

# **CRIES OF OUR HEARTS**

## **PRAYER GUIDE**

### **Volume II**



***Pursuing God's Will Together***

***Grace Baptist Church***

***January 16, 2022***



## *Introduction*

Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> we begin the “Spiritual Strategic Journey” phase of our Transition. This is portion of our Journey also requires participation from the congregation.

This prayer guide is one way for you to engage in the process. It is meant to be used in partnership with the prayer guide from October 3, 2021. Both guides are compiled from congregational submissions during the Cries of Our Hearts exercise from the Fall of 2021.

We will pray through Volume II as a congregation on Sunday, January 16. You may then take it home and use it and Volume I to pray for our church as we go through the Spiritual Strategic Journey of discerning God’s Will for Grace Baptist Church over the next several months.

We did not directly quote your submissions in this version, but instead built a series of prayers around recurring themes we noticed in the submissions. The book is broken down into four themes around which our prayers are focused.

Please join with the Elder Board, the Staff, and your Visioning Team in praying for our church!

## ***Theme One – Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministries***



*Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not  
turn from it.*

*Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)*

Lord, we dedicate our children to you. Help us to seek your help in our parenting practices and choices.

Lord, thank you for our children. We commit to a church environment that is welcoming and intentionally teaching our kids your Word and how to love you.

Lord, we pray a hedge of protection around our children. Give us wisdom and discernment about boundaries, and when to give them independence.

Father God, we thank you for the youth of our church. They are the future leaders of the Body. We commit to following your lead in creating a church environment that is welcoming and intentionally teaching our teens your Word and how to love you. Help us encourage them to embrace their spiritual gifts and help us intentionally find ways for them to serve You and the body.

Father, thank you that our church is privileged with pastoral staff focused on children and youth. We pray for wisdom for our pastoral staff. We ask that the Holy Spirit create a fire in their hearts for our children and teens.

Father, we ask your Holy Spirit to speak into the hearts of our teens. May they feel comfortable inviting their friends to church and Youth Group.

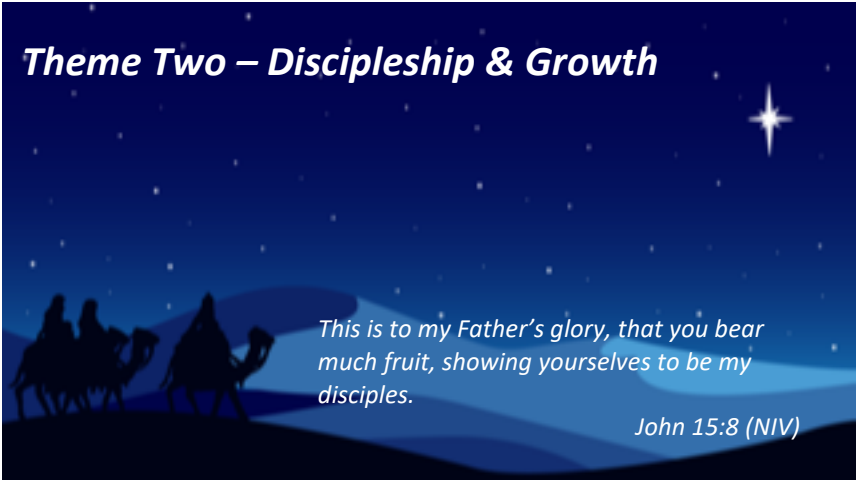
Lord, we pray for the mental health of our children and teens during this pandemic. Help us as parents to see the signs when they need support. Guide us to the best resources when we need them.

Lord, thank you for the young adults of this church family. They keep us feeling young. Help us as a church body to make room for them and encourage them to serve you in ministries.

Father, we praise you that you provide leaders in our church to minister to our young adults. May your Holy Spirit call others to this role as well as our young people need connection and mentoring just as much as our youth.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, may we move forward on this journey of Grace in such a way that the younger generations continue to be a focus of Grace Baptist Church. Even now, begin working in our hearts about what this could look like. Thank you for the gifts you have given our staff and members of our congregation to serve in this area.

## ***Theme Two – Discipleship & Growth***



*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

*John 15:8 (NIV)*

Lord, we pray for our Church body. Thank you for the efforts of our staff and board to maintain connection during this time of pandemic. Thank you for work that has been done in challenging times to help us grow spiritually.

Lord, help us to be the Light You would want us to be in this world, as we go through this pandemic. Help us as believers to be the Light that shines for You in this dark world. Help us to not be a closed community, but instead help us to be welcoming to all.

Father, we pray that our Church is actively involved in spiritual growth. It is important that we know what, why, and how we believe.

Father, connection is such an important part of the Body. As we begin to reconnect post-pandemic, give our leaders wisdom about how to rebuild our sense of community. May we all be open and enthusiastic about ways to reconnect and rebuild.

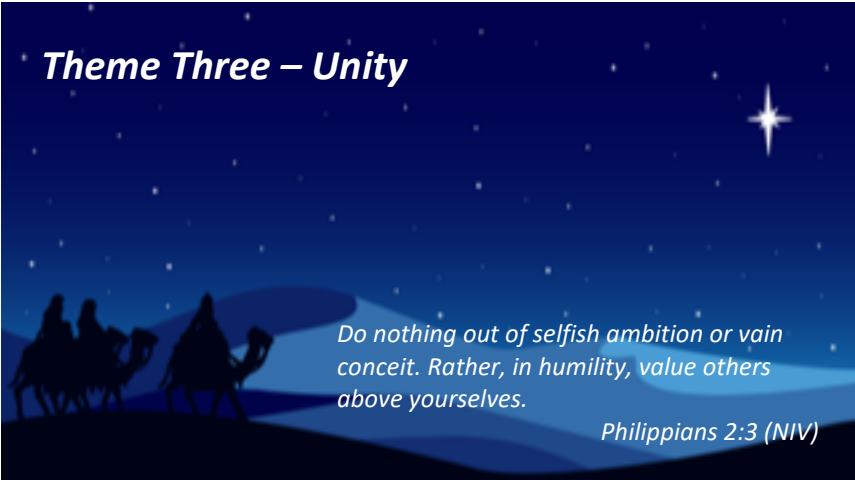
Lord, we ask your Holy Spirit to move in each of our hearts. Give us motivation and discernment about our own personal spiritual growth. May we seek opportunities to read our Bibles, spend time in prayer, and actively seek Your voice as to how we can serve You each day.

Lord, be with our small groups. Grant us fresh enthusiasm for meeting together and growing in discipleship and fellowship. Give us endurance as we continue to navigate the pandemic restrictions; let it not hold us back from growing deeper in You.

Jesus, thank you for all the generations in our church. We pray for opportunities to learn from each other. We all have such great perspectives to offer each other. May we respect our elders and find joy in their wisdom. May we cherish our younger generations and revel in their enthusiasm for life. Give us chances to socialize together and share our gifts with one another.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, may we move forward on this journey of Grace in such a way that the growth and discipleship continue to be a focus of Grace Baptist Church. Even now, begin working in our hearts about what this could look like. Thank you for the gifts you have given our staff and members of our congregation to serve in this area. We pray especially for the new senior pastor; that we would have a clear direction to move forward with when it comes time for hiring. Even now, we ask your Holy Spirit to begin stirring their soul for the move to Grace.

## Theme Three – Unity

A night sky with a bright star and silhouettes of people on camels. The scene is set in a desert with rolling dunes under a dark blue sky filled with stars. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three people riding camels are visible, moving towards the right. A large, bright star is prominent in the upper right corner of the sky.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves.*

*Philippians 2:3 (NIV)*

Jesus, you tell us that where two or more are gathered, there You are also. As we continue to gather physically and virtually, we pray for unity. May we be open to hear Your voice giving direction, and the needs of others that your Holy Spirit brings to our attention. We seek unity of purpose with room for individual gifts and expression.


We pray, Lord Jesus, for our Elder Board. Give them unity, through your Holy Spirit, through wisdom, and humility. We pray a hedge of protection around them, that the enemy may not breed strife. Give them grace and compassion for each other.

Father God, we ask for grace and humility for each other. We seek the discernment of your Holy Spirit, to give us a focus on your Word, and that that focus would bring us together, of one heart and one mind. We know we are very diverse, Lord, but we all love and serve You. Help that to unify us.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, may we move forward on this journey of Grace in such a way that Unity continues to be a focus of Grace Baptist Church. Even now, begin working in our hearts about how we can create a community, not strife in our church body. Give us grace and humility to pursue Unity as a body.



## *Theme Four – Service & Outreach*



*The King will reply, "Truly I tell you,  
whatever you do for the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."  
Matthew 25:45 (NIV)*

Jesus, you tell us in your Word that whatever we do for the "least of these," we do also to You. You tell us that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. We pray that all of us at Grace will have servants' hearts. We thank you for all the opportunities you currently give us to serve our communities, locally, nationally and globally. May we continue to do so.

Father, as we move forward in our transition process, we ask that your Holy Spirit would prompt us to dream dreams for our church. How best can we take this Body and use it for Your glory? Show us where you want us to serve Calgary through this building. Show us how this building can serve our nation. Show us how this building can serve our world.

Lord, captivate us with Your vision on how to reach out to people both in person and virtually. Affirm existing directions and help us discern new areas and methods You may be calling us to.

Lord, thank you for the financial provision you have given us to provide for those experiencing hardship in our congregation and our communities. Please bless our offerings to the Benevolence Fund. May it be a tool to show Your love to those who need it show materially.

Oh, God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, help us to see Your empowering vision as a grace gift. We cannot earn it. We cannot buy it. We can only discern and receive it. May we see it as important enough to discern it as Your miraculous movement within our congregation, and not a simplistic catchy statement we write. May Your empowering vision not occur as a moment within our congregation, but as a movement that is memorable. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen  
(from *Captured by Vision* – George W. Bullard Jr.)

Our Father, who art in Heaven, may we move forward on this journey of Grace in such a way that service and outreach continue to be a focus of Grace Baptist Church. Even now, begin working in our hearts about what this could look like. Thank you for the gifts you have given our staff and members of our congregation to serve in this area.

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Our goal is to facilitate a congregational  
“Spiritual Strategic Journey” in pursuit of  
God’s pathway to fruitful ministry for  
Grace Baptist Church.

*~ The Visioning Team*