

## PREPARE THE WAY PRAYER GUIDE

### *7 Ways We Prepare His Way*

***“Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low. The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” (Isaiah 40.3-5)***

Deuteronomy 7 is a key word to our Gate body of believers. To prepare the way of the Lord is to prepare ourselves personally to receive Him and manifest His character; and to prepare ourselves as a body to glorify Him by doing His work. We're using Deuteronomy 7 as our prayer guide. As we pray together this week, let's focus on seven ways that we "prepare His way"!

#### **DAY 1: Preparing The Way To Hear His Call**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.1:** *“When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you...”*

**Thought:** When Moses announced this to God's people, they were about to step into the promises God had given them. God delights in giving us promises and He will faithfully fulfill those promises. One of the ways we prepare our hearts is to remember the promises He has given us. Perhaps He has fulfilled some of those promises; praise Him for His faithfulness. Perhaps other promises are waiting to be fulfilled; take time to thank Him for what He *has* done so that you can have faith for what He will yet do. *You can once more arise to your holy calling!*

**Prayer:** *"Lord I remember the promises You have given to me. I remember the ways that You have given me purpose, recalling the ways You have used me in the past. Thank you that those promises are alive for me today! Where I have allowed the pressures of life to diminish my passion, renew me in the joy of being Your servant. Where I have felt small in my own eyes, revive my faith to use the gifts you have graced me with. Where I have allowed unbelief to quench my belief in your promises, forgive me and restore to me the joy of my salvation!"*

#### **Prayer Points:**

- (1) Make a list of promises God has given you. One by one praise Him for what he has accomplished and then declare in faith that you are still believing Him for more.
- (2) One of the core promises that God gave The Gate at the beginning was Micah 4.6-7. When God provided this campus, we felt like God stirred us with Isaiah 2.2-3 regarding what He wanted to do here. Of course the scriptures speak of God's people Israel and the city of Jerusalem. But we can also lay hold of them as promises for us. Read and meditate on these verses. Pray into them over The Gate.

## **DAY 2: Preparing The Way In Our Hearts**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.2:** *“When the Lord your God gives [seven nations more numerous and mightier than you] over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction...”*

**Thought:** These seven enemy nations can speak to us of both the challenges and battles that lie before us; as well as mindsets and values that oppose The Kingdom of God. God encourages Israel that He has already triumphed over these battles! But He also commands them to utterly destroy them because otherwise they would be ensnared in their idolatry. We must stand in God’s victory over our battles by declaring His Name and Character over them. And we must humble ourselves and allow the Lord to show us any mindsets or values we have that don't line up with God's truth. Scripture says that the fear of The Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111.10), and to fear The Lord is to hate sin (Proverbs 8.13).

**Prayer:** *“Lord as the Psalmist prayed, ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalms 139:23-24) Lord because of Your great love for me – so great that You sent Your Beloved Son to be a sacrifice for my sins – let me not be careless with sin. Show me any area where I may be grieving Your Spirit (Ephesians 4.30)... any fear, any resentments, any place where I have compromised with my lips or with my eyes. I can boldly ask You this because as Your child I am justified through the sacrificial work of Christ. I can draw near to You, scripture says, because I fully trust in the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse me of all sin (Hebrews 10.19-22; 1 John 1.9). And I bring every challenge to You one by one and declare Your Name over each of them (Proverbs 18.10; John 15.16) trusting You fully for the power and strength to stand victoriously in them.*

### **Prayer Points:**

- (1) Spend time quieting your heart before the Lord to allow him to show you anything that is keeping you from full joy in your relationship with Him. Any unconfessed sin, any relationships that you need to make right (if there are any relationships you need to make right, just tell the Lord that you will at the earliest opportunity), any compromising attitudes.
- (2) Spend time listing the various challenges you are facing right now and, one by one, speak a specific name of God by which He Has revealed Himself in scripture, declaring in prayer God's grace and Power to meet the challenge. For example, if you're fighting a sense of loneliness and isolation declare that God is Yahweh-Raah, The Lord your Shepherd (Psalm 23.1). If you are facing financial need declare that God is Yahweh-Jireh, The Lord who provides (Genesis 22.13-14).
- (3) Begin the Home Cleansing Prayer Guide ([thegate.cc/fast](http://thegate.cc/fast)).

### **NAMES OF GOD**

1. Yahweh-Tzidkenu, the Lord Our Righteousness (Jer 23:6, 2Cor 5:21)
2. Yahweh-M'Kaddishchem, the Lord Who Sanctifies You (Lev 20:8)
3. Yahweh-Shalom, the Lord Is Peace (Judges 6:24, Eph 2:14)
4. Yahweh-Shammah, the Lord Is There (Ezekiel 48:35)
5. Yahweh-Rapha, the Lord Who Heals (Isaiah 53:5)
6. Yahweh-Jireh, the Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:13-14)
7. Yahweh-Nissi, the Lord Is Our Victorious Banner (Exodus 17:15, Rom 8:31, 37)
8. Yahweh-Raah, the Lord Is Our Shepherd (Psalm 23:1, John 10:27-28)
9. Yahweh-Nigad, the Lord Who Predicts the Future (Isaiah 42:8-9)

10. Yahweh-Ahavah, God Is Love (Isaiah 63:9, 1John 4:16)
11. Yahweh-Elohim, God Is Worthy of Worship (Genesis 2:4)
12. Adonai, Lord (Genesis 15:2, 8, Exodus 4:10-12)
13. Yahweh-Qanna, the Lord Is Jealous (Exodus 20:4-6)
14. El-Elyon, Most High God (Genesis 14:19-20)
15. Yahweh-Olam, the Lord the Everlasting, Uncaused, Self-Existent One (Gen 21:33)
16. Yahweh-Kavod, the Lord of Glory (Psalm 24:7-10)
17. El-Shaddai, the Almighty God, the Double Breasted God (Genesis 17:1-3, Rev 22:4)
18. Yahweh-Tsedek, the Lord Is Justice (Isaiah 30:18, Psalm 33:5)
19. Yahweh-Chesed, the Lord Is Merciful (Psalms 59:17, 21:7, Ex 34:6-7, Rom 9:18)
20. Yahweh-Magen, the Lord a Shield (Genesis 15:1, Deut 33:29, Luke 13:34)
21. Yahweh-Hayah, the Lord Is Self-Sufficient, the Great I AM (Proverbs 30:4)
22. Yahweh-Kadosh, the Lord Is Holy, Pure, and Undefined (Psalm 99:3, Heb 7:26)
23. Yahweh-Or, the Lord Is Light (Psalm 36:9, 1John 1:5)

### **DAY 3: Preparing The Way To Be His People**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.6-8:** *“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you...”*

**Thought:** Two truths blaze forth from this passage. First, these verses are some of the most significant verses in the entire Bible that focus us on the fact that God chose us simply because He loves us! God sovereignly chose Israel to be His people because He loved them. And God Has sovereignly caused us to love Jesus Christ and surrender our lives to Him and therefore God sovereignly chooses us. God does not love us because we chose to love Jesus Christ... He first loved us and gave us the grace to love Jesus Christ. The security that is ours in the simple fact that God has chosen us is absolutely stunning. There is nothing we have done to cause God to love us. He simply has chosen to set his love on us.

The second truth is no less stunning. God chooses us as a people. We are chosen by God individually but we are just as equally chosen by God to be together as His people. Applying this to our fellowship here at The Gate, God has chosen us very specifically as The Gate from before the foundation of the world to be loved by Him together as well as graciously used by Him together for His purposes in middle Tennessee and beyond. And we are meant to experience the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit together.

When Jesus promised that The Father would give them The Holy Spirit, He said ***“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth... You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*** (John 14.16-17) The “you” is plural, not singular. The Lord is giving the Holy Spirit to ***them as a community.***

So this literally means “He the Holy Spirit dwells with your ***fellowship*** and will be in your ***fellowship.***” So when we say that the Holy Spirit is our helper, our counselor, our comforter, He helps, comforts, and counsels us to be a ***fellowship of love together, so that we could be obedient to Christ’s great commandment to love one another*** (John 13.34-35)

We are chosen in this time and season to be together as The Gate Body. Just like He chose Israel, placed them in their own land so that through them God could model and demonstrate His power and glory to the nations. Even so the Lord has called us in this season as a body, placed us in our own land so that He could model and demonstrate His power and glory to the nations!

**Prayer:** *“Lord in this season and in this time, You have called me to walk with this people. Thank You for Your personal promises to me, and thank You for Your promises to us as a body, The Gate Church. Renew us in a hunger for Your presence. Renew us and our love for You and for each other. Renew our desire to let You model Your Kingdom through us.”*

#### **Prayer Points:**

- (1) Spend time praying that we would return to our first love of God and His people (Revelation 2.4-5).
- (2) Pray that we would see the increase of God’s presence in our gatherings.

- (3) Pray that each of us would be transformed by the love of God so totally, we would freshly commit to show that love to each other in community (small groups, ministry teams).
- (4) Pray that we would catch God's vision for us to model and demonstrate what a healthy community centered in Christ looks like... and then let God multiply this model around the world. Consider what does God's vision for a community centered in Christ look like.

## **DAY 4: Preparing The Way To Be Fruitful**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.12-13** “And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. <sup>13</sup>He will love you, bless you, and increase your numbers. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you.”

**Thought:** The promise of fruitfulness is more than just a promise. It is the very first thing God called our first parents to. God declares His intention to make humankind in His image, and once created the first thing He tells them is to be fruitful. We see in creation our purpose is to reflect His image, and that somehow being fruitful is core to our purpose of being image bearers of God. What is amazing is that fruitfulness was never about humankind trying to produce, fruitfulness was always meant to be simply the overflow of intimacy; intimacy with God and then intimacy between the man and the woman. We can understand this to be love expressed in devotion to God, compassion, caring for one another, being more mindful of others than ourselves. Love cultivates fruitfulness.

God delights in making us fruitful because in that fruitfulness, we are experiencing God's power. God's joy overflowed in fulfilling His promise to Israel that they would have a land in which they would experience abundance in every way. Read the passage again and meditate on the extravagance of God's gift of fruitfulness. It is God's joy that we experience joy in being fruitful. And one of the reasons it's joyful, is that being fruitful is not about “me producing” but “me abiding,” abiding in Christ. I am fruitful simply because “I am my Beloved's and He is mine” (Song of Solomon 2.16).

Our fruitfulness is expressed in all kinds of ways. The fruit of The Spirit (Galatians 5.22-23); the fruit of being found faithful even in trying circumstances (Genesis 41.52); the fruit of communicating hope and encouragement to others (Proverbs 25.11; Hebrews 3.13 [NIV]); the fruit of being an aroma of Jesus to those in our sphere of influence who have yet to commit to Christ (2 Corinthians 2.14-15); the fruit of our lips, our praise (Hebrews 13.15); the fruit of lives changed through what God does through us (2 Corinthians 4.13-16).

You can pray that your family members be fruitful, that your brothers and sisters in Christ are fruitful, that ministries you are connected to are fruitful...because God delights in cultivating fruitfulness in and through us!

For The Gate specifically, one of the aspects of fruitfulness we are believing for is that God would increase our capacity to touch more lives with the Gospel of Jesus. Let's also pray for the fruit of freedom in brothers and sisters who are held captive, increased joy in God's Presence, and increased love amongst us all.

**Prayer:** "Lord thank You that You bless me with fruitfulness. I freshly yield it to the Holy Spirit, knowing that in the delight of daily surrender to You, Your fruit (read Galatians 5:22-23) will overflow through me. Thank You that I can minister every day simply by being the fragrance of Jesus. And thank You Lord that for us at The Gate You are bringing us into a season of fruitfulness and multiplication. First, cause us to be fruitful in manifesting Your character. Second, cause us to be fruitful in love for one another. And third, cause us to be fruitful in reaching out and welcoming people who are far away from You. Let me hear the Masters Voice when He tells us that the fields are ripe for harvest. When I want to stay where I am let me hear the Masters Voice saying, “we must go for there are other cities that need to hear My gospel.” Prompt me often to share Your good news. Lead me often to go.”

### **Prayer Points:**

- (1) Praise God for increased fruitfulness in your own life, and for the joy you can know right now knowing that you don't have to produce it, you simply abide in Christ. Write down areas where you have seen fruit.
- (2) Pray the Blessing of Joseph (see Deut 33 below) over your family, your brothers and sisters in Christ, over our Gate family, and at least one to two specific people.
- (3) Pray for the specific ministries of Gate members right here in middle TN who lead out in ministries all over the world (see list below).
- (4) Pick one other church family and pray for them by name that they too would be fruitful.
- (5) Lastly pray fruitfulness over the 9am and 11am services we are launching January 28, and joy for all who are serving in these gatherings. God specifically promised Israel that He would increase their numbers. God wants us to experience the joy of watching Him transform lives.

### Deuteronomy 33.13-16

"May the Lord bless his land

with the precious dew from heaven above  
and with the deep waters that lie below;

<sup>14</sup>with the best the sun brings forth  
and the finest the moon can yield;

<sup>15</sup>with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains  
and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills;

<sup>16</sup>with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness  
and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush.

### **Ministries Flowing From The Gate:**

- Ryan Hall, Franklin Prayer House
- Barbara Ann and Charles Jeter, King's Hill House of Prayer
- Tina Griffin, Counter Culture Mom
- Amy Phillips, Pastoral Counseling/Spiritual Director/Discipleship
- Joe and Estella Segovia, Missions in Mexico
- Christy Edge, Life on the Edge (inner healing/missions/evangelism)
- Scott and Kaisa Coats, Fire and Fragrance
- Steve Fry, Steven Fry Ministries/Messenger Fellowship
- Stan Moser, Stan Moser Ministries (author, coaching)
- Matt and Corrie Hallock, Altr Culture (marriage ministry) and Man Warrior King (men's ministry)
- Brent Theobald, Integritas and Far Reaching Ministries
- Kevin Embleton, Embleton Music

## **DAY 5: Preparing The Way To Walk In Faith**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.17-22:** “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ <sup>18</sup> you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, <sup>19</sup> the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. <sup>21</sup> You shall not be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. <sup>22</sup>The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you.

**Thought:** When we start to claim the promises God has given us, the enemy often seeks to intimidate us back to a place of unbelief. God saw that Israel was going to be vulnerable to the intimidating appearance of their enemies, and feel like the enemy’s power was overwhelming. But God assures them “You shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did!” This is remarkable!

The Lord, through Moses, doesn’t say “if you remember”, but “you will remember... and you shall not be afraid!” God is sure they will remember, not because of their great faith, but because of their great dependence on Him, which awakens us to great faith. Yes they saw amazing signs and wonders. But how did their deliverance start? What put them in the position to see such signs and wonders? They cried out to The Lord! Read Exodus 3.1-10. When God calls Moses to deliver the people, what does He say that motivated Him? Verse 9: “The cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen their oppression.”

They cried unto The Lord. And that was enough. Sometimes great faith looks like great desperation. When faced with the challenges of our age it would be easy for us to say, “Well, if I could see what they saw, I could believe for anything and overcome any demons!”

But I want you to see how easy it is for you to put yourself in a place to see God breakthrough for you: Simply cry out to The Lord! And keep crying out. “The Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear!” (Isaiah 59.1) And “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.”

God will show Himself to you sufficient to prepare you for whatever future battles you face. But let God show His sufficiency to you one battle at a time. As with Israel, God often leads us to “*keep experiencing His overcoming power.*” Had Israel vanquished her enemies all at once, they may not have had sufficient experiences with God to enable them to remain faithful for the long-haul. But God in His graciousness allows us to keep experiencing His overwhelming power over and over again by continually resisting Satan, our flesh, and worldly influences. And in so doing, God gives us the opportunity to accumulate a treasure trove of memories of God’s faithfulness and power, which will become a source of great faith in the days ahead.

**Prayer:** “Lord I bring every concern, every anxiety, every uncertainty to You. Give me Your perspective in every area of my life, especially those that would seem overwhelming to me. When it feels like darkness is increasing in our nation, help me remember that “*Your hand is not shortened that it cannot save!*” When it feels like many of us as Your people have grown apathetic and overly focused on our own needs, help me remember “*Your hand is not shortened that it cannot save!*” When the needs in my family would overwhelm me, help me remember “*Your hand is not*



*shortened that it cannot save!"* I resist Satan – according to James 4.7 – on behalf of our nation, on behalf of our state and city, on behalf of churches in our city, including my home church The Gate, and on behalf of my family. Increase my faith to the place where *"asking and keeping on asking, seeking and keeping on seeking, and knocking and keeping on knocking"* (Matthew 7.7) becomes lifestyle for me."

**Prayer Points:**

(1) Pray one of the earliest prayers of the apostles: *"Lord, increase our faith"* (Luke 17.5).

(2) Always acknowledge your need of God's saving grace, remembering that the concept of God's salvation is a continuous salvation: *"I was saved, I am being saved, and I will be saved."* Pray for deep compassion, meekness, and trust.

(3) Take time to declare God's great power in prayer. Read the great Royal Psalm, Psalm 24, one of the greatest descriptions of God's Majesty ever written. Then read Ephesians 1.19-23, the superlative announcement of Christ's full authority. Then in deep humility call upon The Lord to *"summon His power"* (Psalm 68.28) in:

- Our nation
- Our state
- Our city
- The Church
- Churches in our city (pick 1 church and pray for them)
- Our local church, The Gate
- Our spheres of influence

(4) Pray for our church leaders listed below (staff, trustees, advisory board, pastoral elders).

- Steve & Nancy Fry
- Aaron & Rachel Weaver
- Trent Meng
- Aimee Seidelman
- Rick & Christine Sexton
- Scott Coats
- Natalie Munden
- Candice King
- Baylee White
- Felecia Casey
- Fizz Monsor
- Michael Cadle
- Dallas Owen
- Craig & Barbara Mahy
- Todd & Deanne Bruinsma
- Greg & Shelvi Gilmore
- Larry Wood
- Tim McLaughlin

## **DAY 6: Preparing The Way For The Next Generation**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.9:** *“Know therefore that The Lord, your God, is God, the faithful God Who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”*

**Thought:** God is very intent on helping us understand our commitment to pass our understanding of God, our dedication to His ways, and our commitment to Christ to the next generations. We are to teach these to our children and to their children (Deuteronomy 4.9, 6.7). Consider how important this is to God! If we love and obey Him, He promises to keep covenant with 1000 generations after us. That is just staggering. He so wants to bless the generations after us that simply because we love Him and obey Him, He takes our devotion and multiplies it beyond our imagination. Your one lifetime of devotion to God will reap centuries of blessing on your descendants. Even if our children and their children after them stray from God, God’s covenant blessing is that He will continue to stir them and woo them to Himself. He will not be disinterested towards your descendants. Because of God’s commitment to our children, let us vigorously commit to pray for them.

One other thing to note: God loves when the generations walk together and flow together. Every generation has a unique call on it from God as well as a unique sound it carries. So there are certain things that only each generation can do, that is specific to them as a generation. At the same time, there is a life we as believers are meant to have where the generations learn from each other and work together. This past Sunday night, at our Worship Gathering, we witnessed just such a “flowing together” as high school students, college students, grandparents, and everyone in between led the congregation in prayer! It truly was a little taste of heaven, and worth praying that it will increase!

**Prayer:** Jeanine Siebold has provided us with an amazing compilation of scripturally based prayers we can pray over our children. Scores of prayers that can be prayed throughout a given week. This is a treasure trove that Jeanine labored over and has now shared with us. Whether you are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, even big brothers and sisters, print these out and use them as a guide to pray for your family throughout the year. But don’t stop there! Remember we are one body and called to bear each other’s burdens. So as the Holy Spirit leads you, pray for the children and grandchildren of other families as well.

A few samples from the prayer guide:

*Thank You, Father, that YOU, the GOD of PEACE are strengthening, completing, perfecting, and making my children/grandchildren what they ought to be. YOU are equipping them with everything good that they may CARRY OUT YOUR WILL; while YOU, YOURSELF, work IN them, and accomplish that which is pleasing in YOUR SIGHT.*  
*Hebrews 13:20-21NIV*

*Thank You, Father, You have not given my children/grandchildren a spirit of fear; but of power, authority, love, a calm, well-balanced mind, discipline, and self-control. They do not blush, nor are they ashamed to testify for YOU. II Timothy 1:7-8 NIV*

*Thank You, Father, that before You formed my children/grandchildren in the womb, You KNEW and APPROVED of them, as Your chosen instruments before they were born. You separated, and set them apart, consecrating them. You appointed them to their specific callings, and destinies in You. You have delivered them, and saved them, and have called them with a calling in itself holy, and leading in holiness. Jeremiah 1;5, II Timothy 1:9 NIV*

The full prayer guide can be downloaded here: [thegate.cc/fast](http://thegate.cc/fast)

**Prayer Points:**

- (1) Pray over your children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren.
- (2) Pray over our children's ministry at The Gate.
- (3) Pray over our youth ministry and our developing young adult ministry at The Gate.
- (4) Pray for 'generational partnership' at The Gate
- (5) Lastly pray for The Send, a mighty convening of thousands of high school and college students on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bridgestone Arena. The Send exists to mobilize and activate a generation into their missional and evangelistic calling. They state, "Our only response to a nation in desperate need of Jesus is to unify and take bold missional action." It is vital that we pray for this gathering. Pray for Andy Byrd and the entire Send Team!

## **DAY 7: Preparing The Way To Be A Light To The Nations**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 7.12-14:** *“And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. <sup>13</sup> He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you. <sup>14</sup> You shall be blessed above all peoples...”*

**Thought:** When we think of God’s promise to Abraham, we often focus on the promised son, Isaac, and the promised land, Canaan. But a huge part of God’s promise to Abraham was that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore (Genesis 22.16-18), a promise He made just as real to Abraham’s grandson Jacob (Genesis 32.12). God promised that through His children all nations would be blessed.

This promise became one of the most important identity markers for Israel in the coming centuries. Isaiah directly proclaims this theme in Isaiah 49.6: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

When Peter realized that the young church was called to reach the Gentiles with the gospel, he anchored his conviction in the same passage from Isaiah 49: “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” God wanted to establish a model in and through Israel in the land of Canaan that could be a light to all nations. God wanted to show the world through Israel what His original intention for the planet was. That is the way that Israel’s prophets understood her call (Isaiah 2.1-3, Micah 4.1-5).

Since this is a passage that God has made real for us at The Gate in the season, is there an application for us? There is!

God wants to model his kingdom through our church in such a way that the nations of the Earth will be blessed. Does that mean that everyone goes on a mission trip every year? Well, we certainly want to send mission teams throughout the world, but the primary way that Israel was going to be a light was by demonstrating what a nation under God looked like. Israel became like an operational center in which God could demonstrate His glory through a people, and from which God would impact the nations. God wants to do that through The Gate. He wants to model what healthy church is meant to look like and then in His various ways communicate that model to the nations.

God wants to make us like His ‘operational center’. Wherever people called by God express their devotion to God by aligning to His order of things, *that* people will be greatly blessed by the increase of a sense of His presence and by great joy and peace. In fact, if we go back to Deuteronomy 7.13, God promises to multiply the wine and oil which are often symbols in scripture of joy and peace.

This is a part of the call on The Gate. To be a light to the Nations by being a model of the Kingdom on earth right where we are. To allow the Lord to align us to His patterns that we might thrive as a healthy community of believers, so *that* we might share God’s model with many nations. There are all kinds of ways God will show us how to be His ‘operational center.’ And from us and through us God will impact nations... supporting mission partners, sending

mission teams, **but also by inviting others into community with us, and even more importantly by simply being a model of how a local body of believer's functions together to reflect God's glory!**

Our church identity statement says, *"The Gate exists to experience God and invite our world into His community."* God desires that we experience the beauty of The God Community – Father, Son, and Spirit – through the way we love one another, the ways we gather in worship, the ways we do community together, the ways we connect peoples giftings together. *And then* reach out to our friends and neighbors and invite them into our community. Where the Kingdom is, joy and peace are manifest (Romans 14.17). When you see beauty, you want to share it. God's model of church is beautiful. As we submit to Him, He makes us beautiful *together*, and He will cause the beauty He expresses in us to attract others who need to see the beauty and wisdom of God demonstrated in a people.

**Prayer:** *"Lord thank You for Your beauty that I have seen. Open my eyes that I may increasingly see Your beauty in The Church, in our church The Gate, and in the people of The Gate. Renew in a me a passion to fully engage the Body of Christ here at The Gate with my heart, my time, my giftings. Stir up such love in us for one another, including the new people that enter The Gate. Make us a local body that reflects Your glory."*

**Prayer Points:**

- (1) Pray that we would embrace the call to model the Kingdom together on earth as it is in heaven.
- (2) Pray for the missionaries that we support, and others listed below.
- (3) Pray that all kinds of resources from our Gate members would be developed that would influence people around the world with the model God creates through us.

**Missionaries:**

- Appel Family
- Anna & Colson Huntington
- Stoltzfus Family
- Greg & Shelvi Gilmore
- Narciso Family
- Rene & Marianne Lako

\*For more information on our missionaries visit [thegate.cc/missions](http://thegate.cc/missions)

**Special Gate Ministry:**

- Short Term Missions Teams, that we would see this ministry fully take shape.

**Special Staff Prayer:**

- Natalie Munden