

Keeping Our Promise to
The Next Generation

15-DAY PRAYER GUIDE



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF JOY
JOY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

We encourage you to make this 15-day Prayer Guide a part of your daily routine as we prepare to *Keep Our Promise to The Next Generation*. Here are some tips that will help you make the most of this prayer guide:

1. Select a specific time that best fits your lifestyle.
2. Choose a special place that is free from distractions.
3. Consider using this guide as a daily family devotional.
4. Follow the plan in your 15-Day Prayer Guide.
5. If you miss a day, don't stop. Pick it up the next day where you left off. These are short devotionals so you could even do two in one day.

On November 13, 2005, it is our prayer that every member of the Joy family will commit to a three-year pledge to the *Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation* capital gifts campaign. Your commitment will make it possible for many young people to come to Christ and for there to be a place of recreation and worship for the generations to come.

Thanks for taking the first step in what may be the greatest spiritual growth time of your life!!

Walt Kallestad *Nate Kretzmann*

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Senior Pastor

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**Keeping Our Promise to
The Next Generation**
15-Day Prayer Guide

The purpose of the prayer guide is to prepare you for the *Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation* capital gifts campaign. These devotions will strengthen your relationship with God and help you understand His will for you in this campaign. Please consider the following as you go through this devotional daily:

Read: Read the entire selected Bible passage.

Meditate: Think about the key verse.

Reflect: Ask yourself what the Bible passage is saying to you.

Pray: Communicate with God every day. Ask Him to reveal to you how He wants you to participate in the campaign.

Apply: As you work through each day's devotion, write down in the space provided any thoughts or ideas that apply to your growth as a follower of Christ and to your involvement in this campaign.



DAY I

**Keeping Our Promise to
The Next Generation**

True Submission

Read: Mathew 6:1-15

We were created to play an important role in God's Kingdom. Each of us needs to submit ourselves to pursuing God's will, not our own selfish desires. It is only through prayer that we can truly know His will for our lives. In this passage in Matthew 6, we are taught how to pray:

"But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Meditate on what it really means to be in communication with your Heavenly Father. What an exciting and awesome experience this can be for us!

During the next fifteen days you will be praying to your Father about your role in the upcoming capital campaign – *Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation*. Remember that as we give to God's work, we do not always see the results. That's what makes this investment so great. One day, when we all get to heaven, we will see that the money we gave to God's work truly was the greatest investment of our lives.



DAY 4

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

The Wood Cutter

Read: Matthew 11:28

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

As far as I know, this image is of a 12th century German wood cutter. I came across it at a meditation service many years ago while at college in England.



Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bless you as you spend some time meditating on the image.

What do you see? What are the images? Who are the figures? What would you give as a title for the picture? Where would you place yourself in the picture? Often, we

identify with different elements.

We are working as a team with others in the task of reaching the lost. How encouraging to see that as we are working, we have the loving arms of the Father around us. He stands outside our boat and takes up the task of hauling the fish in. What a wonderful image of the Kingdom! We invite the people and sit alongside them, befriend them, and bless them, but it is ultimately the work of the Father to draw them to Himself. When we are faced with tasks which seem impossible or overwhelming, we can cast our burdens onto Him and as long as we are where He wants us to be – in His arms – then our task will be easy and our burden will be light.

Pray: Spend some time in His arms today and allow Him to release you from the pressure of the load you are carrying.

Apply:

Nigel Mallon



DAY 5

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

A Next Generation Leader

Read: Jeremiah 1-10

“The Lord said to me, ‘I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.’ I answered, ‘Sovereign Lord, I don’t know how to speak; I am too young.’ But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say.’”

There is a story in Jeremiah 1:6-8 about a Next Generation leader that is especially meaningful to me. As a college student, I was asked to provide leadership for a Christian outreach organization. I didn’t believe I was old enough, smart enough, or talented enough. My father knew about my struggle and sent me a note of encouragement along with God’s promise to the teenaged Jeremiah:

“‘O Sovereign Lord,’ I said, ‘I can’t speak for you! I’m too young!’ ‘Don’t say that,’ the Lord replied, ‘for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and take care of you. I, the Lord, have spoken!’”

After reading God’s promise, I was ready and ripe with greater courage to advance the Kingdom of God.

The Next Generation needs all our encouragement and support. Keeping our promise that we made to them when they were baptized into our family of God will result in great riches and rewards.

My wife Mary and I consider it a privilege to invest all we can in our Next Generation. We invite you to join us. The world will, in a multitude of ways, experience the difference.

We all have one life to live, and it will soon be past – only what’s invested for Christ will last!

Pray: Lord, thank You for the Next Generation for they are not only our leaders for tomorrow, at Joy, many are leaders today. What an opportunity it is to invest in the lives of the Jeremiahs of today that already exist within Community Church of Joy, as well as those we will reach through our new facilities and programs.

Apply:

Pastor Walt Kallestad



DAY 7

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

March of the Believers!

Read: Psalm 78

In the delightful documentary, *The March of the Penguins*, I was amazed at the depth of sacrifice each mom and dad penguin made for their little one.

While one parent hovered over the newborn chick, protecting it from 80 degree below zero temperatures and 100 mph winds, the other waddled for miles each way to find some food for his or her own starving body, only to return to the young's nesting ground, trade places with the other parent, and return its nourishment back to the baby penguin – back and forth for weeks and months. And this was not just an individual effort. As they waited for the food, all of the remaining adult penguins hovered together to protect the young from the life-threatening weather.

God has woven into the instincts of these birds the importance of sustaining their species by making incredible sacrifices for the next generation. And God invites us to do the same. In Psalm 78, the people of God make a promise:

“We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation

about the glorious deeds of the LORD.”
(vs. 4)

“So each generation can set its hope anew on God, remembering His glorious miracles and obeying His commands.” (vs. 7)

What sacrifice is God calling you and me to make so that the next generation will know the glorious deeds of the LORD, ultimately His saving grace through Jesus Christ?

I am here today because of adults who invested in me. They sacrificed their time, resources, and talents to help me learn, grow in my calling, and discover the glorious deeds of the LORD. It was parents, grandparents, band directors, coaches, teachers, neighbors, pastors, and those who had no reason to help me other than I was part of their spiritual flock as a fellow believer in Christ.

Pray: First reflect on those people who have sacrificed and invested themselves in you. Thank God for them! Then listen for how God is inviting you to sacrifice your comfort for the sake of those who follow behind you.

Pray that God will help all of us see the next generation as He sees them, as the hope for the future of God's mission, the hope for the future of Community Church of Joy, Joy Christian School, and the hope for our world!

Marching with the Believers!



DAY 12

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

Life...is about relationships

Read: Deuteronomy 7:6-15

“The Lord God has chosen YOU...to be his treasured possession.”

No question...summers fly by fast!

Every fall a new school year begins...and before you know it, it's gone, and another year slips by. During this rhythm of life we see our children grow up so quickly. It may seem like yesterday you were celebrating a kindergarten graduation, then an 8th grade graduation, or perhaps a high school or college graduation. Graduations are filled with laughter, smiles, hugs, tears, and a range of emotions. Parents see their children step across an important milestone. Their minds, filled with joy and pride, may have traveled from the first moments they held their child at birth to thoughts of high school, college, and the great big world ahead. Parents hold great excitement and promise for what the future may hold for their son or daughter. Generations come and go, and we realize...life is about relationships!

Life is about relationships each day and each moment. What we do today affects tomorrow. When our relationships are priorities we grow

closer to those we love. We slow down. We become focused on what is truly important. Relationships are the glue that holds us together as we journey through life. They enable us to share our innermost feelings and emotions and to find support, safety, hope, and victory in life.

As I think about the love I have for my children and my responsibilities as a father, my eyes turn towards another Father. A Father in heaven, Who also had a Child, a Son, Whom He loved deeply, but a Son He would give up for me, and for each one of us. This is where we find the ultimate relationship.

We are offered a perfect relationship with complete acceptance, unending love, and undeserving grace. Why? Because Christ loves us so much He desires an eternal relationship with each of us! He holds us as a new father holds his first child, and with loving eyes and tender hands He sees such great promise for us. As we experience Christ as our Savior and Heavenly Father, we realize, *abundant life is about this relationship!*

As you journey through the rhythm of life, I pray that you and your family will grow in all your relationships – with friends, family, others and most importantly with Jesus Christ – for you ***“have been chosen to be His treasured possession”*** (Deuteronomy 7:6).



DAY 14

Keeping Our Promise to The Next Generation

True Generosity

Read: Matthew 6:19-34

“That’s what I consider true generosity. You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.”

– Simone de Beauvoir

A few years ago, I led a youth team on a missions trip to Cuba. Our mission was to bless a number of growing house churches by providing two kids’ camps. God had blessed us with so much “stuff,” we wanted to bless those less fortunate by handing out gift bags to kids, providing Sunday School teachers with Spanish resources, and encouraging them in their faith.

But God duped us. Though our hearts were on the right track, it was us who learned the lesson of true generosity and sacrifice.

Our hosts, whose standard daily meal was rice and black beans, served us chicken, vegetables, and dessert, each meal worth over a week’s wage. Our translator, Carlos, used his yearly vacation to follow us around. Carlos slept on the floor at night, working late hours translating our lessons.

As we were preparing to come back home, we were surrounded by over a

hundred kids who prayed for us and gave us homemade gifts, so thankful that we came to see them.

The youth of our church were changed forever. Some have committed themselves to other mission trips to third world countries. Others are preparing for full-time work as missionaries.

I can’t help but be eternally grateful for all the people at home who supported us through prayer, encouragement, and fundraising. Their generosity helped change lives forever.

Jesus said: “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.”

I thought we were bringing treasure to the poor. I didn’t realize they were already richer than anyone I had ever met.

Generosity, in its purest state, doesn’t cost us anything. The payback is always greater when we see our sacrifice working itself out in the joy of others.

Pray: Lord, I am open to Your direction on my giving. Show me where You want me to give my time, talents, and treasures.



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