



Discovering Our Gift of Generosity: Five Day Prayer Guide

The Five Inside-out Habits are the means that grow us into a more meaningful relationship with God. Our prayers bring us into alignment with the heart of God as we consider every facet of our lives including our annual financial commitments to the work of the church. Each one of us is called to transform the world for the sake of Jesus. Let's pray through these 5 Habits as a church family asking God to reveal a unique spiritual truth that will enable us to grow in our faith and discover the gift of generosity that lies within our hearts.

Habit 1: We pray and worship to build a closer relationship of love with Jesus Christ

Gracious God, Our prayers are offered with purpose and intentionality. Our desire is to draw closer to you with each breath. Inspired by you, let our words of worship and praise be to your glory. We want to be closer to you so that we might experience that loving relationship you have created within us. As we are created to be followers of Christ, we are baptized into his body, the church, and we are identified by the one Spirit that sustains us. Helps us to embrace the unity of Spirit that is a gift from you. Give us the gift of generosity that flows from the depths of our loving relationship with you. Lord God, may your steadfast love endure forever. May we be faithful witnesses of your presence as we pray and worship. Amen.

Habit 2: We study the Bible to dig deeper and learn everything we can about God's love

Merciful God, Our relationship with you is defined within the boundaries of your Word. Just as you set the boundaries between land and sea, between the earth and the heavens above, your Word defines everything we need for our faith and practice. We long to be a people of the Book, and followers of the Word. You teach us about the values and virtues that shape us for good. Love is the truth that animates all we have been and all we will become in Christ. When we study, we discover life in all its fullness and abundance, and receive love as our ultimate treasure. Show us ways to give away all that we receive from you so that we come to know more about your love for us. With thanksgiving, Amen.

**Habit 3: We make friends
because lives are changed in community**

God of All, We give thanks for the community of faith that informs our daily lives. When we long to see you face to face, you lead us into the church and into relationships that have changed our lives forever. Whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, we are one body in Christ Jesus, we are made to drink of one Spirit. Our community draws us together in fellowship with one another and a shared commitment to the work of the church. Give us a generous heart toward the well-being of our community, both within the church, our neighborhood, and the world. We make friends in the spaces created by those who have come before us. Let us imagine the friends that will be a legacy of the spaces we might build together. Let us be generous, always in service to you and others. Amen.

**Habit 4: We tell our stories
to share with others how God is still at work in the world**

Heavenly Lord, We live out the narrative of our lives each day. We are an expression of our shared experiences. We tell our stories so that we might share the ways we have been shaped by our faith. As we reveal more about ourselves, we show others your fingerprints upon our lives—ever-present, at work in all we are now, and all we shall become. So, we tell our stories...stories that include all who have journeyed before us, and all who are with us. It includes those who will follow in our footsteps. With generous hearts, we tell the story of who you are and how you are still at work in the world. Amen.

**Habit 5: We give ourselves away in generosity and service
as apostles, sent by Jesus to be the good news in the world**

Lord of Creation, As we reflect on our call to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, we are aware of the world around us crying out for some good news that will bring relief from hardship. We have an opportunity to answer the pleas, not with some good news but with the good news. Let us use everything at our disposal to shout from the mountaintops that there is hope. But we don't stop there, for we are not only sharing the good news, but we are also living the good news. With generous support from those who love the church, we stand together to fulfill the calling to transform the city with the love of Jesus. Lord, help us to be generous in heart, mind and spirit, so that we might join you in this holy work. Amen.

