

7 DAY PRAYER GUIDE



Shelter
& Shield

DAY 1: PRAYING FOR OUR KIDS

READ: PSALM 121

BACKGROUND: IN MANY BIBLES, PSALM 121 IS LABELED "A SONG OF ASCENTS." MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE THAT WEARY TRAVELERS WOULD SING THIS PSALM WHILE JOURNEYING TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE. THIS DANGEROUS TRIP THREATENED PILGRIMS WHO WERE VULNERABLE TO ROBBERS, INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE SCORCHING SUN, AND MANY OTHER FACTORS. DURING THE LAST LEG OF THIS ARDUOUS TRIP, WOULD-BE WORSHIPPERS ENCOUNTERED DAUNTING MOUNTAINS AND HILLS THAT SURROUNDED THEIR DESTINATION. NEEDING A BURST OF ENERGY AND ENCOURAGEMENT, GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD SING PSALM 121 AND REMIND THEMSELVES THAT HE IS THEIR GREAT HELPER FOR EVERY STEP OF THE PATH. HE PROTECTS ON EVERY SIDE AND NO THREAT CAN OVERCOME HIS POWER.

PRAY: PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. PRAY THAT THE LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL BE THEIR GREAT HELPER. PRAY FOR GOD'S PROTECTION TO COVER THEM ON EVERY SIDE AND KEEP THEM FROM HARM. PRAY THEY CAN KNOW AND LOVE THE GOD WHO DOES NOT SLUMBER OR SLEEP.

DAY 2: PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO SERVE KIDS

READ: EPHESIANS 6:10-17

BACKGROUND: PAUL WROTE THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS. PREVIOUSLY, PAUL SPENT ABOUT THREE YEARS WITH THIS YOUNG CHURCH, EXPERIENCING FRUITFUL MINISTRY, EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES, AND ANGRY RESISTANCE. AT THE MOMENT OF WRITING THIS LETTER HE WAS IMPRISONED IN ROME, SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, AND SLOWLY REALIZING HE WOULD NEVER RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL. PAUL KNEW WELL THAT GOD WAS THE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE. HE ALSO KNEW THAT GOD'S PEOPLE HAD AN ENEMY WHO ACTIVELY LABORED TO THWART GOD'S HOLY WORK. PAUL INSTRUCTED THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS TO, "PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE TACTICS OF THE DEVIL."
(EPHESIANS 6:11 CSB)

PRAY: PRAY TODAY FOR EVERY ADULT WHO SERVES MINORS IN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. PRAY THAT EVERY LEADER AND VOLUNTEER WOULD PUT ON THE "FULL ARMOR OF GOD" TO PROTECT AGAINST THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES. PRAY THAT THOSE WHO LEAD WOULD REPRESENT TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AT ALL TIMES. PRAY THAT EVERY ADULT IS MOTIVATED TO ACT IN PEACE AND LOVE AND SERVE OUT OF AN OVERFLOW OF THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. PRAY THAT THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY GOD'S IMPORTANT WORK THROUGH GREAT LEADERS.

DAY 3: PRAYING FOR OUR STAFF

READ: JOSHUA 1:6-9

BACKGROUND: GOD SPOKE THESE WORDS TO JOSHUA AS A CHARGE TO LEAD THE NATION OF ISRAEL TO CLAIM THE LAND HE'D PROMISED THEM MANY YEARS BEFORE. THE PHRASE, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS," (REPEATED THREE TIMES IN THIS TEXT) WAS SPOKEN AT MANY PIVOTAL MOMENTS THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT TO ENCOURAGE BOLD LEADERSHIP. IN THIS MOMENT RECORDED IN JOSHUA CHAPTER 1, GOD'S PEOPLE NEEDED A LEADER FILLED WITH DIVINE COURAGE AND STRENGTH. CANAAN, THE LAND ISRAEL WOULD SOON ENTER, WAS FILLED WITH MIGHTY ARMIES AND FORTIFIED CITIES. THE TASK BEFORE THE PEOPLE WAS FORMIDABLE, BUT JOSHUA COULD CLING TO THIS EMPOWERING PROMISE, "...FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO." (JOSHUA 1:9 CSB)

PRAY: PRAY FOR EVERY STAFF MEMBER IN YOUR CHURCH. PRAY FOR STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LEAD THE CHURCH WELL FOR GOD'S GLORY. PRAY FOR THE PASTORS, MINISTERS, AND DIRECTORS TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE WORD OF GOD AND TO SPEAK LIFE AND TRUTH INTO THE PEOPLE THEY LEAD. PRAY FOR GOD'S PRESENCE TO BE EVIDENT IN THEIR LIVES AND FLOW OUT OF EVERY INTERACTION.

DAY 4: PRAYING FOR OUR MINISTRIES

READ: PSALM 91:1-2

BACKGROUND: ALTHOUGH THE AUTHOR OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PSALM IS UNKNOWN, THE MESSAGE IS PERFECTLY CLEAR: GOD HIMSELF PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR HIS PEOPLE. HE IS BOTH OUR NURTURER AND OUR PROTECTOR. TO "...DWELL IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY," MEANS TO BE INCREDIBLY CLOSE AND INTIMATE WITH GOD. HE IS BOTH OUR REFUGE—THE PLACE WE RUN TO FIND RELIEF AND REST, AND OUR FORTRESS—OUR SHIELD AND STRENGTH FROM EVERY TROUBLE.

PRAY: PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES CONDUCTED BY YOUR CHURCH. PRAY THAT GOD HIMSELF WOULD BE THE PROTECTOR OF MINORS AND ADULTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FACILITATED BY YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. PRAY THAT ALL WHO COME TO YOUR CHURCH FIND REFUGE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. PRAY THAT YOUR MINISTRIES WOULD ACT AS A FORTRESS, WRAPPING ALL WHO ATTEND IN GOD'S SAFE KEEPING. PRAY THAT PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS CAN EXPERIENCE PEACE ONLY FOUND IN SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY.

DAY 5: PRAY FOR OUR UNITY

READ: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

BACKGROUND: IN HIS FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS PAUL ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS SEVERAL CONFLICTS EXPERIENCED BY THE CHURCH. ONE ISSUE THAT CAUSED DISRUPTION CENTERED ON THE SUBJECT OF UNITY. SOME IN THE CHURCH DECLARED THEY WERE FOLLOWERS OF PAUL. OTHERS SIDED WITH A TEACHER NAMED APOLLOS. STILL OTHERS IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOWERS PETER OR CHRIST. PAUL DENOUNCED THIS PRACTICE RIGHT AT THE START OF THE LETTER AND URGED THE CHURCH TO BE UNITED, WITHOUT DIVISION.

PRAY: PRAY FOR UNITY AMONG YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. PRAY THAT ALL CAN SEE AND UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO PROTECT KIDS, STUDENTS, LEADERS, AND STAFF. PRAY THAT EVERYONE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE GOD'S PURE, HOLY LOVE IS EXPRESSED AT ALL TIMES AMONG YOU. PRAY FOR NO DIVISIONS TO ARISE AMONG YOUR CHURCH FAMILY.

DAY 6: PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS

READ: GALATIANS 6:9-10

BACKGROUND: PAUL CHOSE TO CLOSE HIS LETTER TO CHURCHES IN THE REGION OF GALATIA WITH AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONTINUE DOING GOOD. HIS TEACHING APPLIES TO ANY BELIEVER WHO HAS EVER BEEN WORN DOWN, DISCOURAGED, OR WEARY OF MAKING GOD-HONORING CHOICES—KEEP GOING! IT'S WORTH IT. WE MAY NOT SEE THE RESULTS OF FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS TODAY, BUT GOD WILL USE OUR SERVICE FOR HIS KINGDOM PURPOSES. WE CAN BELIEVE IT! OUR CALLING IS TO TRUST HIM AND WORK FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN OUR CHURCH FAMILIES.

PRAY: PRAY THAT YOUR CHURCH FAMILY CAN STRIVE TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION. PRAY THAT FAITHFULNESS WOULDN'T SLIP AND THAT ALL CAN STAY COMMITTED TO SAFE PRACTICES. ASK GOD TO PLACE A RELENTLESS PASSION IN YOUR HEARTS FOR PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG YOU.

DAY 7: PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

READ: MATTHEW 25:31-40

BACKGROUND: CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, SITTING WITH HIM ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, LOOKING OUT OVER THE TEMPLE, AND HEARING HIM SPEAK ABOUT WHAT WAS TO COME? THE WORDS MUST HAVE SOUNDED CRYPTIC IN THE MOMENT, BUT THE MESSAGE WAS EVIDENT AND HEAVY: JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY WAS ENDING, BUT HE WOULD BE RETURNING IN FULL GLORY AND HIS FOLLOWERS MUST STAY ALERT AND READY FOR THAT DAY. IN THIS PASSAGE, JESUS HELPED HIS DISCIPLES UNDERSTAND THAT CARING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED, WELCOMING STRANGERS, AND PUTTING LOVE TO ACTION WERE MARKS OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP. OUR GREAT CALLING IS TO SERVE, "... THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS OF MINE." (MATTHEW 25:40 CSB)

PRAY: PRAY THAT YOUR CHURCH FAMILY LOVES YOUR COMMUNITY WELL. PRAY THAT EVERYONE WHO INTERACTS WITH PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH EXPERIENCE GOD'S PURE AND HOLY LOVE. PRAY YOUR NEIGHBORS SEE YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND UNDERSTAND YOUR DEDICATION TO REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO EVERYONE. PRAY YOUR COMMUNITY KNOWS THAT EVERYONE MATTERS TO YOU... EVEN DOWN TO THE SMALLEST AND "LEAST OF THESE."

"YOU ARE MY
SHELTER AND MY
SHIELD. I PUT MY
HOPE IN YOUR
WORD."

PSALM 119:114

