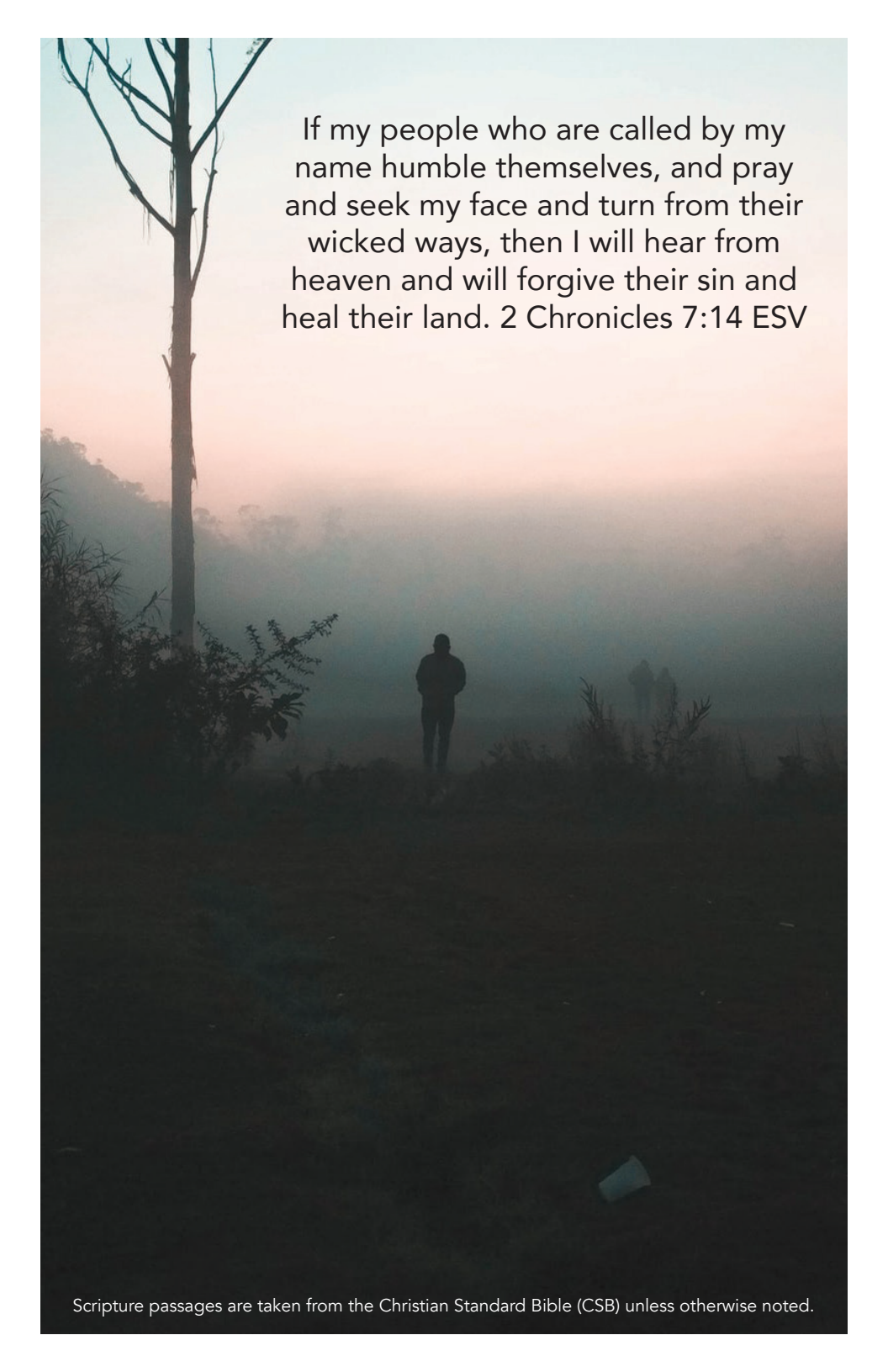


If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  
2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

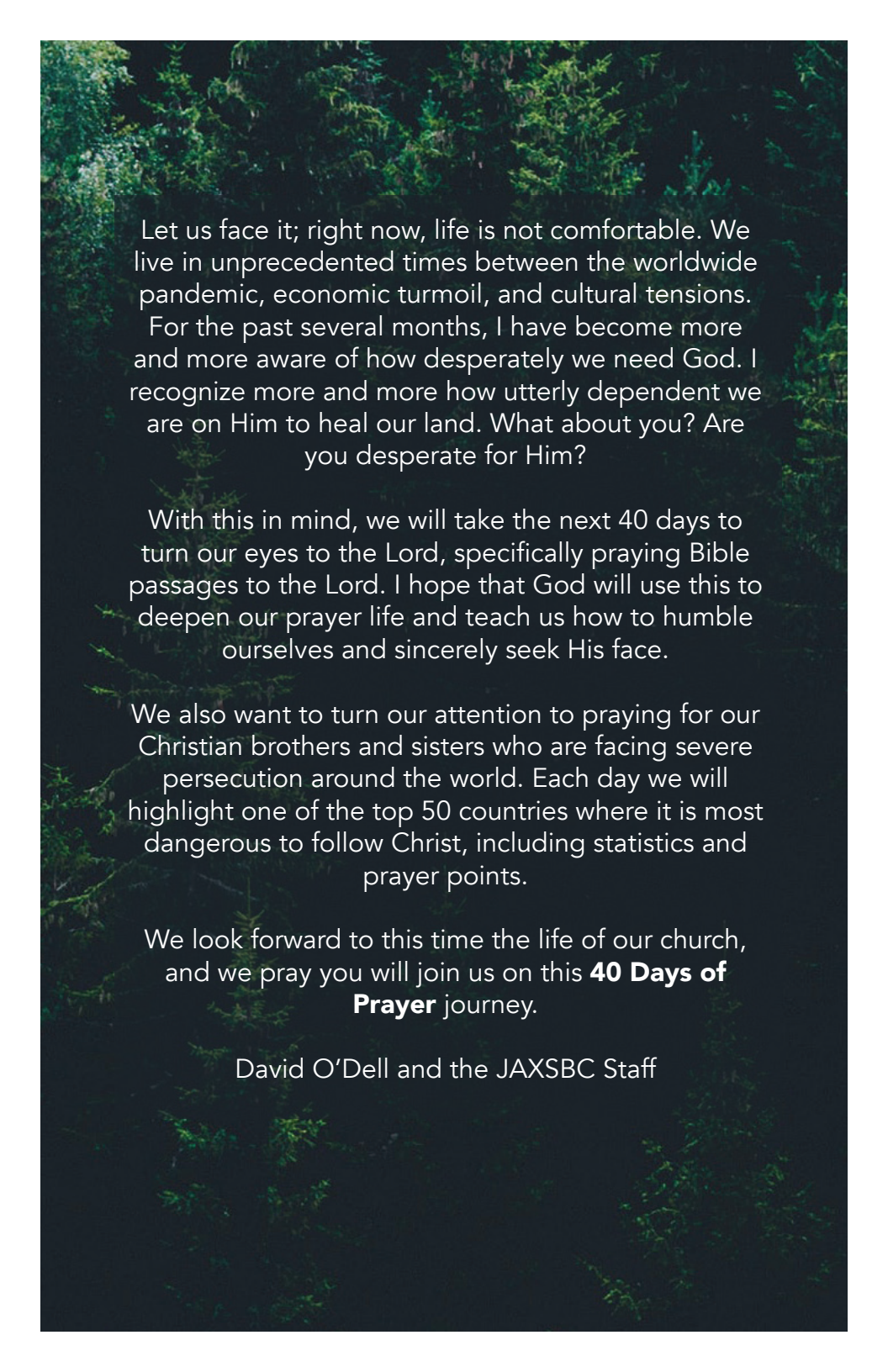
**40** DAYS OF  
PRAYER

HUMBLE YOURSELF // PRAY // SEEK HIS FACE

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE

A person is silhouetted against a hazy, sunset sky, standing on a hill. To the left, a tall, bare tree stands prominently. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV



Let us face it; right now, life is not comfortable. We live in unprecedented times between the worldwide pandemic, economic turmoil, and cultural tensions.

For the past several months, I have become more and more aware of how desperately we need God. I recognize more and more how utterly dependent we are on Him to heal our land. What about you? Are you desperate for Him?

With this in mind, we will take the next 40 days to turn our eyes to the Lord, specifically praying Bible passages to the Lord. I hope that God will use this to deepen our prayer life and teach us how to humble ourselves and sincerely seek His face.

We also want to turn our attention to praying for our Christian brothers and sisters who are facing severe persecution around the world. Each day we will highlight one of the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to follow Christ, including statistics and prayer points.

We look forward to this time the life of our church, and we pray you will join us on this **40 Days of Prayer** journey.

David O'Dell and the JAXSBC Staff

## READ PSALM 19

**FOCUS** May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

DAY  
1

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

NORTH  
KOREA

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 25,727,000 // Christians: 300,000

Source of Persecution: Communist and  
Post-Communist Oppression

*When Christians are discovered, they are arrested and imprisoned in labor camps, where they are worked like slaves and often tortured; most never escape.*

**PRAY** North Korean officials will come to know God, for change within the regime and that the power of evil will be broken.

**PRAY** that Kim Jong Un, North Korea's leader, will accept the one, true God.

**PRAY** for Christians who suffer in prisons, labor camps and remote areas.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

DAY  
2

**FOCUS** Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Colossians 3:12-13

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 37,209,000 // Christians: Thousands

Source of Persecution: Clan and ethnic antagonism

*Those who are discovered to be Christians may be sent to a mental hospital—because their families believe no sane person would leave Islam. They may also be beaten or even killed by family members, or members of Islamic extremist groups like the Taliban.*

AFGHAN  
ISTAN



**PRAY** for Christians, who face heavy pressure from family, friends and neighbors, to have courage and perseverance.

**PRAY** for a softening of the country's leadership and local rulers which currently doesn't allow conversion from Islam.

**PRAY** for the spread of the gospel through the underground church.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ JOHN 1:1-18

**FOCUS** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

DAY  
3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 37,209,000 // Christians: Thousands

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Conversion to Christianity is regarded as a betrayal of the Somali family and clan. If Somalis are suspected of being converts, family members and clan leaders will harass, intimidate and even kill them.*

**PRAY** The Somali people are more than 99 percent Muslim and society expects all Somalis to be Muslim. Pray God will continue to build His Church amid these hostilities.

**PRAY** the Somali people in the Horn of Africa turn to God when they go through turmoil. Pray they will have a deep hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God.

**PRAY** believers are bold to share the gospel.

**PRAY** for mature and godly role-models and growing unity among Somali believers.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## READ EPHESIANS 4:1-5

**FOCUS** Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:1-3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

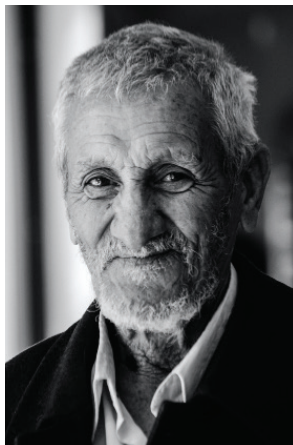
## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 6,570,000 // Christians: 36,200

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Libyan Christians with a Muslim background face violent and intense pressure to renounce their faith.*

*There is no freedom of speech, no equal treatment of Christians, no recognition of the church or churches being built.*



**PRAY** for Christians, who face heavy pressure from family, friends and neighbors, to have courage and perseverance.

**PRAY** for a softening of the country's leadership and local rulers which currently doesn't allow conversion from Islam.

**PRAY** for the spread of the gospel through the underground church.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ ISAIAH 6:1-8

**FOCUS** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphim were standing above him; .... And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth. Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3

DAY  
5

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 204,596,000 // Christians: 4,015,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Christians are regarded as second class citizens.*

*Also, the country's anti-blasphemy laws are disproportionately applied against the Christian minority, making it difficult and dangerous to live out one's faith in public.*

**PRAY** the Pakistani government passes laws that will protect the Christians and other religious minorities in the country.

**PRAY** for peace for those who convert from Islam as they face persecution from family, friends and neighbors.

**PRAY** Christians accused under blasphemy laws will not face violence or mob "justice."

**PRAY** for protection of Christian women and girls who are often raped and then forcefully married to Muslim men.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3





## READ JAMES 4:1-12

**FOCUS** Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.  
James 4:6-8a

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 5,310,000 // Christians: 2,492,000  
Source of Persecution: Christian denominational protectionism

*Hundreds of Christians who are members of unregistered churches are in prison; some have been held captive for over a decade.*



**PRAY** for endurance for brothers and sisters detained or imprisoned in horrific conditions, and ask God to give them perseverance in their faith.

**PRAY** for government leaders in Eritrea, that God would work in their hearts and reveal the truth of the gospel.

**PRAY** for unity among Christians in Eritrea, to help them see past denominationalism and count themselves as one.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ COLOSSIANS 1:14-20

**FOCUS** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17

DAY  
7

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 42,514,000 // Christians: 1,963,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Recently, the government has arrested or intimidated many Christian leaders, and numerous churches have been demolished. Extremists have attacked, displaced or killed Christians in the Nuba Mountains.*

**PRAY** for peace and expanded religious freedom in Sudan as negotiations continue between the military council and opposing forces.

**PRAY** for Christians to have the opportunity to worship together freely without fear of violence.

**PRAY** for new converts to Christianity, that they would be able to stand strong and have access to Bibles and discipleship training.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



2019-2020

**260  
MILLION**

Christians Experience High Levels  
Of Persecution In The Top 50  
Countries On The World Watch List\*

Churches Or Christian  
Buildings Were Attacked

**9,488**

**3,711**

Christians were detained without trial,  
arrested, sentenced and imprisoned

Christians were killed for faith-related  
reasons - that's 8 Christians per day

**2,983**

**\*What is the World Watch List?** The World Watch List is an annual report on the global persecution of Christians, ranking the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. Released at the beginning of each year, the list uses data from Open Doors field workers and external experts to quantify and analyze persecution worldwide. Learn more: [OpenDoorsUSA.org/Christian-Persecution/World-Watch-List](https://OpenDoorsUSA.org/Christian-Persecution/World-Watch-List)

## READ LUKE 2:1-20

**FOCUS** Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors. Luke 2:13-14



**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 29,580,000 // Christians: A few thousand  
Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*An ongoing civil war in Yemen has created one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory, allowing radical Islamic groups to expand their operations in certain areas, leading to Christians being abducted and killed.*

**PRAY** for peace in Yemen as opposing forces continue to clash and leave Christians vulnerable.

**PRAY** The instability in Yemen has created a refugee, food and healthcare crisis. Ask God to help provide food, clean water, and relief to the people of Yemen.

**PRAY** that the secret believers from Muslim backgrounds will have courage and perseverance in their faith—along with Bibles and discipleship materials.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## READ ZEPHANIAH 2:1-3

**FOCUS** Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who carry out what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be concealed on the day of the Lord's anger. Zephaniah 2:3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 82,821,000 // Christians: 800,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith*

*with non-Christians, and it is illegal to produce*

*Christian literature or hold church services in Farsi.*

*Christians in underground churches face constant threat of arrest.*



**PRAY** for Iranian Christians who are in prison right now for their faith. Ask God to give them hope and encouragement in their isolation.

**PRAY** that God will work through the leaders in Iran to create laws that provide more religious freedom for Christians and minority religions.

**PRAY** for secret believers who meet in house churches to be protected and to be faithful witnesses.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ PSALM 67

**FOCUS** May God be gracious to us and bless us; may he make his face shine upon us so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. Psalm 67:1-3

DAY  
10

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

INDIA

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 1,368,738,000 // Christians: 66,194,000

Source of Persecution: Religious nationalism

*Converts to Christianity from Hindu backgrounds or tribal religions are often extremely persecuted by their family members and communities.*

**PRAY** for Christian converts from Hinduism and tribal religions who are forcefully pressured to return to their former religion.

**PRAY** for God's power and protection over Christians as they preach the gospel in places with anti-conversion laws.

**PRAY** for the government leaders of India, that they would change their perspective and create more room for religious freedom.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
11

## READ 1 PETER 5:1-11

**FOCUS** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on Him, because He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:6-7

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 18,499,000 // Christians: 744,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Christians are caught in the crossfire between government troops and rebel forces, especially at the frontlines. Additionally, Christians are at risk if forces antagonistic to Christianity rule their home regions.*



**PRAY** for peace for Syria and ask God to relieve the suffering of Christians in hostile regions held by rebel groups who oppose Christianity.

**PRAY** for critical relief and aid to reach Christians who have fled their homes or lack basic resources in their cities.

**PRAY** for Syrian church leaders to have wisdom, perseverance, and discernment as they lead their people and provide hope.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ JOB 38:1-20

DAY  
12

**FOCUS** Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind. He said: Who is this who obscures my counsel with ignorant words? Get ready to answer me like a man; when I question you, you will inform me. Where were you when I established the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Job 38:1-4

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

NIGERIA

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 200,962,000 // Christians: 93,791,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic Oppression

*Christians in the northern region and in the Middle Belt suffer from violence by Islamic extremist groups such as Hausa-Fulani and Boko Haram. Such violence often results in loss of life, physical injury, and loss of property.*

**PRAY** for Christians who live in constant threat of attacks by Islamic extremists. Ask God to protect them and give them hope and peace.

**PRAY** for Fulani militants and other extremist groups like Boko Haram. Pray that God will touch their hearts with the truth of the gospel.

**PRAY** for pastors and church leaders who are helping rebuild communities and restore their churches after violent attacks.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



DAY  
13

## READ MATTHEW 18:1-5

**FOCUS** Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:4

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 34,141,000 // Christians: 1,419,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*All Saudi citizens are required to be Muslim, and non-citizens of other faiths are expected to worship privately. Christians who have converted from Islam risk violence because of their decision to follow Jesus.*

SAUDI  
ARABIA



**PRAY** for isolated believers all over Saudi Arabia, who lack fellowship and community. They need discipleship and a sense of belonging.

**PRAY** Christian Saudis will find ways to share the truth with their own family members.

**PRAY** It is forbidden to openly practice religions other than Islam—conversion is punishable by death. Please pray Muslim Saudis will come to know Jesus.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

# READ GENESIS 1-2:3

**FOCUS** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

DAY  
14

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 452,000 // Christians: Thousands

Source of Persecution: Islamic Oppression

*Churches are outlawed, and openly carrying the Bible is illegal. The country is so tightly controlled by Islamic law that there is not even a Bible fully translated into the native language of most citizens of the Maldives.*

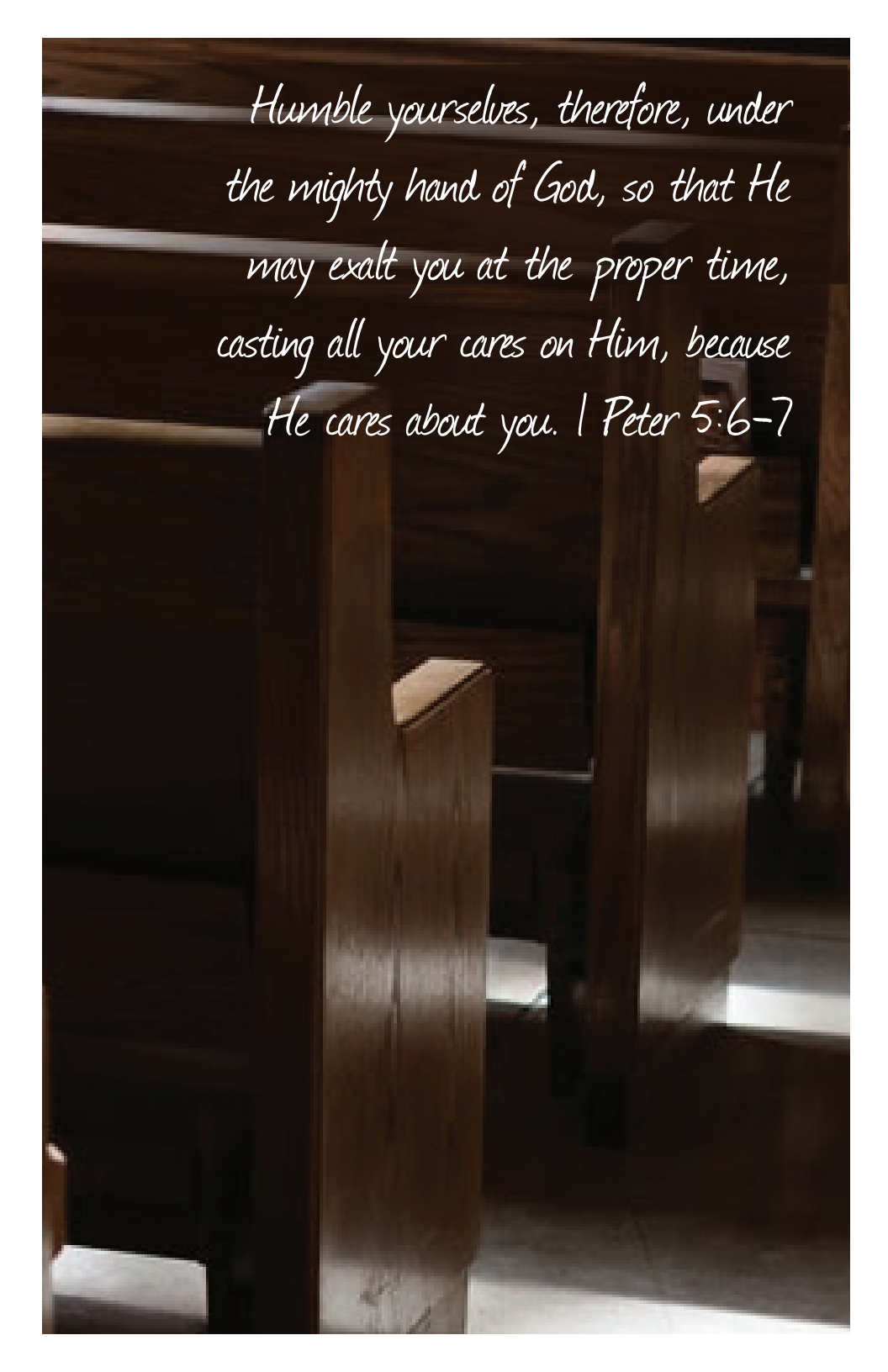
**PRAY** Official policy dictates every citizen must be Muslim. Pray that God would work in the hearts of leaders to change this law.

**PRAY** that God would lead secret believers to find fellowship with one another and access to the Bible.

**PRAY** Local media reports that drug abuse has become the biggest social issue there. Pray that Maldivians will turn to Jesus to experience true freedom.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



*Humble yourselves, therefore, under  
the mighty hand of God, so that He  
may exalt you at the proper time,  
casting all your cares on Him, because  
He cares about you. | Peter 5:6-7*

## READ JOB 38:21-40

**FOCUS** Do you know the laws of heaven? Can you impose its authority on earth? Can you command the clouds so that a flood of water covers you? Can you send out lightning bolts, and they go? Do they report to you: "Here we are?" Who put wisdom in the heart or gave the mind understanding? Job 38:33-36

DAY  
15

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

IRAQ

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 40,412,000 // Christians: 202,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic Oppression

*Many Iraqi Christians are still recovering from the brutal reign of ISIS, and for some believers, that threat has not fully diminished. ISIS still has places of safety in northern Iraq.*

**PRAY** for Christians who are rebuilding their communities and churches in Iraq. Pray for trauma recovery and reconstruction efforts, that God would give peace to believers.

**PRAY** Thank God that pressure and violence have both decreased slightly. Ask God to give His hope to Christians in Iraq.

**PRAY** priests and pastors who are leading diminished communities will find encouragement for the hard work ahead, that they would know they aren't alone.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
16

**READ MICAH 6:6-8**

**FOCUS** Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

**PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Population: 101,169,000 // Christians: 16,250,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*There are violent attacks in Egypt that make news headlines, but also more subtle forms of duress for Christians. Particularly in rural areas, Christians have been chased from villages, subject to mob violence and intense pressure.*

EGYPT



**PRAY** for believers who have friends or family who have been injured or killed in violent attacks. Pray for healing of hearts, minds, and bodies.

**PRAY** for unity in the Egyptian church, that Christians of all backgrounds would see themselves as a common family of God.

**PRAY** that God would soften the hearts of extremists and government leaders, and Jesus' name would be known.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ REVELATION 21

DAY  
17

**FOCUS** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. Revelation 21:23-26

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?  
  
-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

ALGERIA

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 42,679,000 // Christians: 129,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*The most visible example of persecution in 2019 was the seemingly systemic closure of Protestant churches. In some of these cases, Christians were forcibly expelled by police in the middle of church services.*

**PRAY** with the believers who have had their churches shut down. Pray for the pastors, that they would feel God's presence.

**PRAY** for Christians who convert from Islam, that they would be protected, bold, and wise.

**PRAY** with believers who are rejected by their families for their faith. Pray that God would let them know they have a global family who stands with them through prayer.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
18

## READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

**FOCUS** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 32,807,000 // Christians: 349,000

Source of Persecution: Dictatorial paranoia

*Since the culture is largely Muslim, Christians who convert from Islam face pressure and violence from their families and communities. Christian women from Islamic backgrounds often face forced marriage and sexual violence.*

UZBEK  
ISTAN



**PRAY** that Christian converts from Islam would be delivered from threats of violence from their family and communities.

**PRAY** with Christian groups who are targeted by the government because they are not sanctioned by the state. Pray for safety and for courage.

**PRAY** for the isolated believers who have converted from Islam and are unable to publicly express their faith.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ PSALM 139

DAY  
19

**FOCUS** For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. Psalm 139:13-14

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

MYAN  
MAR

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 54,336,000 // Christians: 4,322,000

Source of Persecution: Religious nationalism  
*Buddhist extremists maintain that to be Burmese—the majority ethnic group—is to be Buddhist, so there is intense pressure on all religious minorities, including Christians.*

**PRAY** for persecuted Christian minorities, that they would lovingly minister to persecuted Rohingya Muslims, especially those choosing to return from exile in Bangladesh. Pray that many hearts would be opened to the truth of Christ.

**PRAY** Christians who convert from Buddhism and Islam live under intense pressure from their families and communities. Pray for them to feel connected to the Church of God around the world.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

DAY  
20

**FOCUS** Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Colossians 3:12

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 7,064,000 // Christians: 227,000  
Source of Persecution: Communist and post-communist oppression

*Converts to Christianity in Laos face the most severe forms of Christian persecution. Abandoning Buddhism or tribal animist beliefs is seen as a betrayal to family and the community,*

LAOS



**PRAY** that Christians would be able to witness to their Buddhist neighbors and family members, and that they wouldn't be oppressed because of their faith.

**PRAY** that Christians in Laos would be able to freely access Bibles and register churches. Pray for the salvation of leaders who try to restrict the church.

**PRAY** that Christian children in Buddhist schools would not be discriminated against low marks because of their faith.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



# TOP 50 COUNTRIES WHERE IT IS MOST DANGEROUS TO FOLLOW JESUS

1. North Korea
2. Afghanistan
3. Somalia
4. Libya
5. Pakistan
6. Eritrea
7. Sudan
8. Yemen
9. Iran
10. India
11. Syria
12. Nigeria
13. Saudi Arabia
14. Maldives
15. Iraq
16. Egypt
17. Algeria

18. Uzbekistan
19. Myanmar
20. Laos
21. Vietnam
22. Turkmenistan
23. China
24. Mauritania
25. Central African Republic
26. Morocco
27. Qatar
28. Burkina Faso
29. Mali
30. Sri Lanka
31. Tajikistan
32. Nepal
33. Jordan

34. Tunisia
35. Kazakhstan
36. Turkey
37. Brunei
38. Bangladesh
39. Ethiopia
40. Malaysia
41. Colombia
42. Oman
43. Kuwait
44. Kenya
45. Bhutan
46. Russian Federation
47. United Arab Emirates
48. Cameroon
49. Indonesia
50. Niger

## READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13

DAY  
21

**FOCUS** Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Corinthians 13:4-7

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?  
  
-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

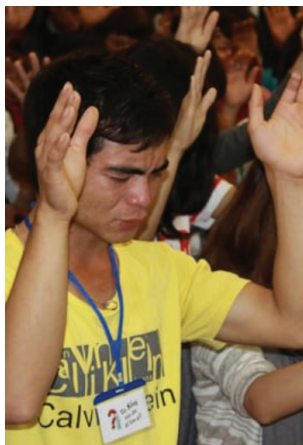
### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 97,429,000 // Christians: 8,737,000

Source of Persecution: Communist and post-communist oppression

*The government has some level of tolerance for Christian groups, particularly Catholics, but if any believers are deemed to be politically active, they can be imprisoned.*

VIETNAM



**PRAY** with the pastors who travel into rural areas to minister to ethnic believers who have formed small church communities.

**PRAY** for believers who leave their traditional faiths to follow Jesus.

**PRAY** If Christians are deemed to be politically active, they can be targeted by the government. Pray for wisdom and strength for Christians trying to navigate ever-changing regulations and expectations from the communist regime.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ REVELATION 7:9-17

DAY  
22

**FOCUS** All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 7:11-12

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

TURK  
MENI  
STAN

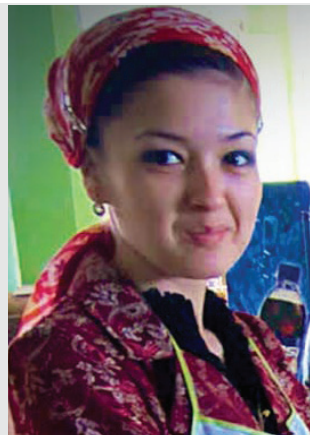
### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 5,943,000 // Christians: 70,500  
Source of Persecution: Dictatorial paranoia  
*Christian gatherings are monitored, printing Christian materials is illegal, and unregistered churches risk constant raids and jail time for congregants and church leaders.*

**PRAY** The totalitarian regime in Turkmenistan is one of the strictest in Central Asia. Pray for the leaders of Turkmenistan to be humbled and to know that Jesus is Lord.

**PRAY** for believers who are former Muslims. Even if the surrounding culture is mostly culturally Muslim rather than devout, there is still intense pressure from family and friends.

**PRAY** for churches that are monitored by the government, for pastors and congregants to be safe and able to worship together.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## READ PSALM 95:3-7

**FOCUS** Come, let's worship and bow down; let's kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care. Psalm 95:6-7a

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 1,420,062,000 // Christians: 97,200,000<sup>1</sup>  
Source of Persecution: Communist and post-communist oppression

*All churches are perceived as a threat if they become too large, too political, or invite foreign guests. A policy of "sinicizing" the church is becoming increasingly influential.*



**PRAY** for the church in China, as it adjusts to constantly tightening restrictions of religious freedom.

**PRAY** for Christians in ethnic minorities who have followed Jesus out of Islam or Buddhism. Pray they would find strength and fellowship.

**PRAY** that Christ will reveal Himself to government officials who seek to control the church.

1. Estimated by reports from Open Doors ministry.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ ISAIAH 9:1-9

**FOCUS** For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6



**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 4,661,000 // Christians: 10,000

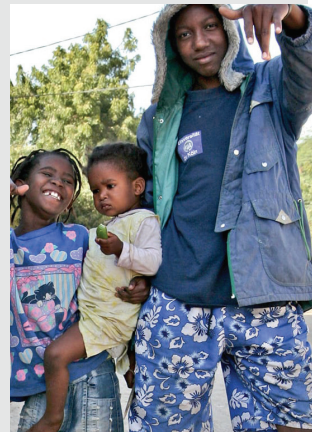
Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Amnesty International reports that "arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and the systematic ban of peaceful gatherings are commonplace in Mauritania, exacerbated by the authorities' denials."*

**PRAY** for Christians who are converts from Islam. They face intense pressure from the government, from their families, and from their communities.

**PRAY** for the problem of slavery and its victims in Mauritania. This heinous reality sometimes stems from religious extremism.

**PRAY** for safety and courage for Christians who fear the rise of more Islamic extremists. Pray for the hearts of radicals to turn toward Jesus.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
25

## READ PROVERBS 15:31-33

**FOCUS** Anyone who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever listens to correction acquires good sense. The fear of the Lord is what wisdom teaches, and humility comes before honor.  
Proverbs 15:32-33

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 4,826,000 // Christians: 3,599,000

Source of Persecution: Organized corruption

*Most of the country remains occupied by armed militia groups, with numerous rebel splinter groups targeting Christians specifically. Over the last year, fighting and attacks have intensified, forcing the displacement thousands.*



**PRAY** for Christians targeted by rebel groups and Muslim terrorists, that they will know God's peace and His provision in the midst of chaos.

**PRAY** for God's protection over Christian leaders and their families, as they minister to their congregations in the face of threats and conflict.

**PRAY** for new believers who face threats by family members and are ostracized by their communities.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

# READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11



**FOCUS** For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.



## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 36,635,000 // Christians: 32,200

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

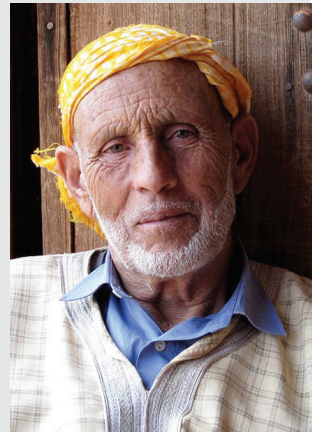
Christians who talk to others about their faith risk criminal charges and arrest. Converts to Christianity can be punished in other ways, such as losing inheritance rights and custody of children.

**PRAY** that laws would change, making it legal for Christians to share their faith.

**PRAY** for perseverance for new believers from a Muslim background as they encounter adversity.

**PRAY** with Christians who have difficulty finding a church building, that they would not be discouraged or lose their zeal.

**PRAY** for boldness and discernment for believers as they risk prosecution to tell others about Jesus.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



DAY  
27

## READ 1 CORINTHIANS 4:6-21

**FOCUS** Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying: "Nothing beyond what is written." The purpose is that none of you will be arrogant, favoring one person over another. For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you didn't receive? 1 Corinthians 4:6-7a

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 2,744,000 // Christians: 367,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Christians in Qatar, especially converts from Islam to Christianity, remain under extremely high pressure from the government and society—risking discrimination, harassment, police monitoring and intimidation.*

QATAR

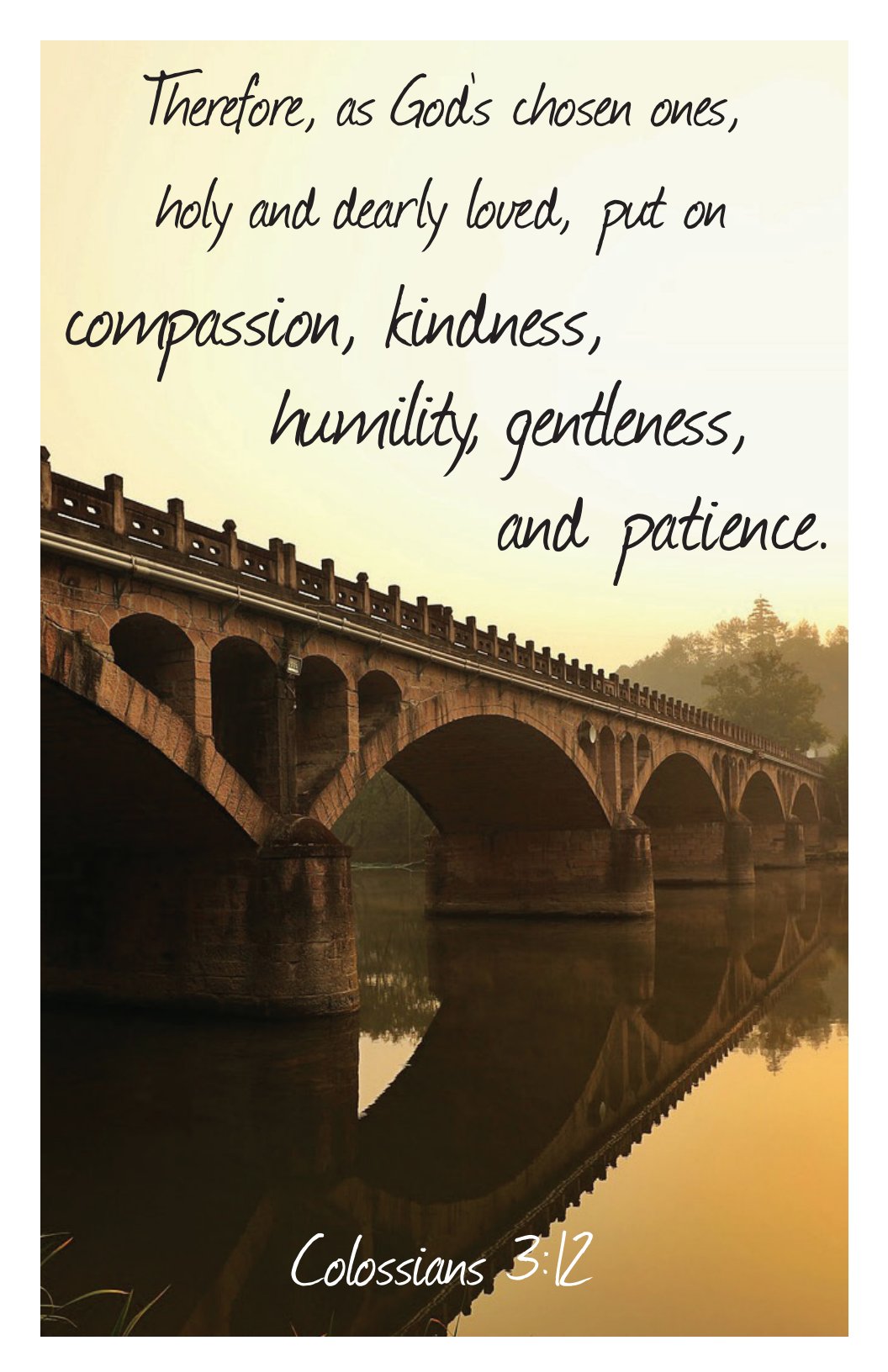


**PRAY** that the church in Qatar would continue to gather together privately and be strengthened in their perseverance.

**PRAY** for believers imprisoned for sharing their faith. Ask God to protect and encourage them.

**PRAY** for Christian converts who feel they cannot share their faith with Muslim family members.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

A stone arch bridge with multiple spans crosses a calm river. The bridge's arches and the surrounding landscape are reflected in the still water. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with a soft glow in the sky and on the water's surface. The bridge has a decorative railing along its top edge.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones,  
holy and dearly loved, put on  
compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness,  
and patience.

Colossians 3:12

DAY  
28

## READ LUKE 14:7-14

**FOCUS** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 14:11

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 20,322,000 // Christians: 5,157,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Over the last year, Burkina Faso’s northeastern region has seen a brutal onslaught of deadly attacks on Christian churches and villages—including several during services in which worshipers were told to convert to Islam or die.*

BURKINA  
FASO



**PRAY** for the Lord’s comfort and grace to be at work in the lives of all who have lost loved ones.

**PRAY** that Christians would have the grace to remain firm in their faith as they face increased hostility.

**PRAY** Extremist ideologies sweeping across the Sahel have brought destruction. Pray that the Lord would use these circumstances to display His glory.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ HEBREWS 1:1-4

DAY  
29

**FOCUS** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:1-3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

MALI

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 19,681,000 // Christians: 461,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*While the majority of Malians traditionally practice a relatively tolerant version of Islam, increasing radicalization continues to pressure and physically harm the lives of Christians and their churches.*

**PRAY** Fueled by terrorist attacks, violence against Christians in Mali has increased substantially. Pray for peace and protection.

**PRAY** for families who have lost loved ones in these attacks and kidnappings—that they would feel God's presence and know His comfort.

**PRAY** with new believers who have left Islam to follow Jesus, for them to grow in their newfound faith and to be encouraged as they follow Jesus.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## READ PSALM 115:1-3

**FOCUS** Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your faithful love, because of your truth. Psalm 115:1

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 21,019,000 // Christians: 1,994,000

Source of Persecution: Religious nationalism

*In 2019, Sri Lanka saw one of the world's largest terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, when radicals carried out eight suicide bombings including three churches on Easter Sunday, claiming almost 300 lives, most of them Christians.*



**PRAY** for families who lost loved ones in the Easter attacks—that they would sense His comfort and lean into His strength.

**PRAY** for provision for the 176 children who lost parents in the attacks.

**PRAY** or protection from any further attacks on churches. And pray specifically for the three churches that were bombed.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ PSALM 66

DAY  
31

**FOCUS** Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God! Sing about the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are your works! Your enemies will cringe before you because of your great strength. The whole earth will worship you and sing praise to you. They will sing praise to your name." Psalm 66:1-4

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

TAJKI  
STAN

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 9,292,000 // Christians: 71,100

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Christians bear the brunt of persecution by the government and from family, friends, and community.*

*Some converts are locked up and beaten, and may be expelled from their communities. Converts are often secret believers.*

**PRAY** with new believers who live under constant pressure to renounce their faith and return to Islam. Pray especially for new converts who are persecuted by their families.

**PRAY** with church leaders who face threats of raids and arrests. Ask God to give them courage, wisdom and discernment as they serve the Church.

**PRAY** that governmental pressure would lessen and that Christians would be able to practice their faith openly in peace.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
32

## READ PSALM 25

**FOCUS** He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. Psalms 25:9

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 29,942,000 // Christians: 1,279,000  
Source of Persecution: Religious nationalism  
*Christian converts from Hinduism live under intense pressure, including anti-conversion laws. Nepal also saw attacks on church buildings, and reports of Christians being beaten, arrested, and sentenced to prison.*

NEPAL



**PRAY** with converts from Hinduism, who experience persecution from their family and community and are at risk under anti-conversion laws.

**PRAY** for believers' protection and discernment to know when and where to share their faith.

**PRAY** with churches in Nepal as they gather for worship under threat of violence.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ NEHEMIAH 12:27-43

**FOCUS** On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy. The women and children also celebrated, and Jerusalem's rejoicing was heard far away. Nehemiah 12:43

DAY  
33

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

JORDAN

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 10,070,000 // Christians: 180,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Radical Islam is a source of persecution for Christians and Jordanians of other faiths. The number of Jordanians radicalized by ISIS ideology is rising, which puts Christians at greater risk.*

**PRAY** with believers who are discriminated against in their jobs that they would follow Jesus' example as they respond to their persecutors.

**PRAY** for protection against attacks by radical Islamic groups. Ask God to confuse these persecutors' plans for violence.

**PRAY** for wisdom and courage for believers to be true disciples as a small minority in the Muslim-dominated culture.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



# DAY 34

## READ ROMANS 12

**FOCUS** For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. Romans 12:3

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 11,783,000 // Christians: 23,300

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Many Christians in Tunisia experience job insecurity, family abandonment, and verbal, mental, and physical abuse—making it dangerous to share their faith with family members, neighbors, friends or colleagues.*

## TUNISIA



**PRAY** that persecuted believers will sense God's presence in their daily lives as they navigate Islamic society.

**PRAY** for Christian converts to grow in their faith. Ask God to raise up leaders who will teach the Bible and plant underground churches.

**PRAY** for persecuted Christian youth, especially those who face pressure from non-believing family members when they want to marry.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



## **5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

1. Pray that whatever their circumstances, God will give persecuted Christians the right words.
2. Pray that persecuted Christians will understand and find peace in the sufficiency of God's grace, even in their weaknesses.
3. Pray that Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of power larger than themselves.
4. Pray God would be present with persecuted Christians in their hardship, protecting them according to His will.
5. Pray their witness would inspire those who seek to harm them.

DAY  
35

## READ JAMES 3:13-18

**FOCUS** Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom. James 3:13

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 18,593,000 // Christians: 4,836,000  
Source of Persecution: Dictatorial paranoia  
*It is illegal for non-registered churches to gather, forcing them to go underground and leading to police raids during worship services.*

KAZAKH  
STAN



**PRAY** for Kazakh believers and for church leaders, especially those pastors who lead secret churches and those believers who converted from Islam. Pray for their security amid increasing restrictions and government control.

**PRAY** for converts under house arrest for leaving Islam and turning to Christ.

**PRAY** for the government authorities who seek to suppress or eradicate Christianity. Ask God to open their eyes to His truth.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ PSALM 24

**FOCUS** Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. Psalm 24:7-8

DAY  
36

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

TURKEY

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 82,962,000 // Christians: 173,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*In Turkey, the main religion, Islam, is enmeshed with fierce, fanatical nationalism. Christian converts experience the greatest persecution from family, friends and community.*

**PRAY** with persecuted Christians who face an increasing bias against their faith.

**PRAY** with believers as they look for relevant ways to share their faith with their Muslim friends, and family. Ask God to give them discernment and words to minister graciously and wisely.

**PRAY** with church leaders for wisdom and boldness as they minister to their congregation and look for opportunities to plant churches.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

DAY  
37

## READ 1 PETER 3:8-12

**FOCUS** Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?  
-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 439,000 // Christians: 55,300

Source of Persecution: Dictatorial paranoia

*Converting away from Islam to Christianity is considered illegal and punishable by law. Known converts are not recognized as official citizens and can be legally separated from their spouse and children.*

BRUNEI



**PRAY** for Christians who want to share the gospel, but are not permitted to evangelize.

**PRAY** for Christians who must worship secretly and at the risk of legal punishment.

**PRAY** for churches who cannot import Christian materials and whose services are sometimes monitored.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ REVELATION 5:8-14

DAY  
38

**FOCUS** I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. Revelation 5:13-14

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

BANGLA  
DESH

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 168,066,000 // Christians: 887,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression  
*Protestant and Catholic groups are targeted with attacks and death threats. Christians who belong to ethnic minority groups are doubly vulnerable, as they are harassed because of their religion and ethnicity.*

**PRAY** for secret believers who seek to share their faith despite the risks they face.

**PRAY** for Christians who had to flee their communities out of pressure to renounce their faith.

**PRAY** for Christians who are mentally and physically abused on a regular basis as they go about their daily routines.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ GALATIANS 5:13-15

**FOCUS** For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Galatians 5:13-14

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:

-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?

-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 110,136,000 // Christians: 65,776,000

Source of Persecution: Dictatorial paranoia

*In 2019, Ethiopia saw a rise in communal violence, which displaced millions of people. In some areas, Christians are denied access to community resources and/or are ostracized from society.*

ETHIOPIA



**PRAY** for converts to Christianity who are ostracized and denied family rights.

**PRAY** the government will not continue to shift toward more restrictions.

**PRAY** God will equip the church to find ways to witness to their neighbors.

Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3

## READ ISAIAH 40:1-5

**FOCUS** A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain. And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 40:3-5

DAY  
40

**REFLECT** How does this passage help you to:  
-Focus on humbling yourself before God and others?  
  
-Seek His face?

**PRAY** Spend some time praying through this Bible passage verse by verse.

MALAYSIA

### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Population: 32,454,000 // Christians: 2,951,000

Source of Persecution: Islamic oppression

*Every ethnic Malay is expected to be Muslim.*

*Whoever deviates from this is viewed as going against not just the constitution, but also against society at large, their family and their neighborhood.*

**PRAY** for protection for secret groups of believers. Pray they would be encouraged and strengthened in their faith, despite the fear of being discovered.

**PRAY** for new believers who are often kicked out of their home and may be sent to re-education camps to try to reverse their conversion.

**PRAY** for political, social, and religious stability and the provision of new religious freedoms.



Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Hebrews 13:3



**PRAY** for Christians, to experience peace, and remain strong in their faith despite the fears of guerrilla activity against them.

**PRAY** for Christians who promote human rights and peace who are often targeted.

**PRAY** for pastors and their families to have the support and protection they need so they can continue to spread the gospel in the community stability and the provision of new religious freedoms.



COLOMBIA



OMAN

**PRAY** the government will lift restrictions on freedom of assembly and religion.

**PRAY** for new believers who are likely to face strong societal pressures.

**PRAY** that young people who have increasing access to education may usher in a shift in the climate toward Christians.

**PRAY** for Christians and other minority groups who face discrimination.

**PRAY** for Christians who may be excluded from community activities due to being seen as foreigners or infidels because of their faith in Jesus.

**PRAY** for Christians who may be forced to follow strict Islamic laws or risk being penalized.



KUWAIT



KENYA

**PRAY** for wisdom in sharing the faith and in discipling new converts amidst militant tensions.

**PRAY** for new believers who may not have access to resources and may be lured away from faith in Jesus by economic enticements.

**PRAY** for Christians who have suffered trauma in targeted attacks.

**PRAY** for believers who violate the anti-conversion law by leaving the Buddhist faith. Pray that efforts to persecute Christians will strengthen and unite them.

**PRAY** for Christian converts who face strong pressure from family, friends, and neighbors to recant their faith. Pray they might be strengthened when facing persecution.

**PRAY** that the Lord would soften the hearts of their communities and make them receptive to the gospel.



BHUTAN

**PRAY** the government will cease imposing legislation that restricts religious activity.

**PRAY** for the safety of church members when they are arrested and interrogated by the police.

**PRAY** that suspicion of Protestants who receive support from foreign organizations won't hinder the process of new churches receiving official registration from the government.



RUSSIAN  
FEDER  
ATION

**PRAY** for leaders of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to have wisdom and tolerance, allowing citizens to change their faith.

**PRAY** that the government will be able to keep the country safe from terrorist groups and provide policies that encourage young people to work for the good of their country.

**PRAY** for Christian women who convert from Islam and lose their rights to possessions and children.



UNITED  
ARAB  
EMIRATES

**PRAY** with Christians in northern Cameroon who have converted to Christianity from Islam. These believers often face threats and violence.

**PRAY** for Christians who oppose the dictatorship of President Paul Biya. If believers are seen to oppose the government, they can be tortured and killed.

**PRAY** for the saving grace of Jesus to pierce the hearts of Boko Haram fighters, that they would see the truth of Jesus.



CAMEROON



**PRAY** for believers who continue to recover from the loss of family members killed in 2016's and 2018's church bombings.

**PRAY** for Christian converts from Islam as they live under tightening anti-conversion laws. Ask God to give them wisdom and perseverance.

**PRAY** that God would open the eyes of Muslim extremists and university students exploring radical Islamic ideology to draw them to Himself.

INDONESIA

**PRAY** for Christians who live in regions where extremist Muslim preachers are creating hatred against followers of Jesus.

**PRAY** Some Christians have difficulty conducting business or building churches. Pray they would be allowed to live and worship openly.

**PRAY** for Christians in parts of Niger who have converted from Islam and are heavily pressured by family and community.



NIGER



**SECOND**

**BAPTIST JACKSONVILLE**

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