

Forty Day Prayer Guide

This prayer guide is intended to be used over the Lent period. We are also encouraging people to use take part in the #do1nicething campaign led by Love your Streets, forty acts of kindness. Please see our website for further details and the article on page...

This prayer guide is a daily prayer guide, which may work best if used in the early morning, but which will fit into your daily life whenever you have a few minutes to spare. We expect the prayers to take no longer than fifteen minutes each day. There are intentionally only three prayer points per day so people don't get overwhelmed.

SAFETY

Children and vulnerable adults

This guide is not suitable for children or vulnerable adults to use because of its emphasis on getting to know neighbours. While the vast majority of people living on our streets would not harm a child or vulnerable adult, we are concerned about the growing issues surrounding abuse. We would ask you to be vigilant about this risk when interacting with your neighbours.

Other Guidance

We strongly advise that, in getting to know your neighbours, you don't put yourself in a position where you are on your own with a child, vulnerable adult or someone of the opposite sex. We also ask that all adults adhere to the safeguarding policies of your local church, and inform your church leader that you are using this guide. Thank you

Day one: The Power of the tongue

Isaiah 6:1-7

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were the seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and the thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me! I cried. " I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

- Pray for your lips to be clean, confess times you have gossiped about people or broken their confidence.
- Pray that you will be a neighbour people can trust.
- Pray for your neighbours, that all will be healed of past hurts caused by names they have been called, bullying, emotional abuse, or gossip (both true and untrue) that has spread.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Speak only positive words about where you live, other people and stop being negative and complaining.

Day 2: Forty Days of prayer and/or fasting?

Matthew 4 1-2

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the dessert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

1 Kings 19, 8-9

So he (Elijah)got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

Exodus 24:18

Then Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

- Ask God to reveal His heart for your street, pray over three houses on your street, ideally households where there are no Christians
- If you live with other christians, pray together with other members of your family

PRAYER CHALLENGE:If you are able, could you fast a food group, Internet, tv, facebook, phone calls for 40 days or take it in turns to fast for 24 hours with other adults over a period of time. Please do not fast food if you are pregnant, diabetic, epileptic, on multiple medications or a doctor thinks it is unwise. Spend the time fasting, praying for your neighbours. Please go to www.ucb.co.uk/fasting for teaching on the nine types of fasting.

DAY THREE: The Harvest is Plentiful, the workers are few

Luke 10:1-6

After this the Lord appointed seventy two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place he was about to go. He told them, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.

- Pray to God for opportunities to get to know your neighbours, as you walk past your neighbours houses, pray a blessing over their houses.
- Pray for all Christians and churches to be burdened to pray for their neighbours, their streets and the wider neighbourhood.
- Pray for Christians from many churches to work closely together to share the love of God with their neighbours so that they may have life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Speak to other Christians and your leadership about praying for your neighbours. Consider setting up a prayer triplet as detailed on pages...

DAY FOUR: Honouring Parents

Exodus 20: 12 Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord God is giving you.

- Pray for all children in your street to honour their parents whether they are adults or children and especially for children growing up with a Mother or Father living elsewhere, help them to respect both their parents, any step parents and for good relationships among family member.
- Pray that no child suffers any form of abuse and for healing for adults and children who have been the victims of child abuse at the hands of their parents. Help them not to feel condemned for their difficulties in dealing with how they feel about their parents
- Pray for couples who would like children, but at this time are struggling to have children

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Try to get to know a single Mum or Dad and offer them help and encouragement if you can

DAY FIVE: Fear and Discouragement

Joshua 1:8-9

Do not let Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

- Pray for all those are living in fear and anxiety about what the future holds, or the problems of tomorrow. Pray for them to be encouraged and for faith in God to replace fear.
- Pray that your neighbours will hear words of encouragement and kindness rather than discouragement.
- Pray that you and your church will be known for encouraging people.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Get a group together from your local church and prayer walk streets that you live on together. For prayer walking guidance turn to pages...

DAY SIX: Praying for your neighbours to know Jesus

John 3:16-18

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. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son.

- Pray by name for three households on your street, that they would come to know Jesus as God's son.
- Pray that opportunities will arise, now and in the future to share what God has done for you.
- Pray that their eyes would be opened to who Jesus is.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you say hello to a neighbour on your street and strike up a conversation with the aim of showing God's love to them through being a good neighbour?

DAY SEVEN: Showing Kindness and Love to Others

2 Peter 1:3-10

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self control; and to self control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness; love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is shortsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

- Pray that you will be known for self control, kindness and love towards others.
- Pray that acts of kindness will become common in your street and in your neighbourhood.
- Ask God if there is an act of kindness, He would like you to do on your street.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: If you have not already started, could you visit the www.neighbourhoodprayer.net website and look at the daily suggestions for #do1nicething for doing one nice thing per day. Also, if you are on twitter, could you tweet the tweet for the day, to encourage others to do the same.

DAY EIGHT: Prayer Rhythms and Peer Pressure

Daniel 6:12-14

So they went to the King and spoke to him about the Royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except you, O King, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The King answered, "the decree stands- in accordance with the laws of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be repealed."

Then they said to the King, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O King, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." When the King heard this he was greatly distressed, he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

- Pray for Christians who find it difficult to practise their faith because of pressure from family, friends or work colleagues who do not understand.
- Pray for all Christians in the local streets to pray more regularly and get into a habit of praying several times a day.
- Pray for God to teach all Christians and all who are not yet Christian that prayer works

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Pray for one of your neighbours, for a situation such as unemployment, illness, loneliness. Pray until something changes and keep praying when you don't get an immediate answer. Pluck up the courage to tell your neighbour you are praying for them.

DAY NINE: Healing the land

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- Pray that God will show you either through research or directly, the sins that have taken place in the area you live in, ask God how to pray into these issues.
- Pray that God will put you and your church in touch with people who have experience praying in this area.
- Ask God to guide you in how to pray to heal the land.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you ask God to lead you to an area to anoint the land with oil as shown in Joel chapter 3.

DAY TEN: Asylum seekers, Refugees, Immigrants.

Isaiah 16:3-5

Give us counsel, render a decision. Make your shadow like night- at high noon. Hide fugitives, do not betray refugees. Let the Moabite fugitives stay with you; be their shelter from the destroyer.

The oppressor will come to an end, and destruction will cease; the aggressor will vanish from the land. In love a throne will be established, in faithfulness a man will sit on it- one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness.

- Pray for all Asylum seekers who are genuinely fleeing terrible situations in their home countries. Pray that your neighbours will have a generous heart towards those in need or to new immigrants living nearby.
- Pray for harmony between different faith groups in your neighbourhood.
- Pray that God will improve your own attitude towards people from different cultures.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Could your family invite a family living nearby from another culture round for dinner or could a group of you get together to host a dinner?

Or support a local charity helping Asylum seekers in your village, town or city.

DAY ELEVEN: Salt and Light

Matthew 5: 13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- Pray that you will be the salt of the Earth to your neighbours, leading a life that is attractive to others
- Ask God to transform you, so that you can be salt and light in your street.
- Pray to God that your house will become a house of prayer, that will impact your street.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Ask God to show you and tell you what He would like you to do, now and in the future for your street and local area.

DAY TWELVE: Living Sacrifice

Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Pray that you will come to love the word of God and have a desire to read your Bible every day
- Pray that you will find time to show love to those around you and ask God to order your life, so that you are not so busy that you can't spend time with Him and others
- Pray for opportunities to help elderly neighbours living on your street.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you start to read more of the Bible each day, making this a daily habit?

DAY THIRTEEN: Unity among Christians

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do you think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully

- Pray for your church, to have a strong relationship with other churches in the area, working together where possible and without competition or rivalry.

- Pray for all Christians living locally to be able to use the gifts God has given them and reach their full potential.
- Pray for Christians living on your street and nearby, to forgive other Christians or their churches, if they have been hurt.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: If there is a Christian living close by, do something to show them love and encouragement, for example, send a card, flowers, a small gift.

DAY FOURTEEN: Hospitality

Romans 12:9-13

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

- Pray that God will help you to practice more hospitality towards your neighbours
- Pray for all the people who feel lonely on your street, especially those who are sick and unable to leave their houses and also have few visitors, if any, from week to week.
- Pray for eyes to see what is going on in your street, and to develop a heart for those living nearby.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Could you, together as a family or with some friends, invite a lonely neighbour round for tea and cakes?

DAY FIFTEEN: Bereavement

Romans 12: 14-16

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

- Pray for all your neighbours who are mourning the loss of a loved one, either recently or in the last few years.
- Pray for healing for those who have developed depression as a result of their loss.
- Pray for all those who are so down, that they are considering taking their own life, pray that they will be comforted, pray that they will find hope, love and a reason to live.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Together with two or three others, could you walk down your street and your friend's street, praying a blessing over every house in your street?

DAY SIXTEEN: Reconciliation

Romans 12: 17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Pray for reconciliation between neighbours or between members of the same family living on your street.
- For neighbours that cause difficulties, such as playing loud music, or whom are argumentative, pray peace over their household and for grace from yourself
- Pray for people you might struggle to get along with and that God will show you a way to bless them.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Is there anyone you need to apologise to or make a special effort to get along with, this week?

DAY SEVENTEEN: The Police and Crime

Romans 13: 1-4

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do what is right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from the fear of the one in authority? Do what is right and he will commend you.

- Pray for your local neighbourhood policing team by name.
- Pray for the atmosphere on your street to be so full of the presence of God that crime rates fall, not just on your street, but on the streets surrounding
- If you know of any neighbours who work in a position of authority such as the government, the police, pray for them by name.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Find out the name of your local neighbourhood police officer, send them a thank you card and invite them in a cup of tea, if you see them passing by. OR could you consider setting up Neighbourhood Watch in your street(a secular organisation to help reduce crime).

DAY EIGHTEEN: Love for Your Neighbour

Romans 13:8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, " Do not commit adultery," Do not steal, " " Do not covet" and whatever other commandments there may be, are summed up in this one rule: " Love does not harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

- Pray for an increase in love on your street and in your neighbourhood.
- Pray that God will show you how to be a better neighbour to those living on your street.
- Pray for opportunities to get to know your neighbours and show love.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you offer to go shopping for an elderly or ill neighbour?

DAY NINETEEN: Blessing your Neighbours

Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Pray for blessing on those who mourn, not just for people they have lost, but for grief over injustice
- Pray a blessing on the peace makers, the merciful, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Pray for christians who live on your street, that they will not be afraid to say that they are a christian and especially pray for those who may have fled persecution in another country for their christian faith.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Could you tell a neighbour that you are a christian, or at least not hide it, by wearing a cross or jewellery that represents your christian faith?

DAY TWENTY: Miracles on Your Street

Acts 2:42-47

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together and had everything in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- Pray for faith to believe for wonders and signs to be done and to be seen in your neighbourhood and unity among local christians and organisations.
- Pray for generosity towards those who have less among people living on your street
- Pray for God to add daily to local churches, those who are being saved

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Ask God to place on your heart an area of your street you would like to see transformation.

DAY TWENTY-ONE: God's Heart for your Neighbourhood

Jonah 4:6-11

And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head, to deliver him from misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not laboured, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Ninevah, the great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left- and much livestock?"

- Pray for God to give you a heart, not just for street which is connected to many streets, which make up your village, town or city, but that He would give you a heart and desire to see the whole village, town and city transformed by God's power
- Pray for people living on your street to repent of their sins
- Ask God what your role is in transforming your street and village, town or city

PRAYER CHALLENGE:

DAY TWENTY-TWO: Confession of Sins

Nehemiah 9:1-3

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for one fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

- Pray for all the sins that you personally have committed and also for the sins of the people living on your street.
- Pray that all people will come to a revelation that they are sinner's in God's eyes and want to repent (say sorry and turn away from their sins)
- Pray for your street to come to know what God wants of them and to draw closer to God.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Find a Christian you can trust and talk to them about the things you really struggle with in life.

DAY TWENTY-THREE: Good Relationships with others

James 4:1-6

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think the scriptures say in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?"

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

- Ask God for forgiveness for any selfish attitude or bad attitude in yourself
- Pray for reconciliation for broken relationships on your street
- Pray for those in bad relationships or broken relationships, especially those who feel rejected, help them to know You as a Father who loves them unconditionally.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you donate clothes, food, money to a local charity that supplies the needs of those less fortunate than yourself or help someone through ACTS435, see page...

DAY TWENTY-FOUR: God's Victory in Your Street

Joshua 6:1-5

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua: " See! I have given Jericho into your hands, its King, and the mighty men of valour. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, when you make a long blast with the ram' horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; there then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.

- Pray that God will give you a strategy for praying for your street, so that His Kingdom will come and His will, will be done on your street.
- Pray for a heart of obedience, in doing what God asks you to do where you live
- Ask God to make you hungry for prayer and praise and give you a heart to see all your street transformed by God.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you encourage some friends from church to come around and worship in your house, praising God and asking God to bless your street? Could you leave worship music playing in your home when you are out?

DAY TWENTY-FIVE: Praying for Salvation on Your Street

2 Peter 3:8-9

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- Pray for every single house on your street, that not one of your neighbours would die without coming to know Jesus and God as their Father.
- Ask God to prepare the hearts of every person living on your street, for a revelation of God
- Pray for local churches to be prepared for new christians to come into their church

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Is there a household in particular that God is asking you to focus your prayer on?

DAY TWENTY-SIX: Prejudice

James 2:1-8

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing fine clothes and say to him, " You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, " You stand there," or, " Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonoured the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme the noble name by which you are called?

If you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.

- Ask God to cleanse you of any prejudices you have developed towards any people group, social class or cultural difference.
- Ask God to help you treat all equally and show love to everyone regardless of how they speak, dress, act, or their beliefs, even offensive beliefs.
- Ask God to help you and others living on your street, show mercy to others

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Is there a neighbour who is sick or in need of your help. Together with two or three others, could you visit them, buy a present or a get well card?

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN: An Apology of the Church

Joel 2: 12-18

Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning."

So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him- A grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a solemn assembly, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber and the bride from her dressing room. Let the priest, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar! Let them say, " Spare your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the people's, 'where is their God?' Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

- Ask God to forgive all local churches for the times they have failed to show love or meet the needs of their local community
- Ask God to send His Holy Spirit in power to all of His people, that they may hunger and thirst for God in a new way.
- Pray for all attending church to develop a passion for prayer and for church leaders to be surprised by the new interest in praying.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Ask others in your church to pray for a vision to reach the local community and open everyone's ears to hear what God is saying.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT: Deceit

Hosea 4:1-3

Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or Knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and anyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

- Pray for all your neighbours that they would stop lying and being dishonest and stealing, including the pursuit in some cases of benefits they are not entitled to, or fraudulent claims for compensation.
- Pray for all your neighbours to stop committing sexual sin in all its forms.
- Pray that none of your neighbours will commit murder in their life time.
- Pray for your street to be cleansed of all past sins that have taken place and for the blood of Jesus to wash your street clean.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Spend the day, every time a negative thought comes into your head, turning the negative thought into a blessing.

DAY TWENTY-NINE: Generations

Exodus 7:1-7

So the Lord said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God is to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My aries and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgements. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them." Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the Lord had commanded them, so they did. And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

- Pray for everyone who is older and feels that their life is coming to an end, pray that God will give them a revelation for their life and that knowledge that they still have a huge contribution to make.
- Pray for the younger and the older generation living on your street, to respect one another
- Pray for all those whom society considers elderly, to feel a new sense of energy and excitement about the future.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: is there an elderly neighbour you could help with gardening, shopping, DIY?

DAY THIRTY: Hypocrisy and Gossip

Luke 12:1-3

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled on one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

- Pray, that in your own life, you will not be viewed as a hypocrite

- Pray that you will be careful to speak only positively about people, so that should you be over heard, you would not mind people hearing what you have said.
- Pray that your neighbours view you as someone who is trustworthy and never as a gossip

PRAYER CHALLENGE: If you have been guilty of gossiping about people, or saying negative things, ask God for forgiveness and from this day onwards aim not to repeat this mistake.

DAY THIRTY-ONE: Healing on Your Street

Acts 5: 12-16

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- Pray that you may be so filled with the Holy Spirit that your thoughts, words and actions reveal God to your neighbours, that your prayers are answered and the atmosphere over your street is changed.
- Pray for God to heal people of emotional, spiritual and physical problems.
- Let miraculous healings start to happen in your street and that people will know God as a result.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: If there is someone who is sick on your street, could you call together some christian friends to pray for their situation, could you tell your neighbour you are praying for them.

DAY THIRTY-TWO: Being Selfless

Philippians 2: 1-4

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort in love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like- minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Pray for an increase in your love towards others, so much so that you are willing to sacrifice time watching tv or playing on computer games or facebook and twitter.
- Pray for your street that people will start to show love to one another on a new level, looking out for other people's needs rather than there own.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you ask God to highlight a way that you could be more sacrificial with your time?

DAY THIRTY-THREE: Following the Teachings of the Bible

Jude 3-4

Beloved, while I was diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Pray for all Christians to remember what God has done for them through Jesus dying on a cross.
- Pray for people living on your street to have many opportunities to hear the Gospel from your church and others
- Pray that all Christians living locally would apply the teachings of the Bible to their own lives, impacting those around them.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Is there someone living on your street you might be willing to invite in the future to an alpha course or a similar course. Could you pray for them until the time is right to ask them. Wait for God to show you the right time.

DAY THIRTY-FOUR: Knowing God

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, and let us return to the Lord, For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord, His going forth is established as the morning. He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and the former rain to the earth.

- Pray for all the people living on your street, that they will dream dreams and have visions of God.
- Let them know the awesome power that God has, to change lives for good, redeem impossible situations, provide solutions and help at times of greatest need.
- Pray for sudden realisation on your street, of who God is and that He desperately desires relationship with every individual.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Ask God to show you specifically how to pray for three households on your street, in order to lead them to Christ.

DAY THIRTY-FIVE; Life and Prosperity on your street

Ezekiel 47:12-13

Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.

- Pray for new life to come to your street, where there is fear, let there be faith, where there is rejection, let there be love, where there is sickness, let there be healing, where there is crisis, let there be resolution.
- Pray for people suffering from financial problems, debts, who have had difficulties providing food for all the family, to have a financial miracle and for prosperity to return to your street, for all houses.

- For all those who have been unemployed, please provide jobs and self worth. Pray for the Holy Spirit to visit your street in power.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Do you have faith to pray for a revival to break out in your street, even if you have to pray for years?

DAY THIRTY-SIX: Sharing God's story on your Street

John 4: 34-38

Jesus said to them, " My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do not say, " There are still four month and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps, receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured, and you have entered into their labours."

- Pray that God will equip you to form deep relationships based on genuine love and concern for your neighbours and from that opportunities to share your faith will arise.
- Pray that God will show you when and how to speak to your neighbours about your story, your journey with God, but pray for patience for God to reveal the right time.
- Pray for courage to be Jesus' representative in your street.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Are you willing to share your faith one day with your neighbour?

DAY THIRTY-SEVEN: Faith

James 5:12-17

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "yes" be "yes" and your "No," "No" lest you fall into judgement. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- Pray for more faith, to believe that when you pray, your prayers will be answered.
- Pray for God to help you trust Him more.
- Stretch your faith by believing for the impossible on your street.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Knowing your neighbours circumstances, ask God who you should pray for in faith, for a breakthrough in their circumstances.

DAY THIRTY-EIGHT: Praying for other christians

Revelation 3:15-21

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold,

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- Pray that you and others that you know will not become luke warm christians, pray that those who are lukewarm will realise their condition before God
- Pray for everyone living on your street to have ears to hear if Jesus stands at the door and knocks.
- Pray for your neighbours who once attended church, but who somehow have lost their faith, to return to Jesus

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you walk your street praying a prayer of blessing over every household?

DAY THIRTY-NINE: Real love

1 Corinthians 13: 1-9

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymball. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy, love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

- Pray that you and others have genuine love for your neighbours, that even if you see none of your prayers answered and not one of them becomes a christian, that you will continue to love them.
- Pray for those suffering from alcohol addictions, involved in the sex trade, the abusive individual, the drug addict, the criminal...pray that they too will be transformed by the love of Christ and as a result will not only be able to receive love, but show genuine love for others.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Can you commit to visiting a housebound neighbour (someone who cannot get out of the house because of illness.

DAY FORTY: Making Disciples

Matthew 28: 18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Pray that your life now and for the rest of your life, is a living example of how to follow Jesus' teachings and that even if you never opened your mouth to say it, people would recognise you as a positive example of what it is like to be a true disciple of Jesus
- Pray that this is true of all the christians who live locally

- Pray that God will love in power to transform your neighbourhood as more people become followers of Jesus

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Could you, with your church leader's permission and many others, organise giving out the Father's love letter to everyone who lives in your postcode area?

Congratulations, you have prayed 10 hours of prayer over the last 40 days for your neighbours and all aspects of your community. Can you keep going? More prayer guides will soon be available on line.