

WEEK EIGHT

prayers OF hope

The National Day of Prayer is on Thursday, so this week, we're going to take a more macro view and pray for concerns and people across our nation. We hope you will join with believers all over the country as we intercede on its behalf and pray for hearts to turn toward Jesus!

monday - PRAY FOR HOT SPOTS

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

psalm 34: 17-18

Let's spend some time today praying for the areas of our nation that have been hit the hardest by COVID-19. Let's pray for places like New York, New Jersey, Detroit, Boston, New Orleans, Chicago, Seattle, and Philadelphia. Let's pray that the people there who have lost loved ones or who are currently battling, will feel God's presence in a mighty way today! Let's pray that as they look to rebuild and reopen that they would find comfort and wisdom from the God who sees them and mourns with them. Let's also spend some time today praying for the rural areas of our nation who will also feel the effects of this virus in unique ways. With a smaller health care infrastructure, they are more vulnerable to being overwhelmed and have limited access to resources.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for areas in our nation who have been impacted greatly by the virus.
Pray for comfort. Pray for protection. Pray for big cities and pray for rural areas.

tuesday - PRAY FOR LEADERS

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

proverbs 2: 1-6

The men and women who have to make difficult decisions that greatly affect others are in a position that I do not envy right now! This is a new virus with many unknowns and they have to make decisions based on limited information that they have at the time. It is easy to get frustrated when they make what we believe to be the wrong decision or say the wrong thing. However, what if today, we chose to extend some grace, believe the best in others, and simply pray for the people who are leading our cities, our state, and our nation? Let's pray that God would give them humility and wisdom, and would fill them with love and compassion for those they are leading.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for government leaders.
Pray for our mayors, governors, senators, congress women and men, and president.
Pray also for health leaders who are trying to learn all they can to inform government leaders. Pray for public health officials, epidemiologists, and other experts on this subject.

wednesday - **PRAY FOR MIRACLES**

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?
jeremiah: 32: 27

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
mark 10: 27

We know that our God is not surprised by this virus and He's not confused by it either. We know that He has the power to stop it in its tracks. Let's pray bold prayers today for this pandemic affecting our nation.
Pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Let's also pray for God to work His mighty miracles in the individual hearts of people. Pray that this pandemic encourages people to turn to God. As the church leaves the building and enters people's living room through live-streams and social media shares, may God open the hearts and minds of His beloved people. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit is unleashed on our nation in a way that brings people to the heart of God.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray bold prayers in the name of Jesus. Pray for medical miracles and spiritual miracles.

thursday - **PRAY FOR OUR NATION**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
ephesians 6: 18

Today is the National Day of Prayer, a day we participate in every year. However, this year our nation faces so many unique challenges. As I'm sure you know, this pandemic has brought us together in some ways, but has also deepened the chasm between many groups. Let's pray for respect, kindness, and unity, even in disagreements. Let's pray for those directly affected by the pandemic, and those who

have been indirectly affected. Let's pray for those who are recently unemployed. Let's pray for mental health. Let's pray for marriages, and families, and for all those disappointed by canceled events. Let's pray for revival; that people would come to know the love of Jesus and turn their hearts toward Him.

There are so many things to pray for it can seem overwhelming. However, the Lord sees our hearts and knows what we ask before we ask it. Let's simply pray for God to heal our nation.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

PRAY! Many churches are doing special prompts and prayer times today in observance of the National Day of Prayer. Check on what your church is doing and participate.

Consider fasting today. Maybe for just a portion of the day. Or consider fasting from something other than food, maybe it's the news, or social media, or television. Anything that will help realign your heart to God's and focus on prayer today.

friday - **PRAY FOR THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES**

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

psalm 5: 11

Let's pray for those across our nation who continually put themselves at risk for the sake of others.

Many people are experiencing first hand, tragedies that we only see from a distance. Our friends who continually get up and go to work despite their fear or uncertainty, should be lifted up in prayer for protection and blessings. Let's pray for health care workers, both doctors and nurses, but also administrative staff, janitorial staff, and others that we might not automatically think of, but are still putting themselves at risk. Let's also pray for our military, first responders, those in the grocery industry, food providers, delivery drivers, and all other essential workers.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for protection for those on the front lines. Pray for comfort for those who are witnessing tragedies every day. Pray for strength and renewal. Pray against fear.

saturday - **KIDS AND STUDENTS**

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 timothy 4: 8-12

Today, let's pray for the kids and youth across our nation. Our young children are being asked to change so much of their day to day lives without a full understanding of why. They are missing out on valuable aspects of education like socialization and classroom time. They miss their friends and teachers. However, we are confident in the resilience of kids and trust that God will provide for them at this time. Our teens and preteens are having to navigate all the normal aspects of adolescence while also maneuvering through a global pandemic. They are asking the same questions we did: Who am I? Am I enough? What is my purpose? All while having technology as their only means of social interaction. Our seniors have had to sacrifice countless milestones and once in a lifetime events. Proms, graduations, senior trips, last experiences with friends before they go separate ways. They are experiencing disappointment in ways we never had to. Let's also spend some time praying for vulnerable children and at-risk youths, whose situations have been exacerbated by this pandemic.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

Pray for the youth of our nation. If God places a certain person on your heart, pray for them by name and send them a note of encouragement.

sunday - **PRAY FOR WOMEN**

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago
ephesians 2: 10

Today is Mother's Day! (friendly reminder if you've completely forgotten what day it is) Let's spend today praying for all women, mother's or not. Let's pray for comfort and strength and rest. Let's pray for single moms who are stretched extra-thin during this pandemic season. Let's pray for moms who have had to also become "teachers" during this time. Let's pray for those longing to be mothers. Let's pray for mothers who have lost children. Let's pray for those who have lost their mothers. Let's pray for young and older women, with dreams and ambitions in their hearts, ready to change the world. Let's pray for women who feel like they are at the end of their rope, in survival mode. May God grant them renewal and strength to face the day's challenges.

TODAY'S ACTION STEPS

CALL YOUR MOM.

Pray for women all over our nation (and world).
Send a note or text of encouragement to a woman you know.