

30 Days of Prayer for

Crisis Response



When disaster strikes, your first thought might be,

What can I do?

We as believers are called to help people in need, but those needs seem overwhelming and distant. With a sense of helplessness, you might think, "All I can do is pray." While it may feel like a last resort in times like this, prayer is a powerful tool by which we can pour out our hearts to the God of the Universe, the One who can do more than we could ask or ever imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Use this 30-day prayer guide to lift up the specific needs of survivors, relief workers, volunteers and churches impacted by a major crisis, whether a hurricane, earthquake, flooding or other catastrophe. Each week, dwell on the Psalm of comfort and pray each day using the short prayer prompts. Your prayers will bring healing and comfort to others during a time of chaos. They will also deepen your own relationship with God.

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God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;

God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;

He lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations He has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the shields with fire.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- Pray for everyone involved in this current crisis: survivors, local churches and pastors, Send Relief partners and volunteer teams. Pray for God's direction and wisdom on the entire response. Also, pray that the Lord would be glorified in the midst of tragedy.
- Pray for the search for survivors. Pray for help to arrive swiftly and that as many people as possible would be rescued.
- Pray for those affected by this crisis. Ask God to comfort and strengthen them by His Spirit as they begin to process their unimaginable loss.
- Pray for insight and divine guidance as initial assessment teams survey the affected areas. Ask God to lead them as they determine the areas of greatest need. Pray for favor with the local government as assessment teams plan their response.
- Pray for God's favor as response teams purchase supplies for immediate needs.
- Pray for God's wisdom as leaders organize relief efforts and identify specific people who need to be brought together for each team.
- Pray for the physical, emotional and mental strength of those who are working on the ground in the relief efforts. The long days and nights of meeting needs can lead to exhaustion and fatigue.
- Pray that God would guide local church leaders and Send Relief partners to identify areas neglected or overlooked in initial assessments.
- Pray for those traumatized by the crisis to find healing and hope for the days ahead.
- Pray for the safety of recovery and relief teams as they help devastated areas.

Notes		

For He will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in His sight.

Psolm 72:12-14

- Pray that God would protect workers from strife, jealousy, resentment and conflict so that only God's love will be seen through them.
- Pray for people who lost loved ones in the crisis. Ask God to give them peace that passes understanding.
- Pray for the most vulnerable in communities, such as the elderly, the disabled, children and widows, all of whom are often overlooked in a crisis.
- Pray that the right people and resources will be available. Also, pray that the volunteer relief teams can come together quickly and smoothly.
- Pray that Send Relief partners, local churches and volunteer teams will be effective and efficient. Pray that they will get much work done as quickly as possible.
- Pray that God would equip local churches physically, emotionally and spiritually to meet the overwhelming needs around them.
- Because the infrastructure is often severely damaged in a crisis, pray for the logistics necessary to begin recovery. Pray for the supply chain that will provide housing, transportation and supplies to the affected areas.
- Pray for teams and volunteers to find time to rest in the midst of the many demands on their time and energy.
- Pray that God would use those working in the relief efforts to bring hope, encouragement and the message of God's love to the survivors.
- A crisis takes its toll on a person's body, mind and soul. Pray for physical, emotional and spiritual protection of the teams as they work.

Notes			

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

Psolm 34:17-18

- Pray for God to give the reconstruction teams wisdom and understanding as they go about the difficult task of planning and rebuilding entire neighborhoods.
- Pray that Send Relief partners, local churches and volunteer teams will get as much work done as quickly as possible, returning families to their homes and a sense of normalcy.
- Pray that God would equip local churches and therapists to minister to disaster victims struggling with survivor's guilt.
- Because the infrastructure is often severely damaged in a disaster, pray for the logistics to begin recovery, including housing, transportation and supplies' efficient delivery to the affected areas.
- Pray for teams and volunteers to find time to rest in the midst of the many demands on their time and energy, allowing recovery emotionally, physically and spiritually after their hard day's work.
- Pray that God would use volunteer and state relief teams to bring hope, encouragement and the message of God's love to places darkened by the devastation and death that disaster brings.
- Pray for patience for everyone involved, as the emotional toll of relief and recovery work is often extremely taxing for families and individuals alike.
- Pray for the safe and prompt reunification of families separated by storms.
- Pray for delivery trucks, drivers and unloaders to understand the significance of their work and be motivated by their essential roles in taking care of recovering communities.
- Pray for miracles in the hearts, minds and homes of those affected.

Notes			

Remember Your word to Your servant, for You have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Psolm 119:49-50

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