



# Ready, Set, GO Prayer Challenge

At HMUMC, we believe that one of the most important ways we can live out our discipleship is by having a willingness to “GO” into the world and serve others.

The “GO” Prayer Challenge is an opportunity for church members of every age and ability level to do that by going out into our community and praying for people in a variety of different places.

This prayer experience is one you can do in your car. Each section has a location to go to and park before you read. We ask that you drive carefully and have a co-pilot read as you get to each stop or simply find a safe place to pull over. As you drive to or by each location, follow the guide below as you pray.

## Ready – Before You Leave

**READ:** We’re about to go on a guided prayer tour of our community. This will be a little different than our normal car rides. We will be going to specific locations and praying for them in our car. Each stop will have a short reading and then someone will offer a prayer. The readers and prayers should rotate around along the journey. Throughout the car ride, we should be thinking about others in our community. Those who are helping others as well as those who are hurting. To help us focus on our mission, be sure to put all of your technology away and to listen closely to the reading. Also, be sure to ask any questions you might have about what we are doing. Are we ready?

## Set – Getting in Car

**READ:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)

Our world is really weird right now. Nothing feels “normal,” and we might be worried, scared, confused, and anxious. BUT, we know that this isn’t the end of the story! We know that God is a God of love and hope. So as we journey today, let’s look for, pray for, and offer hope and love to our community, especially in the hurting places.

**PRAY:** God, we ask that you journey with us. Open our eyes to see what you want us to see, and open our hearts to love as you love. Amen.

## **GO – To those near us – Park Near a Neighborhood**

**READ:** “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

When Jesus was asked what is most important to how God calls us to live he responds: Love God with everything you are, and love your neighbor as if they were part of your family. Think about those who live near to us, maybe we know them well, maybe we don't. How might we know them better?

**PRAY:** God, give us opportunities to love our neighbors this week. Help us be a light in our neighborhood or on our street. Amen.

## **GO – To Those Who Offer Our Daily Bread – Park near a Grocery Store**

**READ:** “The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)

This story tells us about the beginning of the Church. Because they lived so differently, sharing everything they had, people noticed and wanted to join. We find ourselves at a place where we regularly shop for what we need. But lately, it feels different. People have been over-buying and panicking because of fear. What might it look like to live generously in a time when we might not have everything we are used to?

**PRAY:** God, we thank you for grocery stores and all those who are working so hard to provide for our needs. We ask for their safety. Maybe we can be ok with less right now. Give us generous hearts towards them and everyone in need offering what we have, knowing God is with us. AMEN.

## **GO - To Those Who Help - Park Near a Healthcare/Hospital/Firefighter/Police Station/Etc**

**READ:** There is a story of a Rabbi, like Jesus, who after a natural disaster like a tornado or disease was asked how he could explain such a tragic act of God. The Rabbi answered that the disaster was an act of nature. The act of God occurs when people help each other.

We are now at a place FULL of helpers! They offer their lives everyday to bring light and healing to people who need it. It reminds us of a Fred Rogers quote: "When I was a child, and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me: 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" How does it make you feel to see so many helpers?

**PRAY:** God, we pray for the helpers. We ask that you protect them and keep them safe. We are thankful for them and the love they are sharing with so many people. May we be helpers too in our own way. AMEN.

## **GO - To Those Who are Hurting - Park Near a Hospital or Nursing/Retirement/Rehabilitation Center**

**READ:** "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:34-40)

Jesus reminds us in this story that we are asked to help; to help by being a light in a dark world. One of the ways to help right now is by wearing masks and social distancing. It will help the sick get well, slow the spread of illness, and it's the best way for us to care for one another. Another way could be writing notes or shopping for those who are more vulnerable. When we do things to help those who are hurting, we are not only being Jesus to them, we are serving Jesus.

**PRAY:** God, be with the sick. We ask for healing and for health. May we have opportunities to help those who are hurting. May we share your love with those who need your light. AMEN.

## **GO – To Those Who are Teaching and Learning – Park Near a School**

**READ:** School is most known for learning, but it is also the hub for communities. For many, school is what brings rhythm to their lives. There is a school day, school activities, school year, and summer vacation. For some, school is also the one place they get consistent food. Right now, school is very different for teachers and students. Some are learning and teaching in person while others are learning through virtual classrooms. There's been a lot of change for students and teachers to adjust to during this unique school year. Let's be sure to pray for our students and teachers.

**PRAY:** God, we pray for our schools, the teachers, staff, and students. Schools are the foundation of our community, and we realize the impact of their closure. We ask to help those who are struggling because of a lack of food, security, or anything else. May we have opportunities to help with those needs. AMEN.

## **GO – To Where the Body of Christ Gathers- Park Near a Church Sign**

**READ:** "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see (on the outside) and the parts we don't (on the inside). If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this." (1 Corinthians 12:25-27)

The Church is not a building, but a gathering of people following Jesus. How might we be the church right now?

**PRAY:** God, we thank you for Jesus who we follow. Help us see you in our world and say "yes" to opportunities to be the church. AMEN.

## **GO – Reflecting as You Go Home in Your Car**

**ASK:** What did you think about these prayer stations? Which one impacted you the most? What is one

thing you want to do to serve our community because of them? What is one way your heart and attitude will change because of your experience today? How is Jesus at work within you today?

**REFLECT:** Remember that our willingness to “go” and serve others can be done anytime and anywhere. Whether you’re praying for others from home or you’re able to travel to other places to pray at those locations, God hears our prayers and knows our hearts. So how might you continue to “go” serve others in the future? Consider saying a prayer for others every time you hear an emergency siren go by, you drive by a school or hospital, or you go to the grocery store to shop.

**PRAY:** God, we thank you for everything you give us, especially life. We ask that we might continue to grow from this experience and see you in our everyday ordinary lives. Help us to follow you.  
AMEN.