

SUMMIT

7 DAYS OF PRAYER



A person stands on the edge of a rocky cliff, arms outstretched, looking out over a vast, mountainous landscape. In the distance, a lake is visible, and a rainbow arches across the sky. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunrise or sunset, creating a serene and inspiring atmosphere.

Greetings,

This booklet is a prayer request designed to become part of your devotional time for one week. Included are seven short devotions to guide you in prayer. The leadership of the Recovery Ministry is asking you to intercede for the team of people who will attend the Summit training in Dallas, TX from July 21 to 23.

This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the Celebrate Recovery Summit and leaders of Recovery Ministries from across the country will gather in Dallas for three days of intensive training. Our ministry has participated in this annual event for well over a decade and it has been an integral part of our health and growth.

Attending the Summit is fun, and it is very hard work. The days are packed full of information, and the evenings are powerful time spent building community and oneness in our team. Most people who attend for the first-time experience powerful spiritual breakthroughs, and the experienced attendees are continually pushed to assimilate new information to bring home and share.

The devotions in this booklet are written by people who are in leadership in the Recovery Ministry and Celebrate Recovery at Henderson Hills. It is an honor for me to lead a group of individuals who are thirsty for Christ and so willing to serve. Our hope is for our team to benefit from your prayers, but also for you to be lifted in serving through intercession.

In Christ,

Chris Gibson
Director of Recovery Ministries
Ministries of Jesus

DAY 1

Be Uncomfortable for Glory

It is amazing how hard we work to keep ourselves and those around us comfortable. We avoid tough conversations, we withdraw, we manufacture opportunity, we blame, and we control. Our flesh is designed to fight, flee, or freeze. The Holy Spirit, however, is only concerned about moving us toward a deeper trust in God, a greater reliance on Him, and a steadfastness in His power. This develops our Godly character.

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.” Romans 5:3

Living this out is challenging! Our mindset often falls prey to a lie that says a Christian life is one of ease and comfort. We are created to need God therefore we should always be on the edge of uncomfortable. This is where the THE GREAT I AM will meet you.

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power, his understanding has no limit.” Psalm 147:5

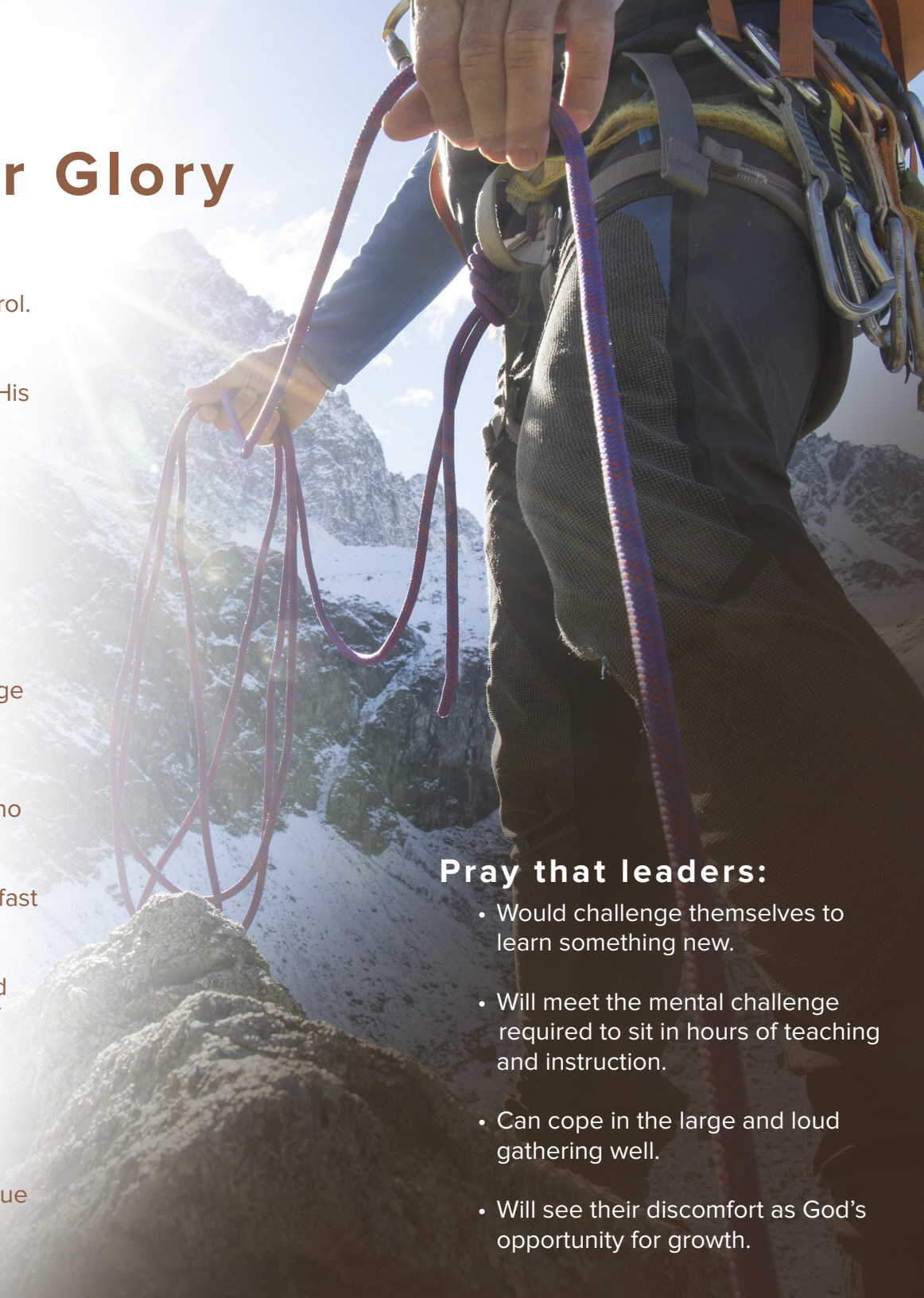
He alone handles our troubles, and our eyes should stay steadfast on Him.

“Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?” Isaiah 40:12

Once we accept that we are not God, and we submit to Him as fully as we are able, He allows us to be comfortable in an uncomfortable world. Summit will be uncomfortable for some due to crowds, noise, new ideas, or things that can trigger our past.

Pray that leaders:

- Would challenge themselves to learn something new.
- Will meet the mental challenge required to sit in hours of teaching and instruction.
- Can cope in the large and loud gathering well.
- Will see their discomfort as God’s opportunity for growth.



DAY 2

Hope in Harsh Conditions

The harsh temperatures of this past February shocked our plants leaving us wondering what would still be alive come spring. As the temperatures rose and they still looked lifeless, I thought, “What do I have to lose?” I began to pour water mixed with Miracle Grow on each pitiful looking bush and where perennials had been. Low and behold, over time, life began to immerge from what appeared to be dead. They still look pitiful but they are hanging in there.

Celebrate Recovery leaders regularly encounter people who are “hanging in there” due to harsh conditions brought by sin. But they also see God’s restoring and transforming power at work! God’s working even when what He’s doing is unseen. He’s faithful and promises to bless.

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”
Psalms 1:1-3

As the CR leaders and potential leaders travel to the Summit, let’s pray for them to:

- Have soft and pliable hearts to soak up the training God has for them.
- Be refreshed by the Christ centered teaching, worship, and fellowship.
- Grow a deeper relationship with God and each other.



DAY 3

God of the Wilderness

“A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed...” Isaiah 40: 3-5

It has always amazed me that the LORD chooses to reveal Himself most often in the wilderness, outside of the camp. The LORD finds us ready to receive Him when we are away from our homes and our protected walls. We find Moses encountering a burning bush, Hagar and the young boy Ismael being saved, John calling those to repentance, and of course even the Lord Jesus was nailed on the cross outside of the camp. The Lord of the city is also the Lord of the wilderness; it is not the Lord that changes but us who change. The wilderness is dangerous and unpredictable, yet in the chaos of the wilderness the Lord's presence is felt warmly. When we are away from our homes and our jobs and our routine, we find the unexpected. Meet us here Lord where our defenses are down; our path is often unknown. We pray now for those that are away from us, outside of the camp. We pray for the intervention of the Lord to find us where we are open and willing to hear His still calm voice among the chaos. Let your guiding presence and protection be faithful to those that have left their homes to go and seek you.



Pray that:

- The confusing and sometimes scary trip away from the comfort of the known will reveal the steady and faithful hand of the LORD.
- Sin will be exposed and repented of; God's deliverance will happen in the wilderness.

DAY 4

Focus

It's something we all long for. The ability to pay attention, to see clearly. It's an important capability in the life of a believer, one that Jesus reminds His followers of repeatedly. He tells them in John 4:35 "Wake up and look around." He tells us in Matthew 6:22 that "the eye is the lamp of the body." Luke 24:31 says that "their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Yet we struggle. There are distractions all around us. And our enemy is out to divert our attention and put it anywhere other than Jesus. 1 Peter 5:8 reads, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion." Satan knows that if he keeps our eyes and our thoughts on the things of this world, we are weakened. But God.

Matthew 8:27 says, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" Jesus, the Son of God. He can calm the literal and the figurative seas of this world. The storms succumb to His voice. He can handle whatever it is that we need Him to handle. He wants to take it. He wants us to give Him everything.

As our team heads off to Summit this week, make no mistake, they will be under attack. Satan will use every tool in his bag to make them ineffective. When learning is an objective, distraction is a great blocker.

Pray that we would:

- Have God open our hearts and minds to clearly hear Him speak.
- Listen, and that He would bless us with discernment.
- Understand, that He would continue to remove scales from our eyes.
- Not be led into temptation, but that we would be delivered from the evil one.
- Have focus, and that our focus would be squarely on Jesus.



DAY 5

Learning to Lead, Leading to Serve

“Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come...Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”
2 Timothy 4:7,15

In his letter to Timothy, Paul is encouraging the young pastor to be mindful and willing to train himself in righteousness. Paul taught ministry leadership to Timothy. Timothy’s training was in the gospel, in Christian leadership, in doctrine, and many other things.

Paul, too, was trained by one of the most outstanding teachers of the law (Gamaliel, Viz. Acts 5; Acts 22:3), and in part, that training taught Paul how to prepare disciples that he led to Christ for their ministries. More importantly, Paul received his greatest education

from the risen Christ (Galatians 1:12). Just as Paul trained Timothy, we, too, must prepare and mature in our Christianity (Ephesians 4:21; Colossians 2:7; Philippians 2:1-11). Our Christianity is to be dynamic, not static. Just look at the whole of God’s great redemptive history. Scripture is filled with God urging His people to love God, love people, and make disciples. Let’s just look at Jesus’ most famous command to His disciples: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

We can serve by leading and teaching others; this is discipleship. We can’t do discipleship well if we are not first trained by those who have gone before us.



Pray that those who go to Summit:

- Would be trained well.
- Will return to train well.

DAY 6

Absorbing Knowledge & Discernment

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians. 1:9-11

It has been said that going to the CR Summit feels like drinking from a firehose. In three days, there is a lot of information to soak in. I remember feverishly taking notes because I knew I could not possibly absorb everything coming at me, much less process it. I remember learning about cycles of sin; how our hurts lead to hang-ups, which lead to habits. Those habits can hold us in bondage for years.

Pray for our team of leaders:

- That we would be receptive to whatever the Lord is showing us, as leaders as well as on a personal level. I am blown away continuously that God chooses to not only rescue us from hopeless and broken situations, but He chooses to use our stories of redemption to bring hope and healing to others.
- As we learn more about Him, more about cycles of dependency, sin, and good old fashion human nature, pray that we can retain and carry forth what is necessary to pass on to those we lead along our path in ministry.
- Pray we yield to the changes God wants to make on both a personal level as well as a broader ministry level.



DAY 7

Divine Teaching

Since Recovery Ministry is often the entry point of many individuals to the greater church, it is important our leaders are trained and ready to lead. Well trained leaders are able to discern good teaching from false teaching. The Apostle Paul took this distinction seriously.

“But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7–8 (CSB)

In verses 7 and 8 the word “training” in the original Greek text is *gymnasia* which means physical exercise or training. He uses the term here to describe “training in godliness,” in preparation for ministry and for combating the false teachers. Paul impresses upon Timothy the need to replace myths with the truth of the gospel. Good and bad teaching is a direct correlation to the source. The false teaching Timothy is to be aware of has its source in deceptive spirits and demons.

As our Recovery Ministry leaders assemble at Summit, please pray for:

- The source of the teaching. Ask God to put the best people in front of the Summit Team — Individuals that have been equipped by wisdom that comes from heaven, not a wisdom that comes from the world.
- God’s hand to be on the teachers in a way our leaders will know the information they are receiving is a teaching directly from God.





CELEBRATE
RECOVERY
MINISTRIES OF JESUS