

A WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER FOR THOSE IN MINISTRY

Day One: Seen and Unseen

Father, thank you for those who have served our church in formal roles. Thank you for their public leadership and for the many unseen ways they live out your love. You see all their work. Encourage them. And stir gratitude in our hearts so we can spur them on in their love and good works.

Day Two: Spiritual Growth

Holy Spirit, we see your wisdom in the ways you gift everyone in Christ's church. You've given some teaching skills and others gifts in administration, counseling, and acts of mercy. Today we think of those who lead our churches. As they minister to us, minister to them. As they help us receive your grace, help them receive your grace.

Day Three: Practical Needs

Lord Jesus, the birds of the air neither sow nor reap, yet you feed them. We remember your care for the birds as we remember how much more you care for us. Liberate our ministry leaders from the gnawing anxiety of finances and daily affairs just as you free the birds from worry. Help us to notice our leaders' practical needs and do what is in our power to meet them.

Day Four: Families & Relationships

Gracious Father, we behold your love whenever we call you Father. You have adopted us as your children and made the church our family! You delight to call us your children, and we pray that our ministry leaders would delight in the relationships to which they are called. Whether they are single or married, whether they are spiritual or physical parents, brothers, and sisters: encourage them as they give and receive love.

Day Five: Endurance

Son of God, you obeyed until the end, enduring the cross. As our ministry leaders grow weary and increasingly aware of their weakness, assure them. Remind them you sustain the church while they sleep, play, and vacation. You made us with limits. Help us to have healthy expectations for our leaders so we can encourage them to rest in you.

Day Six: Joy

Blessed Spirit, when you work in our lives, joy is a fruit. Work in the lives of those leading our churches: fill them with joy and lift their head! Bind the hands of thieves—cynicism, envy, comparison, and bitterness—that rob them of joy. May our interactions with our leaders be sources of joy and encouragement for them.

Day Seven: Unity

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have been one, in joyful relationship for eternity. In that spirit, you made the world, and the unity of your church is a fruit of Christ's redemption. Be with our ministry leaders: help them to be of one mind and one heart as they serve and shepherd. Set us free from strife and unnecessary divisions. Enable our fellowship to reflect the oneness you enjoy as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end.