: 1 Peter 4:10 *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.*
  
14. Pray that this Body of Christ would emulate the following Scripture now and in the months to come: *The Message says in 1 Corinthians 12: “Each person is given something to do that shows who God is.”*
  
15. People often volunteer because they are hoping for community--for the sense of belonging and to make friends. Pray that we would BE a community to all who come through our doors, and especially to those who have stepped into a place of service seeking fellowship. Pray that

all leaders would be intentional about building a team that feels like a family. Pray that we actively encourage, in all ministries, people to care for one another.

16. The volunteering rate in the United States has remained steady since 2007 (approximately 26%) with only a slight drop recently (to around 25%). The US has a higher percentage and more total people engaged in various forms of service now than it did three decades ago. If we in the church are seeing a significant drop-off in commitment in some areas of ministry, it doesn't mean people aren't volunteering, it means they are choosing to serve elsewhere! Pray that we find new and important ways of engaging people in service so that they grow, thrive, mature, and stay!
17. The needs are great for more to engage with the younger members of our family--Children, Middle, and High School ministries. Pray for our church to be more and more attractive to college students and young adults—for worship, for fellowship, for learning, and for service.
18. Pray that any ministry's "I need more volunteers" becomes "I'm inviting people into the adventure of what God is doing here." Pray that we all ground any invitation in prayer, knowing that "the God of peace," "that great Shepherd of the sheep" will equip us and those who serve alongside us "with everything good for doing His will" and He will "work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus" (Hebrews 13:20-21). Our reliance on the Lord in all of this cannot be overestimated!
19. Pray that ALL who enter our doors and with whom we have contact outside the walls of our church know that they are created uniquely and specially by God. Pray that we would help them to grasp the concept that they have unique talents and skills and life experiences and passions and spiritual gifts...that can help direct their steps in distinctive ways that not only showcase who they are but also will be the ways they can serve and love others.
20. Scripture says that God will "equip you with everything good for doing His will" and that you can be confident "that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." Pray that all who are believers in Jesus understand that they have been and are being equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit to do what they are called to do in their life and work.
21. Pray that our equipping efforts become grounded in the understanding that each is a part of the great "priesthood of all believers"--that each is a member, a vital member--of the Body of Christ, the church. Pray that God would help us see that the call on our lives is both individual—AND collective. We are not meant to go it alone. We need each other to live the life we're called to live. Pray that our church would BE a community that needs one another.
22. Pray that even as we encourage all to know their calling and their gifts and their passions that we also make sure that everyone knows that it is all rooted in who God is and His care for us! THE BEST THING we can do is to know who we are in Christ...Pray that we would all make time to nurture our faith...and trust the Lord that the rest will follow...
23. Pray for those whose full-time work is in the secular marketplace...that God would make clear to them the value of their job and their contribution to their company and to society. Pray that God would help them love those with whom they work and seek ways to improve the greater good. Pray especially for those who feel like they are in the wrong job/wrong field or in a hard place with employment—that they will have a strong sense that God is faithful and He will use everything to not only build/refine their character but also to prepare them for the next thing.

24. Pray that we, as individuals and as the Body of Christ, live out Paul's reminder in 2nd Corinthians: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ...Now it is God who makes you stand firm in Christ. He anointed you, set his seal of ownership on you, and put his Spirit in your hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." Pray that we live that out every day in every context.
25. Pray for all ministry leaders (paid and volunteer), as they invite people's involvement, to help them understand at all they do is really for God Himself, that they can truly find joy and practice worship in serving as they offer grace and mercy to others.
26. Your prayers are making a difference!! There are now (insert number/names) serving in (insert ministry). Please continue to pray that those who are still considering serving in this important way will say "yes" to the opportunity.
27. Pray for all at our church to seek ways to be Jesus to those around us this season--whether it's continuing an existing outreach, starting something new, reaching out to neighbors, being a light at work, offering a listening ear to someone struggling during this time.
28. Pray for our sister churches who are developing equipping ministries--that God would plow the ground, remove obstacles, grant them favor from their leadership, and help them embrace the concept of the church as the Body of Christ.
29. Praise for all who have taken the online spiritual gifts assessment. Pray that God would make clear to each person one way that their gifts are either already in use or could be put to use--for His glory. Pray also that their understanding of their gifts will give them a filter to say "no" to what God is not calling them to do!
30. Praise for those who have faithfully served in many ways inside and outside of the church walls--and who are aging and less able to get out and about. Pray that God would show them how He intends to use them in this new season of life.
31. Pray that we, individually and as a church, can find meaningful ways to join where God is already at work in the areas of building community, helping families find stable, adequate housing, advocate for those with disabilities, provide and support quality education to all, minister to those incarcerated, step into the gap for those who are suicidal or addicted, work to conserve resources, etc. Pray that we are seen as Jesus-people and as contributors to the health and vitality of everyone in our city.
32. Pray for our people in the workplace--to navigate their faith and work with Jesus at the helm. May we earn the right to be heard through providing excellent work and treating our co-workers as Jesus would. Pray for those working at home and volunteering in the community--to navigate their faith and involvements with Jesus as Guide and Author.
33. Pray that our focus on using our God-given spiritual gifts would be on God through His Holy Spirit and not on ourselves or our own strength.

Add your own/adapt as you see fit. At the end of the year, compile the answers you have seen God provide and share that list with your team!