



PREPARING THE FIELDS

Prayer Guide

*We're entering a **new** season!*

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

—2 Corinthians 9:6 and 8

Key Dates for *"Preparing The Fields"*

- Feb. 26 -
March 11 Families and/or individuals will spend time together praying through the 15 day prayer guide
- March 4 - 10 Pick a day to fast one meal and spend that time praying for spiritual renewal and for our church.
- March 4 – 17 Families will discuss and pray about their financial commitment. A Family Prayer Guide is included in the back of this Guide.
- March 18 New Holland Nazarene will make a three-year financial commitment to "Preparing the Fields" during the Sunday worship services.
- March 25 Celebration Sunday marks the beginning of the three-year giving period.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR KEN

I encourage you to make this 15-Day Prayer Guide a part of your daily routine. 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. Follow the plan in your 15-Day Prayer Guide.
4. If you miss a day, don't stop. Pick it up tomorrow where you left off.

On March 18th, every family and single person is going to make a 3-year commitment to giving, as God would lead them, towards our *"Preparing the Fields"* Projects. This prayer guide will help you prepare spiritually as you, personally, prepare spiritual fields for harvest.

Pastor Ken

15-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to prepare you spiritually during this stewardship emphasis. The daily devotions are centered on the model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. Each devotion is divided into five parts: Read, Reflect, Pray, Prepare and Apply.

Read:

Read the chosen Bible verse out loud at least three times. It is always beneficial to hear yourself read out loud the truth of the Bible. Why? The Bible states that your faith is increased when you hear the Word of God.

Reflect:

Reflect by considering the meditative thought that explains each day's chosen Bible verse. Using the meditative thought as a stimulus, ask yourself how the daily Bible verse applies to your life situation.

Pray:

Pray the model prayer given to you in this guide. After praying it, feel free to pray as your heart and the Holy Spirit leads. Remember that prayer is conversation with God. Talk with Him as you would your best friend.

Prepare:

Spiritually prepare yourself for "Preparing the Fields" by considering your part in the future ministry of New Holland Nazarene.

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 Christ-follower and to your involvement in the "Preparing the Fields" Projects.

Day 1

Read: *“And when you pray ...” Matt 6:5*

Reflect: God is inviting you to talk with Him. Imagine that! The God of the universe wants to communicate with you.

Pray: Heavenly Father, I gladly accept your invitation to meet with you. As we talk, please make clear to me how I can “get in the game.” I want to grow in my relationship with you. I also want to be an important part of the work you are doing at New Holland Nazarene.

Prepare: Visualize hundreds of children from our community singing songs, playing UPWARD sports, and learning the Word of God.

Apply:

Day 2

Read: *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they Love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street Corners to be seen by men.”
Matt 6:5*

Reflect: Prayer is not a spectator sport played before the cheering crowds. Prayer is a means to building the most important relationship in your life, your relationship with God.

Pray: God, I pray that our relationship would continue to grow. Also, help me to never forget that my motive for ministry at New Holland Nazarene is not to be noticed by others, but to build and strengthen your church.

Prepare: Envision worship services that are filled with God’s presence working in people’s lives...SOME FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

Apply:

Day 3

Read: *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.”*
Matt 6:6

Reflect: Whatever you learn of the principles of prayer, it must always be remembered that prayer in its final analysis is personal. Prayer times with friends, family or spouse are not to be downplayed, but none are a substitute for or rise above the personal prayer life.

Pray: Lord, teach me how to make the most of our time together each day. I want to learn how to be still and hear from you. Also Lord, I am grateful for New Holland Nazarene. Continue to make clear to me how I can help the church fulfill its mission to reach up through worship, to reach out through worship, to reach out through evangelism and to reach in through discipleship.

Prepare: Pray about the funds that will be released for ministry when our current debt is eliminated.

Apply:

Day 4

Read: *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”* Matt 6:6

Reflect: When it comes to prayer, you must be convinced of one basic fact: God hears and desires to answer your prayers. Until you are convinced of this fact; prayer feels like a one way conversation. Begin your prayer today convinced that God is hearing you and will answer your prayer.

Pray: Thank you God that you are a Father who loves to hear the voice of His children. I am your child and I will never again doubt your willingness to hear and answer my prayers. I will also not cease to thank you for the mighty work you are doing at New Holland Nazarene.

Prepare: Picture in your mind the many projects that need to be done to keep up and improve our church facilities.

Apply:

Day 5

Read: *“And when you pray, do not keep babbling like pagans, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.” Matt 6:7*

Reflect: Long and fancy prayers do not necessarily get the ear of God. Sometimes the most powerful prayers are just one sentence, when that one sentence is spoken in faith. God responds to faith, which is the confidence that He is willing to use His power to answer your prayer.

Pray: My prayer is simple Lord. Bring those people who are seeking to make sense of their lives into the worship services at New Holland Nazarene. I pray that they find Jesus Christ as the answer. Also show me ways that I can be of help at Fellowship Church to help these seekers find Christ.

Prepare: Picture how the land we purchase will be used At first as recreational ministry space for Upward and other Ministries. Then dream of how it will someday be need to expand our building, parking and outreach to the community.

Apply:

Day 6

Read: *“And when you pray, do not keep babbling like the pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. So not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matt 6:7-8*

Reflect: Never forget that God is always concerned about your welfare. He knows your needs and is more than ready to meet them. The truth is that God is happy to bless you with abundance. Are you willing to receive?

Pray: Thank you God for caring for me. Thank you that not one of my needs ever escapes your notice. I look forward to the ways in which you will meet the needs that come daily in my life. I gladly receive.

Prepare: Can you imagine the difference God wants to make in the lives of Families in New Holland? How does god want to you new Holland Nazarene to do that? How will he use you?

Apply:

Day 7

Read: *"This, then is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.." Matt 6:9*

Reflect: It is not hard to brag about God, especially when you take a moment and reflect on everything that has happened in your life since you became a Christ-follower. God is good!

Pray: Heavenly Father, I praise your name. No! I brag on your name! You have also done a mighty work at New Holland Nazarene. May your work in my life and my church continue. Bless your name.

Prepare: Begin to prepare for what God wants to do in our midst by preparing your own heart. Into what ministry might he be calling you to serve?

Apply:

Day 8

Read: *"Your kingdom come..." Matt 6:10*

Reflect: You don't have to look hard to find evil at work in the community in which you live. It also does not take a genius to figure out that the only one who can overcome evil is God. No wonder you are to pray for the reign and the rule (kingdom) of God become an active force in your neck of the woods.

Pray: Father, I pray that your reign and rule, your kingdom, would be established in the hearts of every person that comes into the orbit of my life. I especially pray that New Holland Nazarene would be used mightily to bring about your kingdom to the New Holland area.

Prepare: Prepare through relationships. Is there a person in your life that God would have you reach out to? Reach out to mentor them? Give resources to them? Be their friend? Be mentored by them?

Apply:

Day 9

Read: “... *your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*”
Matt 6:10

Reflect: You would have to agree that God’s will for your life is the best deal in town. That being true, it makes sense that you would pray for God’s will to become an active force in your life and in the lives of those you love.

Pray: God, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. You created me with a unique design, a unique way of doing life. Help me understand how you designed me and show me how to order my life around that design. Help me also understand how my design fits into the the purposes of New Holland Nazarene.

Prepare: Prepare spiritually though prayer and fasting. Sometime this week choose one meal to skip as an obedient and self denying sacrifice to God. Use the experience and the time you would have eaten to draw close to God.

Apply:

Day 10

Read: “*Give us today our daily bread.*” *Matt 6:11*

Reflect: Let’s be practical. If you are to fulfill God’s purpose for your life on this earth, you must be kept alive. In order to live you will need food, clothing and shelter. No wonder you should ask and expect God to supply your daily bread. Have you asked for yours today?

Pray: Heavenly Father, you know my day-to-day needs. Thank you for your willingness to supply me with an abundance of daily bread. Out of that abundance I will faithfully give to New Holland Nazarene so it’s daily needs are met as well.

Prepare: Have you set a meal to fast yet?
In your spiritual preparation, make a list of things for which you are thankful.

Apply:

Day 11

Read: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Matt 6:12*

Reflect: When Jesus Christ died on the cross as a payment for your sins. He paid in full for all your sins. Every wrong act, harsh word and impure thought has been forgiven. From God's perspective it is as if these sins never happened. He has forgotten them because He has forgiven them because He has forgiven them!

Pray: Lord, the extent of your forgiveness is more than I can comprehend. I am completely forgiven in your sight! I receive that forgiveness and thank you for it.

Prepare: Prepare for what God wants to do by preparing our hearts. Is there any bitterness, jealousy, rage, envy, unforgiveness or malice in the way of your relationship with God.
(Don't forget to fast)

Apply:

Day 12

Read: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Matt 6:12*

Reflect: When you realize how completely you have been forgiven by Christ's death on the cross, you can't help but forgive others. How could you do less? Your heart has been softened by the love of God and you cannot refuse forgiveness.

Pray: Father in heaven, I am beginning to see the greatness of your love toward me. There is no sin too big that you have not already forgiven. Because I have been forgiven, I choose to always be quick to forgive those who wrong me.

Prepare: What would it look like for God to completely transform the relationships in our lives to honor Him? What steps would you need to take for that to happen?

Apply:

Day 13

Read: *“And lead us not into temptation...” Matt 6:13*

Reflect: You have probably noticed that the world is not always user friendly for Christ-followers. At every bend in the road of life there are situations and circumstances that try to pull you away from God. Is it any wonder that you should pray for God not to lead you into a position where you can be so easily tempted?

Pray: Lord, my desire is to do what is right in every situation. I want my life to count for good and to bring honor to your name. I ask you to protect me from any situation where I am easily tempted.

Prepare: Today, listen closely for God’s voice. Obey his every whisper. Heed his his every warning. Walk in his footsteps...even when it’s hard, embarrassing, costly or inconvenient.

Apply:

Day 14

Read: *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Matt 6:13*

Reflect: You have a real enemy whose name is Satan. He didn’t sleep through your salvation experience. Watch out for his sucker punches. He loves to jab at you with the question. “Is the Bible really true?” Another favorite is to try to upper cut you with discouragement. Be alert. You don’t have to be hit!

Pray: Father God, open my eyes to Satan’s sucker punches. I don’t want to be surprised by his plans to derail my walk with you. Thank you that Jesus Christ lives in me and has made me strong. I am fully equipped to win the day!

Prepare: Prepare for God to do some amazing things in, through, around, and because of the people of New Holland Nazarene who have completely surrendered themselves to God, His plan, His mission, and his will.

Apply:

Day 15

Read: *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Reflect: God takes pleasure in those who are quick to give when the opportunity arises. They give willingly and generously because they love to do so, not because of pressure or coercion.

Pray: Heavenly Father, I thank you for another opportunity to give. I want to “Get In The Game” by giving to the Creative Communications Center, the atrium expansion and the new road.

Prepare: The opportunity to prepare the fields for harvest is now. Don’t sit in the barn while others sow, cultivate, and reap. Take part in what God is already doing and what he wants to continue to do.

Apply:

Our Family Meeting:

Preparing the Fields - March 11-17

Purpose:

To pray, study, and communicate with one another to discover God’s will concerning the commitment to “Preparing the Fields”.

Preparation:

Participate in daily devotions offered in The Prayer Guide so God has the opportunity to prepare every family member. Set a time for your FAMILY MEETING. The meeting will probably take thirty minutes to an hour, depending on the age of your children. Instruct each family member to begin thinking of sacrifices that God wants that person, and the entire family, to make in order to make a Great Investment in God’s work.

Date:

Sometime during the “Preparing the Fields” emphasis with your written commitment to be turned in on Sunday, March 18th

Leader:

Preferably the head of household, with ALL family members present.

Our Family Meeting

Suggested Steps:

1 The leader prays, inviting God's presence and leadership in the meeting, asking God to give a spirit of love, unity, and unselfishness.

2 Read and discuss as a family the Bible passages listed here. Write God's principles for giving in the space provided.

Proverbs 3:9-10 _____

Proverbs 11:24-25 _____

2 Corinthians 9:6-12 _____

Luke 6:38 _____

3 Ask family members to talk about sacrifices they and the family could make in order to give to God through The Great Investment campaign now and over the next three years. List family ideas below. Be sure to include each child so every family member has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving sacrificially to God.

4 Pray. Let each family member pray sentence prayers:
*Thanking God and praising God.
*Asking God's direction and help in making a family decision according to His will.

5 Compare God's principles for giving (written under the Bible verses you have read) with the ideas your family has come up with. Add any other suggestions that anyone offers.

6 Decide as a family what will be given.

7 Close with a prayer of commitment, asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, and to give you joy in giving, thanking Him for what He has done and for what He will do.