

# prayers OF hope

## monday - PRAY FOR GROCERY STORE CLERKS

How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.

*psalm 31: 19*

Our unexpected heroes of this crisis: our friends at our local grocery stores! The situation they've found themselves in is nothing that they could have prepared for, and yet they are still here for us and serving our community with a smile. Let's pray today that God would pour out His goodness that He has been storing up for them. May He shower them with protection and strength. May He show up in their lives in unexpected ways this week!

### TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for our grocery store friends...for patience, for protection, and pray against fear.

If you do venture to the store this week, be kind!

If you know someone who works in this industry, pray for them by name today. Maybe give them a call or text of encouragement.

## tuesday - PRAY FOR CREATIVITY

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins.

New wine must be stored in new wineskins.

*luke 5: 37-38*

He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed.

They will put their trust in the Lord.

*psalm 40:3*

Now is the time for a new song, for new wineskins. We are put into circumstances that are causing us to have to think outside the box, and think outside the walls of the church. Luckily, we serve a very creative God and we are created in HIS image and these circumstances are not going to stop God's Kingdom from advancing here on Earth! Let's pray that one day we

will be able to look back on this unique time in history and see it as a turning point for the church, a turning point where the Church left the building and created new and exciting ways to tell people about the love and hope we have in Jesus.

### TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for innovation. Pray that God would download into your heart a fresh vision for His church. May we, as creatives (we ALL are) imagine another reality, may we see the new thing that is just below the surface.

## wednesday - PRAY FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

***colossians 3: 12-14***

Let's be honest, most of our close relationships, with our spouses, our kids, our parents, were not prepared to spend every waking minute together. Relationships are being put to the test. Unfortunately, stress and uncertainty can bring out qualities in ourselves that we aren't proud of. May we pray in this unique season that God would grant us supernatural patience and understanding. May we take this time to understand each other in a deeper way and truly learn to bear with one another and forgive each other daily. May this time together make us STRONGER rather than bring us to the breaking point.

### TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Go out of your way to make those in your household feel loved and seen. Ask for forgiveness, even for little things. If you are married, pray specifically for your spouse, that God would use this time to strengthen him/her and mold him/her into who He's created them to be.

## thursday - PRAY FOR THE LONELY

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

***psalm 68: 5-6***

Not all of us have family or friends to help us through these situations. Even those that do are experiencing loneliness as our community is drastically changing. May we be a family to each other. May we not be afraid to reach out to others when we are feeling lonely or disheartened.

Let's pray that God will be near to those who are experiencing loneliness. May they feel Him closer and more tangibly than ever before!

### TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Reach out. If your feeling lonely, take a risk and call someone. If you aren't experiencing loneliness, reach out to those that might be. Check in on friends and neighbors who live alone or might not have family near.

## *friday* - PRAY FOR OPEN HEARTS

Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

***matthew 13:8-9***

I know this time is trying and putting on unwanted pressure. However, I believe it is also tilling the soil of people's hearts. Let's pray for God to supernaturally soften the hearts of those who haven't been open to His love and mercy in the past. May God use this time to return His beloveds to Himself. Let's also be open ourselves to how God might be asking us to step into more, to be more open to sharing the hope we have.

### **TODAY'S ACTION STEPS**

Pray for fertile soil, for open and soft hearts.

Share the hope you have. Share your church's livestream services this weekend or share a Bible verse or worship song on social media. Pray for someone specifically who doesn't yet know the love of Jesus.

## *saturday* - PRAY FOR VICTORY

He said, "Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!"

***2 chronicles 20:15-17***

It might seem like the odds are stacked against us. Whether it be in the current pandemic, or in our personal lives, in our marriages, in our circumstances. But take heart, Jesus has overcome this world. He has the last word over sin, over darkness, and over viruses! May we stand still and watch the Lord's victory! His name is over sickness. His name is over loneliness. His name is over quarantine.

### **TODAY'S ACTION STEPS**

Listen to songs of victory. A couple suggestions: "See a Victory" by Elevation Worship and "Waymaker" by Leeland. Spend some time in surrender, allowing God to take over your fight for you.

## *sunday* - PRAY FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

You will show me the way of life,  
granting me the joy of your presence  
and the pleasures of living with you forever.

***2 corinthians 9:13-14***

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you.  
My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you  
in this parched and weary land where there is no water.  
I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.  
Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!  
I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.  
You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.

***psalm 63:1-5***

True joy and peace and satisfaction comes from the presence of God. No Netflix binge or news article, or silly meme are going to satisfy your soul like the presence of the Lord will. When we are in the presence of the Lord worry and sorrow take a backseat to the unfailing love of our Creator. May we spend some time today intentionally entering into God's presence and allowing His joy and peace and power to wash over us.

### **TODAY'S ACTION STEPS**

Pray for God's presence to overwhelm your life and circumstance.

Pray the same for those in our community.

Spend time in worship, whether through song, through journaling, or through stepping outside and turning your face to the sun. Refocus your heart on He who satisfies.