



Xtraordinary Stewardship

Xtraordinary Success

Stewardship 2010 Ephesians 3:20

Family Prayer Guide

Dear Saints,

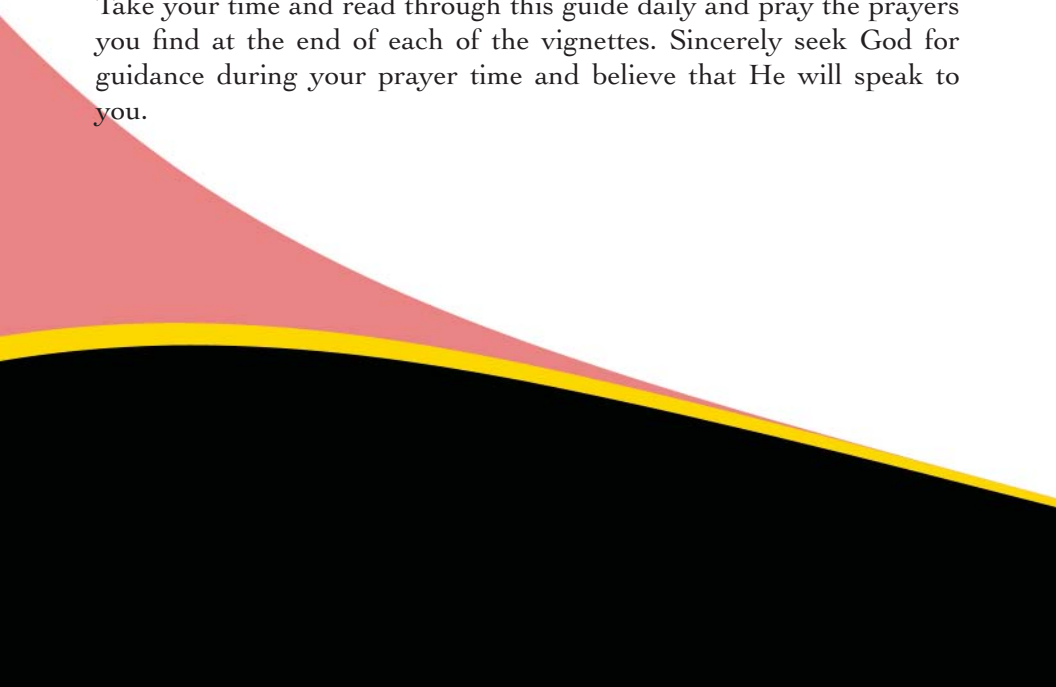
Greetings in the wonderful name of Christ. I pray that this letter finds you blessed!

Welcome into a new year and all the limitless possibilities that await you in God. This is the ROCK's year of Xtraordinary living for, through, and in God, and I am excited about all that He has in store for you. Much ministry awaits us, but we must be spiritually focused and prepared to successfully complete the assignments God has for us in 2010.

As we enter our stewardship campaign, I encourage you to increase your level of intimacy with God and this guide has been created toward that end. This prayer guide is designed to help you in two ways: 1) It is intended to serve as a daily devotional guide and 2) it is intended to help you develop a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Christ by reflecting on the scriptures and praying for personal transformation through His Word.

This year, the four primary focuses of our ministry are raising up Kingdom children and youth, developing Kingdom men and women, increasing Kingdom tithing and giving, and promoting Kingdom Global expansion. Each area of focus is addressed in this prayer guide.

Take your time and read through this guide daily and pray the prayers you find at the end of each of the vignettes. Sincerely seek God for guidance during your prayer time and believe that He will speak to you.



As He speaks, be intentional to make the necessary changes in your daily and weekly habits, daily devotional time, and spiritual disciplines that will allow you to continue to walk closely with God long after you have completed this guide. Ask God to change you, believe He will do it and prepare for the transformation as you actively engage your faith. God is faithful and will bring to pass all that you can ask or think – but only according to the power that is at work within you. Commit yourself to doing great and mighty things for the Kingdom of God and watch Him use you beyond your wildest imagination! Watch Him blow your mind during this year of Xtraordinary!

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Apostle Dana Carson

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Day 1: Generational Vision — Habakkuk 2:3

Vision is one of the greatest gifts one can give a child. Posterity, longevity, and a legacy for generations to come are the results of a vision properly deposited in the heart of the young.

Known for such cleaning products as Windex, Scrubbing Bubbles, Fantastic, and Pledge, S.C. Johnson is a privately held, family-owned business that has been in existence for more than a century. With operations in 72 countries and its brands sold in over 110 countries, it is the largest component of Johnson Family Enterprises, which also includes the Johnson Financial Group, Johnson Diversey, Inc., and Johnson Outdoors. In 2006 S. C. Johnson & Son had approximately 12,000 employees and estimated sales of \$7.5 billion.

When asked to what he attributes the global conglomerate's success, current CEO and chairman H. Fisk Johnson refers to the vision and business philosophy given by his great, great grandfather and company founder, Samuel Curtis Johnson "...to provide goodwill to the people and communities I serve through quality products and employment". Passed down through five generations of the Johnson family, this vision has been the guiding force behind the company's world wide expansion and success as an industry leader.

The ROCK has been given the vision of God to address the ills of humanity. Not only have we been entrusted to its care during our lifetimes, but we have been charged with conveying its impact and importance to our children in such a way that they commit to run with it and secure its succession. If we are to be successful, we must not consider them too young, too small, too immature, or so disconnected from the voice of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit to understand the great task our spiritual community has been called to accomplish. We must begin today in our homes with our sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces and nephews. We must harness the energy, intellect, imagination and ingenuity of this generation to ensure that the vision of the ROCK does not die for want of men and women who have committed themselves to catching the vision and making a difference. Help your child discover the Kingdom of God now. Help your child discover his/her passion now. Give your child the vision, today.

Pray the following:

- Praise and thank God for his grace and mercy.
- Repent for not properly regarding the presence of God in children.
- Ask God to give you a renewed fervor for the vision.
- Ask God to use you to bring the vision to pass.
- Ask God to help you convey the vision passionately to your child or the children in your life.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Praise and thank God in Jesus' name.



Day 2: The Cheerful Giver — 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Do you find the act of financially supporting the work of the church a laughing matter? Well you should. Have you ever laughed out loud because you had the privilege of giving something away for Jesus' sake? If not, then you are clearly not experiencing the joy of giving God intended each believer to experience as he or she provides financial support to and for His Kingdom.

Two key words found in this passage of scriptures are the words "sparingly" and "bountifully." The word "sparingly" has the connotation of being miserly or stingy. The word bountiful is associated with generosity and abundance. Thus, the principle Paul is illustrating here is that we will harvest in proportion to our planting. In other words, 'we get as good as we give'.

Paul warns the Corinthians that their giving is a private matter and the decision to give should be made with one's heart. The purpose was to dissuade insincere giving – giving for the sake of being seen and regarded highly by others. Our giving should not be for the purpose of public ceremony.

What makes a cheerful giver? What is it about that kind of person that God especially approves, highly values, and loves? Don't misunderstand: God loves a cheerful giver, but God also receives from a grouch! But what is it? The Greek word for 'cheerful' gives us our word hilarious. Thus giving is not simply a matter of economics, but a matter of theological reflection. It is what goes on within the giver that carries significance. It is not a matter of how much we have. It has nothing to do with rich or poor. The widow was commended for her mite; she gave out of her poverty. Cornelius, the centurion, was commended for his extensive alms giving; he gave out of his wealth. What does a cheerful giver know that brings forth cheerfulness? A cheerful giver knows the Giver and how the Giver has given in the past. Thus, giving is not a matter of logic, but a matter of acknowledgment of all God has given you.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for having the wrong perspective about giving.
- Thank God for the numerous blessings He has given you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you become a cheerful giver.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 3: Spiritual Maturity — Hebrews 5:12 — 6:3

What is the expectation on the life of the believer after accepting Christ as Lord? There are many, but the Book of Hebrews provides a unique perspective on God's expectation of our spiritual growth and development and teaches us what it means to be mature in the eyes of God.

Take a moment and reminisce about your life as a child. Do you ever remember asking your parents to let you stay up later, stay outside longer, be left home alone or to drive the car? If so, it's likely that you heard the age old reply "No, you're not old enough" or "No, you're too young." If you're nodding your head knowingly, you know exactly what it feels like to be considered young and immature. The good news is that with maturity comes responsibility and as an older teen or adult, it is likely that your parents naturally began to allow you to experience some of the privileges you felt deprived of as a child. Once you demonstrated that you had a handle on your impulses, could make rational decisions, and were not so easily swayed by your peers, I'm sure it became increasingly easy for your parents to trust you with greater responsibilities. This transition into adulthood acted as a training ground until you showed that you could fend for and take care of yourself. Then you were considered 'grown'. Thus, in the natural world, maturity is demonstrated by your ability to care for yourself.

Just as parents expect their children to mature into adults in the natural order of things, our heavenly Father expects us to experience spiritual growth and attain spiritual maturity. However, in the spiritual realm, maturity is measured and indicated by something altogether different from one's ability to be independent. Indeed, it is measured by our ability to care for others through the vehicle of God's Word. Hebrews 5:12 clearly indicates that God's expectation on the life of the believer is that we mature in our faith to the point that we are able to teach others. God takes notice of the time and help He has given us for increasing our knowledge of His Word. And to whom much is given much is expected. Matthew Henry declares that it is good to be babes in Christ, but not always to continue in a childish state. Rather, we should endeavor to progress beyond the infant state in our knowledge of God and grow into adult, spiritual maturity.

Increase your knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. Commit scriptures and their contextual meaning to memory. Attend

Bible study weekly and be attentive. Ask God to increase your knowledge of His Word and begin or continue your journey toward spiritual maturity.

Pray the following

- Thank and praise God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for disregarding or minimizing your spiritual development.
- Ask God to help you hide His Word in your heart.
- Ask God to mature you in and through His Word.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 4: Evangelism - Matthew 24:14

Did you know that the ROCK is in the Bible, and it speaks prophetically about the life ROCK members around the world are living right now? Matthew 24:14 reads:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

We are one of the local communities within the corporate Body tasked with preaching the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations. The ROCK is boldly proclaiming the Kingdom message around the world and fulfilling the end time command of preparing the way of the Lord (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4). Via radio, television, and the internet, we are reaching men and women with the gospel of Christ and expanding its borders one life at a time. From sinners, to converts, and from converts to disciples, we are building spiritual lives in the Kingdom of God. The vision God has given The ROCK commands that we make disciples indiscriminately. We must boldly proclaim that Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and will gladly receive all who confess Him as such.

I encourage you to be found in the scriptures. Proclaim the message of the gospel of the Kingdom and win souls for Christ. Witness to the nations in your neighborhood, your communities, your schools, and on your job, and participate in Kingdom global expansion at the ROCK.

Pray the
following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for not participating fully in Kingdom global expansion.
- Ask for the boldness to be a witness for Christ.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 5: The Way of a Child — Proverbs 22:6

According to researchers and experts in the field of early childhood education, the early years of life, from ages 0 to 5, are the prime years during which a child's cognitive development occurs. 'Cognitive development' refers to functions of the brain, such as thinking, learning, awareness, judgment, and information processing – all of which are skills healthy children do quite naturally as they learn and grow. Because these functions lay the foundation for academic success, during the formative years from 0 to 5, children should be exposed to numerous experiences that will lead to their cognitive development. Beyond the age of 5, it becomes increasingly difficult for children to expand the functional capacity of their brains.

Just as the academic success of a child is based upon their early cognitive development, the spiritual success of a child is based upon their introduction to the things and ways of God at an early age. The commandment of God listed in Proverbs 22:6 commands us to train our children in the way they should go. As used here, the Hebrew word for train up is the verb *chanak* which means to dedicate or inaugurate. Thus, the scriptures command us to officially begin to dedicate and lead our children into the things of God at an early age. If we follow this command, the scriptures assure us of the outcome of our efforts. The Hebrew word for depart is the verb *cuwr* which means to turn aside, leave undone or reject. Thus, we are assured that when they are old, our children will not turn aside from the teachings they received. Rather, they will continue in whatever was deposited in them at an early age.

Do you desire for your children to experience the awesome glory of the presence of God? Do you desire for them to walk according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and fulfill the purpose for which they were created? Do you desire for the Word of God to dwell richly within them and for them to be disciples of His Kingdom? Then dedicate them! Inaugurate them into His presence and into His teachings. Don't delay, but begin now, while they are still spiritually malleable, and you still possess the influence necessary to reach them during these formative, spiritual years.

Pray the following:

- Praise and thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Thank God for the gift of children or your influence in a child's life.
- Repent for having neglected attending to or assisting in the spiritual development of children.
- Ask God for the heart of a disciple.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 6: Vision — Habakkuk 2:3

Saints, let's talk about the timing of God. Finish this sentence:

“He may not come when you want Him...”

Most of you will say something like “He’s always right on time!” or “He’s never late!” Well, truer words have never been spoken. In fact, the scriptures, (Habakkuk 2:3), attest to the truth of this well known saying regarding the timing of God.

In this scripture, God declares that the vision He has given to man for mankind is set to unfold or manifest at a specific sacred season and place; all orchestrated and choreographed at His hand. God continues by reassuring Habakkuk, that though the vision seems to be hindered, to wait for it. He closes by stating that the vision cannot be hindered; it was given by God and there isn't any earthly force or created thing that can delay, aggravate, or prevent its full manifestation. It shall come to pass exactly as God declared and intends.

Now ask yourself. Have you lost sight of the vision and the reason for which you were called to this ministry? Have you lost sight of the reasons why you give, serve, sacrifice, pray, and minister? Have you begun to doubt the reality of the vision coming to pass? Have you begun to second guess yourself and are now growing weary in your well doing? Be encouraged for the vision shall come to pass. This is not a promise from the pastor, the elders, the leaders, or staff. This is a promise from God!

Our times and seasons, individually and as a local body, are in the hands of God (Psalms 31:5 and Acts 1:7). As such, our sole responsibility is to continue to believe and allow God to work through our human efforts to bring His glorious, eternal vision to pass.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Thank God for the vision.
- Repent for becoming consumed with worldly concerns.
- Repent for doubting the surety of His Word.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your love for Him so you can love the brethren.
- Ask God to use you to bring the vision to pass.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 7: Tell Them the Story - Deuteronomy 6:5-9, 20-25

Recently, a friend of mine told me about an interesting incident that occurred between she and her five-year old son who we will refer to as Junior. While driving to school one morning, Junior asked his mother “Mommy, is your birthday a holiday?” There was silence from the back seat for a moment, and then Junior asked “Can I stay home on my birthday?” to which mother gently responded “No dear. You can’t stay home on your birthday.” Confused by what he perceived to be unfairness, Junior stated adamantly “But we got to stay home on his birthday.” The mother looked in the rear view mirror and asked “Whose birthday honey? What are you talking about?” Unsure of how to properly convey the ideas running around in his five-year old mind, all Junior could muster as a reply was “The man. We stayed home yesterday because it was that man’s birthday.” After thinking for a moment, my friend realized that Junior was referring to the national observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

During a later conversation with my friend, she told me that she realized that Junior had no idea of the significance of the importance of his most recent holiday from school and believed it was just another free day. At this point, our conversation took a turn and we began to hypothesize about the millions of other children in America who are ignorant of the significance of the holiday we refer to as MLK Day. We concluded that generations of children have never been told the great sacrifices of the man for which this holiday is named, the civil and equal rights and protections of African Americans.

Being keenly aware of man’s tendency to forget, these passages of scripture record God’s commandment to Moses and the children of Israel to ensure they did not forget the salvation, power, and blessings of God. He instructed them to record Israel’s history in a clearly visible location for all to see so they will never be forgotten. He continued by telling Israel to teach their sons and daughters about the goodness of God and His promise to preserve Israel based upon their obedience to His commands.

Reflect on this commandment to Israel and apply it to your own home with your own children. Share the testimonies of God's saving and delivering power with them that you have experienced personally. Take God off the shelf and make Him real to your youth and teens. Don't relegate His presence and ability to act to Sundays and Wednesdays, but allow them to see you walk with Him daily. Share your salvation experience with them and help them to begin to develop a very real and fulfilling, living, breathing relationship with Christ. Help them come to know the man whose life, death, and resurrection we rejoice in and are thankful for. Help them to understand the significance of His sacrifice, and His desire that they come to know Him personally. Tell them the story.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for forsaking the testimonies of His faithfulness in your life
- Ask God to concretize in your mind the transformation God has done for you so you can witness and share of His goodness
- Ask God for an audience and the boldness to witness
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name



Day 8: Discipleship — Matthew 28:19

The Bible uses three words to describe God’s creation of man. God created us, made us in His image, and He formed us from the dust of the earth. Using this paradigm for discipleship, we cannot ‘create’ disciples (God does that), nor can we form disciples (give them the gifts and skills for their purpose – God does that too). However, we can help to make them disciples (teach and train people to worship God in spirit and truth).

The Hebrew word for ‘make’ is *asah* (aw-saw), which means to make through a laborious process. Where does the labor in your discipleship efforts originate? It comes about as your disciple begins to look to you for spiritual guidance, help in decision making, and encouragement. As the disciple is pulled on by things from their past, the extra pressure on your spiritual life will cause you to begin to pull on God more. Thus, in order to make a disciple, you must keep your life spiritually balanced.

In His final words to the disciples, Christ tells them, “You shall be witnesses to me”. He did not tell them to meet and reminisce over the good times they had and the miracles they saw Him perform. Rather, He sent them to the world in order to produce other disciples. Had they been self-consumed, the message of the Kingdom would have died when the last of the 12 disciples died. Had they been too socially conscious and conscientious, they would have watered down the message of the Kingdom to the point of powerlessness, and the people would not have been challenged enough to experience true change.

As modern day disciples and disciple-makers, we must take care that we do not fall prey to the same risks of failure and mis-focus that threatened the 1st century disciples. If we are over-consumed with God, we will become incapable of being about His business. On the other hand, those who become over-consumed with our disciple(s) end up creating unhealthy, carnal relationships that take us out of ministry. The only way to maintain the proper spiritual balance for the creation of a disciple is by pulling on God as much as your disciple pulls on you. By doing so, you will remain spiritually focused and grounded and ensure that your disciple receives all of God that they desire to have.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy
- Repent for living a spiritually mis-focused life.
- Repent for living a spiritually unbalanced life.
- Ask God to balance you spiritually through His Word.
- Ask for the grace and boldness to disciple others.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name



Day 9: Missions — Acts 16: 9-10

On January 12, 2010 the world saw the devastation and calamity being experienced by inhabitants of the island nation of Haiti after suffering a catastrophic earthquake. Measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale and lasting between 45 seconds to 1 minute, this natural disaster has decimated the people of Haiti and left their lives, livelihoods, and foreseeable future in ruins.

In response to Haiti's now dire need, the world has responded with an outpouring of overwhelming generosity – sending donations and aid totaling more than \$300 million with more to come. As news crews and reporters are allowed into the area to share the stories of Haiti's devastation with the world, time after time we hear the pleas of "help us" from the injured, homeless, elderly and poor. Mission groups, aid workers, Red Cross volunteers, and the like are now on the ground and working feverishly to help in the relief effort.

This natural disaster has mobilized the world. Yet, as believers we are called to demonstrate the love of Christ by ministering to the needs of men and women who are less fortunate than ourselves daily. The Bible records the compassion with which Christ ministered to others as He spread the message of the Kingdom of God (John 16:1-14, Matthew 15:29-39, Matthew 14:14, Matthew 20:34, Mark 1:41, Mark 6:34).

As found in these scriptures, the word compassion is the Greek word *spagchnizomai* which means to be moved at the bowels or the innermost part of one's being. This is the urgency and depth of caring we are called to demonstrate as we travel the world and impact lives on behalf of Christ. Never forget that, as intended by Christ, missions is simply a means to an end. We are called to meet the physical needs of people, in order to address the spiritual state and destination of their eternal souls. Our mission efforts should be born out of this same desire to relieve the hurts of others. However, we are not called to simply administer aid, but to offer those we minister to the eternal rest and safety that is found in a loving relationship with Christ.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for ignoring and/or neglecting missions at the ROCK.
- Ask God for a heart for missions.
- Ask God to use you to support missions at the ROCK.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 10: The Age of Accountability — 2 Timothy 2:15, 22-25; Ephesians 4:13-15

Not until the ages of 12 and 13 are Jewish children obligated to observe the commandments. It is at this age that they participate in the public ceremony that ushers them into adulthood. The term “Bar Mitzvah” literally means ‘son of the commandment’. In Aramaic, the word bar is the word son and the word bat is the word for daughter. Mitzvah is the word commandment in both Hebrew and Aramaic. Technically, the term refers to the child who is coming of age, and it is strictly correct to refer to someone as ‘becoming a bar (or bat) mitzvah’. However, the term is more commonly used to refer to the coming of age ceremony itself. You are more likely to hear that someone is ‘having a bar mitzvah’ or ‘have been invited to a bar mitzvah.’

Children begin preparing for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah by going to Hebrew/religious school some years before they actually turn Bar/Bat Mitzvah age. In fact, some children begin attending afternoon religious school from the time they enter kindergarten. The purpose of going to religious school is to learn about Jewish customs, holidays, history, and the Hebrew language. In the year leading up to the event, the child begins more intense training, focusing specifically on their Torah portion and the accompanying prayers.

So what does it mean to become a bar mitzvah? The bar mitzvah ceremony formally and publicly marks the child’s passage from childhood to adulthood and provides them the corresponding right to take part in leading religious services, to count in a minyan (the minimum number of people needed to perform certain parts of religious services), to form binding contracts, to testify before religious courts and to marry.

Just as Jewish children are called to study and demonstrate their preparedness to enter adulthood, as believers in Christ, we are also held responsible for preparing to assume positions of great responsibility within the Body of Christ. However, before we can be entrusted with the great responsibility of the soul and eternal destination of another, we must first become mature believers through the Word of God.

This year, commit yourself to progressing, growing and maturing in your faith and relationship with God. Invest time in learning His Word. It will increase your intimacy with Him, prevent you from being deceived, help you make wise spiritual decisions, and prepare you for the work He has for you in His plan of salvation for the lost.

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for neglecting your spiritual development.
- Thank God for His Word.
- Thank God for your ability to understand His Word.
- Ask God for the discipline to grow and mature in Him through His Word.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 11: Tithes and Offerings — Malachi 3:8-12

God and His Word have much to say about money, and no single area of life says more about the condition of a person's heart toward God than the area of tithes and offerings.

God gives us His principles and laws concerning what we are to do with the money that we have. Part of God's plan for money is the tithe. What is the tithe anyway? The tithe literally means 'a tenth' of what one has being returned to God. Tithing is first mentioned when Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, who is a pre-dispensational type of Christ (Genesis 14) and is considered to be the property of God (Leviticus 27:30, 32).

When we give God back the tithe that is His to begin with, He blesses us abundantly, spiritually, and physically. Notice that God says He commands tithes so "that there may be food in My house" (Malachi 3:10). Thus, tithes are the resources God uses to provide for the work of the local church. If we support the work God is doing through our local ministry by tithing and giving offerings, He promises to bless us far above anything we could imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21)!

Pray the following

- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for having been unfaithful regarding the tithe and/or not giving offerings.
- Commit to begin honoring God with your tithes immediately and consistently.
- Ask God for a cheerful spirit regarding giving offerings.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year
- Thank and praise God in Jesus' name.



Day 12: A Servant's Spirit — Philippians 2:5-8

The life of the believer is intended by God to be a life of service. However, it isn't uncommon to find one's desire and determination to serve, challenged by the nasty attitudes of unbelievers, the bad attitudes of carnal Christians, and the unwavering onslaught of mental attacks we receive from the enemy. During these times, you can gain strength from Christ's ultimate example of servant hood.

First, Christ did not consider it beneath His dignity to come as a servant and serve sinful humanity. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords humbled Himself to wash the disciples' feet (John 13:5). I know of no other king who has ever done that. How often we feel that certain tasks are beneath our dignity. If Christ had had that mindset, we would all still be required to stand before God and be judged based upon our own merits – a lost cause indeed.

Christ never let personal worries or suspicions get in the way of His ability to serve. He didn't worry about whether or not He was popular, where He would sleep or what He would wear or eat. Christ was fully human as well as fully God. His assignment here was to show mankind how to submit to God by the leading of the Holy Spirit. He was tempted to sin, but did not yield to His temptation. He truly knew what it meant to cast all of His cares upon His Holy Father for He had absolute confidence that God would care for Him (1 Peter 5:5-7).

Christ always served others with a pure heart (1 Peter 1:22). He had no selfish motives. He served others because He had genuine love for them and because He knew that He was serving His Father when He did. He also gave 100% of Himself in service without ever grumbling. Throughout His ministry, He was mocked and scorned, but He gave of Himself wholeheartedly because He knew His purpose and to whom His service was given (Colossians 3:23).

Finally, He served God because God was number one on His list to serve (Matthew 22:37). The earth, His place of service, was the place He worked through, not whom He worked for! He knew that in serving here, He would accomplish His mission for all of mankind and for the glory of God.

When you find yourself tested beyond your ability to love, encourage, or give a helping hand, allow Christ's example of sacrificial servant hood to be your inspiration. Challenge yourself to give more, to care more deeply, and to express your compassion more fully to those you have been called to serve. By doing so, you will receive the greatest reward all believers desire to possess – the declaration of “well done my good and faithful servant.”

Pray the following:

- Praise and thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Repent for the carnality of self-centeredness and rebellion to being conformed to His image.
- Ask for the mindset necessary to become a better servant in His Kingdom.
- Ask that the character of Christ continue to be developed within you.
- Ask God to use you in an extraordinary way for extraordinary ministry success this year.
- Give thanks and praise in Jesus' name.



Family Conference Plan

The purpose of the Xtraordinary Family Conference is to determine what God is leading you and your family to give towards The ROCK's Xtraordinary Stewardship Mission. We encourage you to take time out for this event some time after your group fellowship.

On Commitment Sunday, please bring your commitment cards, which designate the commitments and the cash gifts that God has spoken to you to give, to the worship services.

Preparation for the Family Conference

1. Set an appointed time for the conference for your family to meet, to pray and to discuss what your financial commitment will be.
2. Make sure your conference time is free from distraction. The conference will likely take 30 minutes, depending on the age of your children. If you are single, meet with a small group of friends.
3. Have a pen or pencil and a pad of paper available to use during the conference.
4. Ask each family member to begin thinking about how much money each person will sacrificially give towards Xtraordinary Stewardship.

Steps for Holding the Family Conference

1. Leaders should begin with prayer, inviting God's presence and leadership into the conference and asking God to give a spirit of love, unity, and unselfishness.
2. Ask family members to recall any giving and sacrifice principles they remember from the Xtraordinary Prayer Guide. Write these thoughts down.
3. Read and discuss the following Bible passages. Write down God's principles for giving. a. Matthew 6:19-21 b.1 Timothy 6:17-19 c.2 Corinthians 9:6-12
4. Ask family members to talk about sacrifices they and the family could make in order to give to God through The Xtraordinary Stewardship mission this year. Be sure to include each child so that every family member has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving sacrificially to God. List family ideas.
5. Compare God's principles for giving with the ideas your family has come up with. Add any other suggestions that anyone offers.
6. Spend time praying as a family.
7. Let each member pray sentence prayers. a. Thanking God and praising God b. Asking God for direction and help in making a family decision according to His will c. Review the daily prayers in the Prayer Guide and pray over what God has shown each of you during each of the days of prayer.
8. Decide, as a family, what you will give, and write it down on the commitment card you have received in the mail.
9. Close out with a prayer of commitment asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, asking Him to give you joy in giving, and thanking Him for what He has done and will do.