

Love your City!



Introduction

After the resurrected Jesus revealed himself to the disciples and gave them their task (*you will be my witnesses*) and how it would be fulfilled (*you will receive power from the Holy Spirit*): “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers” (Acts 1:14). Between Easter and Pentecost, if not, physically together in one place, we would like to pray with one heart and one spirit for the Spirit of God fall upon our churches and our city.

Prayer for the city and for the Church:

- To remind ourselves that the spread of the Gospel does not happen through our power and does not serve to glorify our work.
- To aid us in learning to see the city with Jesus’ eyes and to love the city with His passion and to see His love in our churches.
- To make us aware of the depths of our fallenness because of our sin.
- That our prayers would be a tool for the grace of God to saturate our denominations, churches and city.

FRAMEWORK

- Don’t forget that prayer is work but it is also work that produces fruit. God promises that those who seek Him will find Him.
- Give 30 minutes a day to God for these prayers. Even if after 5 minutes you feel that “this is enough already”, keep at it! Keep yourself in front of God for these 30 minutes...even if it is difficult.
- Each time of prayer is connected to a biblical passage. Throughout the week, try to spend more than just these guided prayer times – go deeper into the word and seek to take hold of it and digest it (Ez. 2:8).
- There are practices which can accompany prayer – situations that help guide us into a prayerful heart so that we have eyes that see the city as Jesus does. Ask the Spirit of God to help you identify helpful practices as you pray each week – things you can do to help you in your prayer time.
- It will prove useful if you journal the important things you learn and experience during this time. Write down what you hear from God and the things He might be calling you to.
- The daily devotions are written in first-person to help put the focus on your own personal participation in this exercise. Try to put yourself into these passages and situations.

1st Week – Prayer and waiting: Acts 1:4-8, 14.

Coming to pray. “You will be my witnesses”, promises Jesus. What does Jesus want from me, what does He want to see from me in my city? How do I tend to pray? Where is my faith? To what am I devoted?

Day 1 – Acts 1:4-8

I will meditate on the disciples’ question: “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” If the resurrection of Jesus assured that He is Israel’s Messiah, then the Kingdom of God has come, and His rule is already extended over the whole earth. I too will pray, “Your kingdom come”. Lord, I pray here at the beginning of these days of prayer that I will desire more and more to see *Your kingdom come*.

Day 2 – Acts 1:4-8

Jesus said that the kingdom has yet to come in fullness, therefore we have a task – “You will be my witnesses”. How am I a witness for the kingdom in my city? How does my church live out being a witness? Lord, let me come to know more accurately what You want to see from me and my church as witnesses of the kingdom in this city.

Day 3 – Acts 1:4-8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” With my mouth, I can confess my weaknesses to God. Where does my service to God flow? What happened when the power of the Spirit moved in this passage? How is Jesus calling me to Himself with this promise today? Lord, I pray for the Spirit’s power and the patience to wait for the promise.

Day 4 – Acts 1:14

Others are praying with me today. A number of brothers and sisters (with the same doubts and same joys as me) are praying for spiritual renewal in the churches and in the city. It has been this way for two-thousand years and all throughout church history. As I remember God’s faithfulness, I count myself among the number of my brothers and sisters and among those who have come before me. What He promises, He does.

Day 5 - Acts 1:4-8, 14

I look back to the beginning of the week. What has the Lord done in my heart? Where did I find hope and joy in what He has done – or did my prayers feel hard and fruitless? Whatever the experiences, what am I learning? How are these experiences forming me through my prayers? I bring to mind my church, my neighborhood, my colleagues, my friends...and find strength in Jesus’ words: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”.

EXERCISE: Prayerwalk in your neighborhood or the area around your church

In Acts 17 Paul walked around Athens to get to know it before he preached the gospel to it. He allowed what he saw to reach his heart (his spirit was provoked within him) and from this basis he spoke. Take a longer prayerwalk and ask yourself these questions:

- What do I see? And what does Jesus see?
- What kind of people are around me? What are their main questions, pleasures and fears? Where do they find meaning for their lives?

- What do you feel? What does Jesus feel for them? Talk to Jesus as you walk. Ask Him to show you what He sees and what He feels.
- After the prayerwalk, think back on the time. What images, impressions and thoughts do you have? Open your heart to God. Talk to Him about the people you saw: what do you want for them and why do you desire these things? What does it mean to be a witness in the place where you prayed?
- Write all of your observations in a journal.

2nd Week – Love the city! Part 1 – Gen. 4:16-24; Jer. 29:4-7; Rev. 22:1-5

Why do we build cities? What is a city? To be sure, a city is distorted because of sin, yet it is also here where humanity's cultural mandate unfolds. Often times we just see the city as "sinful", but according to the Bible, human history is moving toward a city – the New Jerusalem. Knowing the biblical witness, how can we see the beautiful and the good in our city and how can we love it more?

Day 1 – Gen. 4:16-24

Before me is Cain. He who fled from the presence of God. I cannot judge him...perhaps God can say the same of me, that I too flee from his presence. Lord, search me. Even after Cain's sin, I can still see that some of the good of creation remains in the city – there is still marriage, children are conceived and birthed. The divine command "to work and to keep" did not pass away either. Cain built a city which was the place where security, cooperation and culture flourished. Here his descendants became masters of shepherding, music and metalworking. All of this comes from the goodness of God yet is infected with sin – a sign of Lamech's power was in taking two wives.

Lord, show me my city in light of this story. Where do I experience goodness, and where do I see sin's poison? I will pay special attention to the state of marriage and the family in my city on this day. Lord, break my heart over these broken marriages and families.

Day 2 – Gen. 4:16-24

Again, the story of Cain and his descendants lead me into prayer, but now I turn my attention to their professions. What types of professions have I come into contact with over the last few days (transportation, shopping, food service, medicine, teaching, arts, etc.)? Lord, as I pray help me visualize these people – their faces, voices and jobs. Where do I see goodness and where do I see the effects of sin? I will pray specifically for those people that come to mind. I thank God that they embody His providence as He cares for the city. And I forgive those with whom I might have had conflict and intercede for them.

Day 3 – Jer. 29:4-7

How can one live and serve God in Babylon, the city that destroyed Jerusalem and the House of the Lord? How can one build a life, or love, or prosper or celebrate weddings among a godless people? How can I work for the good of a sinful and foreign city? What the prophet says to this people in bondage is nothing less than what Jesus himself taught: Bless your enemies! Lord, show me any obstacles in my life that keep me from loving the city. Search my heart and rid me of the pride, contempt and indifference I have for those people around me. Help me to love the city and to intercede for it to You. Show me what I can do for my neighborhood and the people in it and show me the things that I should have been doing already.

Day 4 – Rev. 22:1-5

I pray to the Lord that I might catch a glimpse of the New Jerusalem, the city which will come down out of heaven. Let me see my city in light of the city to come: what kind of city would my city be if the water from the river of life flowed through the streets? If instead of curses in the city, there would stand the throne of the Lord and everyone would know and worship the Lamb? I pray that a desire to see this would grow in my heart, that I would cry out for the outpouring of

the Spirit in my city. That more people would come to know and worship Him here and now, and that more people would find healing and consolation in the Lamb that was slain. I pray that the glory of the Lord would be more and more revealed among us.

Day 5 – Gen. 4:16-24; Jer. 29:4-7; Rev. 22:1-5

Looking back over the week, what has God moved within my heart? Where did I find hope and joy, or did my prayer feel difficult and fruitless? What do these things teach me? How am I being formed through these prayers? From these verses, let me pray where the Spirit leads asking how I can love the city as Jesus does?

EXERCISE: Have a conversation with a non-Christian who works for the good (*Shalom*, in Jer. 29:7) of the city – for example: a salesperson, hairdresser, bus driver, teacher, sanitation worker, or doctor. Why do they do what they do? What do they think they provide to the city? This is also a great opportunity to express gratitude to them for serving. Ask them how they view the city or maybe the area of the city where they work. After the conversation, prayerfully reflect on how this person's work benefits you and others and what this teaches us about how God loves and sustains the city. Pray through the things you learn and record them in your journal.

3rd Week – Love the City, pt. 2: Jonah 3-4, Acts 17:16-34

Both of these passages confront sin and brokenness in the city. But while in the prophet Jonah there is judgmentalism and self-righteousness (in contrast to God's compassion), Paul reacts differently in Athens. Paul's "spirit was provoked within him" and he boldly proclaimed the gospel.

Day 1 – Jonah 3:1-4

Nineveh hated the Jews, yet this antagonistic and godless city was still important and valuable to God. I try to imagine what this city was like; how the people lived, how they did commerce, what their religion like. The city was so evil that God said he would destroy it. What kind of city is worthy of such judgment? What is my city like compared to Nineveh?

I meditate on and digest the words found in Jonah, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" What is happening in my heart when I think about God's justice and his judgment on the sin in my city? What is in the heart of God when He declares judgment? Lord, let my heart desire to see your righteous verdict on sin but also let my heart be compassionate toward the lives of broken sinners.

Day 2 – Jonah 3:4-10

"And the people of Nineveh believed God..." What would it look like for a city, from the least to the greatest, to repent of its sin before the Lord? What would my city look like, what would happen in the church buildings, on the streets, in the workplaces, in the homes, in the offices of government...if the Spirit of repentance broke out?

Let me pray the words of the Ninevites: "Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." I pray that the Lord would visit our city in this way. I will intercede for the city to receive the gift of repentance through Grace.

Day 3 – Jonah 4

God forgave the sin of Nineveh, but Jonah was enraged. Jonah would have had a lot of joy if God had destroyed those faithless enemies of his people. How often does this same spirit abide in me and in us, the people of God, when we see godlessness around us? I pray for the Lord to examine my heart – does it make me angry that He is "a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"? Is there in me something that hinders God's generous and bountiful grace? I repent of small-mindedness and I ask the Lord to conform my heart to His mercy and compassion found in the words of verse 11.

Day 4 – Acts 17:16-34

I wonder what Paul experienced as he entered Athens and saw the idolatry that caused his spirit to be stirred within him? What kinds of gods did he see and what did Paul feel seeing these rivals to his God, Jesus of Nazareth? I must understand that Paul's spirit was not moved to look down on the Athenians, but to creatively proclaim the gospel to them. Lord, show me the gods and idols that fill my city. Lord, I pray that my heart will be as Jesus' heart when He looks at my city. Show me how to proclaim the gospel of Jesus in my words and in my actions in the context of my city. Open a door for me to proclaim the gospel in the coming days!

Day 5 – Jonah 3-4, Acts 17:16-34

Looking back on the week, what has God stirred up in my heart? Where did I find hope and joy, or do I still feel that prayer is still difficult? What is He teaching me through these things? How is He forming me through prayer? Contemplating these verses and this week's theme I pray to where the Spirit calls – how can I love the city as Jesus does?

EXERCISE: Visit an area of the city that is completely unlike the area you live or work in. Perhaps a poorer or richer area, perhaps an area that is culturally and/or ethnically different. Ask the Lord to speak as you see the different kinds of homes, businesses, offices, etc. Ask Him to open your eyes to yourself, to the city, and to His heart through this experience. Pray through what He reveals and write them in your journal.

4th Week – Love the Church! Pt. 1: Confession of Sin – Nehemiah 1; Eph. 4:25-32

We must stand, as God's people, with the Church in its sin and in the confession of it; it is my sin too. This week, in this time between Easter and Pentecost, we come before God in confession and asking for forgiveness. There is within us much bitterness, anger, hurt and complaint – wounds that the Church has given us. Brother harming brother, church member harming the pastor, pastor harming members, the denomination harming the pastor and the pastor harming the denomination. We need a place of healing, so that we can love the Church – the people bought by the blood of Jesus. As long as we withhold loving Jesus' people with the love He has for the Church, even in the filth and ugliness that can arise within it, we simply cannot pray for revival.

Day 1 – Neh. 1:1-4

Nehemiah confronts the misery of God's people: "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." I pray to the Head of the Church to open my eyes to the problems and reproach of my church and even my denomination. I know that I sometimes handle these things with bitterness and cynicism. But now, with God's guidance, I will take an account - where do I see failings and affliction? I will ask the Lord to show me what saddens His heart, and that I would grieve over our fallenness and if He grants it, to stand with Nehemiah's words "As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven."

Day 2 – Nehemiah 1:4-7

I remind myself that I asked God for sadness and grief over the afflictions in the Church. Today with Nehemiah's help I move toward confession, taking responsibility for the sins of the Church – they are also my sins. I know that I can be quick to criticize the sins of others while ignoring my own. But I need to see that body of Christ is my body too and its afflictions are mine. I pray with Nehemiah, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses." I pray that I will confess and release everything that causes me to be bitter and critical against the Church and that the Spirit will work in my heart to bring true repentance.

Day 3 – Eph. 4:25-32

When I consider the sins of the Church, I find not only my own sins, but also my own hurts. I see anger, bitterness, slander in my speech that comes after being hurt by others. It saddens my heart to see how much harm, scandal and abuse is in the Body of Christ. I pray that the Spirit would show me everything that causes anger and resentment in my heart whether it is from my church, or my pastor or leadership. As the Spirit reveals whatever is unworthy and not Christ-like, I will hold in my mind Christ hanging on the cross for all of us. In light of what He did for me, I will forgive others and release them from the debt of sin. As unity in the Body of Christ begins to

heal within me, I will pray for healing for all those who have been harmed by the Church. I will pray for healing for the Body of Christ.

Day 4 – Nehemiah 1:8-11

I will consider the unending faithfulness of the Lord. With my whole heart and will all my strength I make my request: “Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.” I am hopeful and assured by the faithfulness of God that He will again take pleasure in having His name dwell with us.

Day 5 – Nehemiah 1; Eph. 4:25-32

Looking back on the week, what is the Lord stirring up in my heart? Where did I find hope and joy? Do I feel that prayer is still difficult and fruitless? What am I learning? How is He forming me through these times of prayer? Meditating on the theme and passages from this week, I continue to pray as the Spirit leads. Am I loving my city as Jesus does?

EXERCISE: Attend a worship service at a church that is totally different from yours and that you have never attended. How does God use different Christians to love the city? What kind of blessing is this community of believers to the city? Thinking about what you experienced with this other community, how can you better love the people of God in your city? Pray through these thoughts and ideas and write them in your journal.

5th Week. Love the Church! Pt. 2 – The beauty of the people of God, Eph. 3, 5:21-33

The people of God are a special creation. He redeemed them for Himself, He brought them into covenant for Himself and does not share them with anyone. He loves them with a jealous love. His anger is kindled by faithlessness, but it will not burn forever. No, for God's people are the means for redeeming the world. This is His love for us, and this is how He forms within us love toward His people.

Day 1 – Eph. 3:1-13

For the gospel of Christ and for the secret that God kept hidden but had now revealed, Paul was in chains. What a great mystery of God “that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”. I can see God reaching out today to those who are far from Him, who are so different from His people. Yet He draws them closer through Christ. I can think of no other community in the world, other than in Christ, where everyone is given a place. In my spirit, I think about my church and marvel that through this community the wisdom of God is made manifest to spiritual powers and authorities whom Christ has disarmed. I cherish the thought and desire that through the life of the church, the hidden things of Christ might be made known in the city.

Day 2 – Eph. 3:14-19

Paul prays for the people of God. I try to imagine what my church would be like when its people are strengthened in their inner being by the Lord. What would my church look like when Christ indwells hearts, when His love grows more rooted in us, when the church is filled with His fullness? What kinds of feelings are being stirred within me regarding God's people? What desires are developing in my heart? I ask the Spirit to lead me as I pray for my church.

Day 3 – Eph. 3:20-21

The apostle praises God and calls me to do the same. I think about the power that is at work in me and in us, His people. It is the very same power that raised Christ from the dead and seats Him at the right hand of God (Eph. 1:19-23). I wonder what God can and desires to do in my church and in my city. I freely let go of my heart's desire and boldly ask Him to manifest His glory. I will ask for Him to do specific things in light of all this.

Day 4 – Eph. 5:21-23

Man and woman becoming one body is the beautiful fulfillment of God's creation. This union calls to mind the expression of love between the members of the Triune God. God speaks of His relationship with His people in terms of a husband and his wife and covenantal love they have with each other. Sometimes God speaks with great pain and anger when His people are unfaithful and adulterous. I imagine how much Christ loves the Church and how He desires to purify and present her as His bride. What kinds of stains spoil her whom He loves? Look how He provides and cares for her, whom He redeemed with His own blood? As I think and pray on this, I ask the Lord to instill in me a love for my church. Lord, let me see her as Jesus sees her and love her as He loves her.

Day 5 – Eph. 3, 5:21-33

Looking back on the week, what did the Lord stir up in my heart? Where did I find hope and joy? How are my times of prayer going? What are these times of prayer teaching me? How is He forming me through prayer? Am I loving the city as Jesus does?

EXERCISE. Read news and articles about your denomination or other churches in your city (website, Facebook, etc.) and look for the things that reflect Christ - the things that are beautiful. Give thanks for these things and tell at least one person of your gratitude. How can you better love the people of God in your city based on what you learned this week?

6th Week – Prayer for an outpouring of the Spirit, pt. 1: How does God do something new? Isaiah 51:1-11

Is it possible to imagine that where there was sorrow, there is now joy? Life, where death and mourning ruled? If the situation went from life, abundance and satisfaction to sadness and mourning – can it return again? Can what was spoiled, broken and lost be made right again? These are the questions the hearers of Isaiah's message in Babylon had to answer. Do they, can they believe the good news? Will there be renewal and new life? Can the Lord bring new life to our churches and city? Is He prepared to do so?

Day 1 – Isaiah 51:1-3

I pray that I will be able to listen to Him and hear what He desires to share with me about Himself and His will. I see how God sought to break through to the people, shackled in their slavery and grief, with the good news. He reminded them of where they came from – from the rock and the quarry. They came from the old couple Abraham and Sarah, when it did not appear that life and a new people could possibly come from them. Instead of pictures of death, waste and wilderness, the Lord paints pictures of Eden. Lord, give me faith! I pray for these beautiful pictures to be true. Come, Spirit of creation and renewal!

Day 2 – Isaiah 51:4-6

"Give attention to me..." I confess that I desire to hear Him and that our hope for renewal comes from nowhere else. I see new life standing on the threshold and that the Lord rules over history, politics and economies. With His word, truth and freedom He guides His people. I ask myself, what kind of power is He working among us to show that He desires for His kingdom to come in the power of His Spirit? Despite my doubts, I believe that His rule is firm, assured and real. "Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner." Come, Spirit of creation and renewal! Do a new thing in my city!

Day 3 – Isaiah 51:7-8

"Listen to me..." I remind myself that the Lord still speaks and proclaims the good news of renewal. How ready am I, how much faith do I find in my heart to believe that He is willing and able to do a new thing in me, in my neighborhood, in my church, in our denomination and in our city? Lord, let the good news dwell in my heart. Let me believe so much and protect my heart so much that the doubts, faithlessness and disgrace of others cannot sway me. Let the Lord love His people and our city through me, that I am ready to bear the offense, mocking and misunderstanding. Come, Spirit of creation and renewal! Do a new thing!

Day 4 – Isaiah 51:9-11

"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago..." If the people of God cry out to the Lord for Him to awake and to do what He did at creation (defeating the dragon is an ancient story of creation) and in the exodus from Egypt, it will be heard and taken to heart, the Lord is doing a new thing. I stand in prayer and I too cry out, "Awake Lord, awake!" I will remember His works from the past, I will confess His promises and faithfulness and I will keep knocking at His gate. But I am not content in only knowing what He has done in the past since I know what He can do today. This is why I cry out,

that He would come down to us in power and complete His freedom-giving work in our city. Come, Spirit of creation and renewal! Do a new thing!

Day 5 – Isaiah 51:1-11

Looking back on the week, what has the Lord stirred up in my heart? Where have I found hope and joy? Are my times of prayer becoming easier or are they still difficult? What have I learned this week? How is He forming me through prayer? With these verses and this theme in mind, I pray where the Spirit calls – how might I love the city as Jesus does?

EXERCISE: Do a prayerwalk in a cemetery, hospital, retirement home or a similar place. The early church used to celebrate Easter in the cemeteries as a confession that Jesus Christ rose from the dead in a body and we too will be raised in a body. What kind of effect does facing our own death, transiency and fragility have on our faith and our living out the gospel? How can life be birthed from death? Pray over what you discover and record it in your journal.

7th Week – Prayer for an outpouring of the Spirit, pt. 2: Acts 2:1-12, 37-47

The promise of Jesus begins to be fulfilled with the coming of the Spirit and the curse of Babel is turned back. Simple people begin to proclaim the gospel with courage and wisdom. Many are born again. God's people, bearing His beauty, shine before us.

Day 1 – Acts 2:1-4

Look back at the events of Pentecost. The disciples are together with one heart and spirit, engaged in prayer. I wonder at their level of surprise when what Jesus promised finally arrived. They probably had no idea when or in what way the promised Spirit would descend upon them. We see the Spirit descending like a fire and a wind; nothing was untouched by Him. What should my attitude be about how this happened? Am I comfortable with a desire that the Spirit would descend on my city when I can't be sure how this will happen? Could it be that I am quenching the Spirit by expecting Him to work a certain way that I am comfortable with? I must turn to Him in complete confidence and leave all the details of what and how to Him.

Day 2 – Acts 2:5-12

Where the Spirit descends, the mouths and hearts of people open, and they proclaim the glories of God. When was the last time I simply just praised Jesus for the wonder of His salvation and praised the Father for His merciful love? How alive and present is the praise of God in my heart these days? Holy Spirit, fill my heart, mouth and whole being with the praise of Christ and sweep over the people of God! In the resulting praise, let there be one mind and heart where there was dissension, discord and disagreements! Tear down the walls in people's hearts and minds that block out acceptance of the good news. Lord, I want to see the Spirit's life-giving work! I want to see more and more people hear, understand and embrace the gospel in the city!

Day 3 – Acts 2:37-41

I see that Peter, filled by the Spirit with wisdom and power, preached the gospel. In my mind I can imagine the city of Jerusalem being confronted with God's judgment. Lord, show me what it is to be cut to the heart with the gospel. I pray that the Spirit would empower this kind of preaching in my church and that hundreds and thousands would be lead to new life in Christ. I believe that He who created heaven and earth, who rescued Israel out of Egypt, who is able to do far more than what we can ask or think, for whom nothing is impossible – that hundreds and thousands *will* bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord in my city!

Day 4 – Acts 2:42-47

Look at the born-again people of God here in the



word. I imagine how my church would be if the same energy were present - in the community and teaching, in caring for those in need, in the healing and liberating gifts of the Spirit, in the praise of God, in the communion of the Lord's Supper, in evangelizing. I imagine the evidence of this growing every day. This is the church for which Jesus of Nazareth gave His life, the church the Father desires to see, and the community through which the Spirit is ready and willing to work. I give thanks that I can experience these things in my church. I cry out for God to give the gift of the Spirit more richly, that we would grow and mature and that our church would more and more radiate the reality of Christ to the city.

Day 5 – Acts 2:1-12, 37-47

Looking back on the week, what is the Lord stirring up in my heart? Where do I find hope and joy, or do I feel that prayer was still difficult? What are these things trying to teach me? How is He forming me through prayer? May the Spirit guide me through the theme and passages from this week and show me how might I love the city as Jesus does.

I will give thanks for every gift I have received from God during these weeks of prayer. I will praise and glorify Him knowing that the victory is assured, and the unstoppable day is coming when the whole earth will be filled with His praise and glory.

EXERCISE: Take part in the **Love your City** closing prayer event together with your brothers and sisters who have been praying with you these last weeks!