

PRAYER GUIDE

During this time of transition, we're asking God to deepen our roots. Our spiritual rootedness allows us to grow, healthy and steadfast, as we face a season of change with confidence.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, John 15:1-15

The purpose of this prayer guide is to give shared language and unity to our Restoration family in this special season. Below are five movements of intentional prayer. Let these guide you, your household, or your group as you pray for the future of Restoration. Some of the prayer movements may come more naturally to you, and some may feel more uncomfortable. Let God guard and guide you. You may want to linger on one specific movement or prayer prompt for a long time, or you may move through them more quickly. Each movement invites you into the following one, and we ask that you cycle back through these movements at your own pace. However you choose to pray, lean on others in our church family for prayerful conversation and mutual encouragement. We look forward to the stories of rooted faith that will come from our unified prayers. We are in this together, and your prayers truly *matter*.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Romans 14:19

Movement 1: Gratitude

- Spend some time in prayer thanking God for Restoration Church.
- Let God call to mind a few moments when you have been assured that Restoration is *your* home. How did that feel? Thank God for the people and circumstances he has used to show you his presence in this church family.
- God has drawn you into belonging at Restoration. Spend some time calling to mind the shared mission, vision, and values of Restoration that you've been invited into by the Holy Spirit. Rooted in that belonging, we now move into an era of new opportunity.

Scripture: 1 John 3:1, Colossians 2:6-7, Ephesians 3:16-19

Movement 2: Opportunity

- Change is an opportunity to let God be God. When change looms, what emotions stir in you? Spend some time bringing all your thoughts and feelings about change (joy, excitement, fear of the unknown, desire for control, worry, anticipation, etc.) to the feet of Jesus.
- We are being given a new opportunity as a church. How is God moving in this time? What do you sense of the Spirit's activity?
- How might God be giving you an opportunity to deepen your faith in him right now? Ask God to remind you of his power, his purpose, and his plans.
- Picture yourself holding the gifts God has given — the ones you called to mind in our first movement of gratitude. Now envision yourself loosening your grip on those gifts. Understanding that we are blessed to be a blessing, we have an opportunity to move into active participation.

Scripture: Genesis 12:2, Isaiah 43:19, Romans 12:2

Movement 3: Participation

- We are called to faithfully steward God's resources, co-laboring with God and one another. How, specifically, is God inviting *you* to participate in Restoration's future?
- Faith-forward stewardship is not self-preserving, but a kinship of generosity and equity for the sake of the Kingdom. Pray that God would fill each of us with a sense of his abundance. Where can you see God's abundance in your life?
- As you sense God's abundance, bring these questions to God in prayer: How can I serve? How can I sacrifice? How can I share? How can I give?
- Pray for Restoration's finances. We value diligent, communal stewardship and welcome your prayerful financial contributions to our Future Fund.
- Prioritize attending our congregational field trips to our new home. As you walk around, pray over each space. Ask God to show you your unique role in Restoration's future. Ask for Jesus-centered vision.

Scripture: Acts 2:44-47, 1 John 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:58

Movement 4: Vision

- Putting down roots in this new home will give us space to grow and dream. The Spirit of God equips us for what we have been called to. Bring to mind the ways God is inviting you to serve, sacrifice, share, and give (from our third movement of participation) and ask him to *equip* you for that work.
- Spend time driving or walking around our new neighborhood. Ask God to show you where his goodness is *already* at work. Ask God to give you a vision for our new home that seeks the restoration of neighbors, the good of the neighborhood, and calls people into community.
- Envision Restoration actively participating in the flourishing of our new neighborhood. What do you sense from God? What might that flourishing look like in the coming months and years?
- As you join us on field trips to Arlington, what vision does God give you for Restoration? What vision does God give you for the good of our neighbors? God affirms and expands these prayers in the context of community. We ask God to give us eyes to see, and then we trust.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10, Proverbs 16:9, John 10:10

Movement 5: Trust

- We have journeyed through these movements together – thanking God, welcoming new opportunities, prayerfully committing to participation, and asking God for vision. Now, with humility, ask God to help you put your trust in him alone.
- We believe God is *already* and *always* present and at work. By this truth, we make sense of the world around us and our place in it. What is a specific act of trust God might be calling you to in this season of change? Step out in faith toward the Lord who loves you.
- Ask God to embolden and enliven Restoration. Pray that we are sustained by God's presence, for God's purpose, and at God's pace.
- We trust God with not only our lives, but with the generations to come. Spend some time in prayer for the students and kids of Restoration. Celebrate the promises of God that will come to pass as we entrust our collective future to him.
- Trust leads to a harvest of thanksgiving. Cycle back through these movements of prayer, moving again to gratitude.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20-21, Philippians 1:4-6, Proverbs 3:5-6