

iMAGINE NATIONS KIDS

our city
and our
suburbs

21 DAY FAST DEVOTIONAL 2019



OUR CITY & OUR SUBURBS FAST 2019

FROM PASTOR ALLYSON

To all our kids - in all our locations,

For the next 21 days we are going to pray and fast together as a church. This is a special time where everyone has the same focus and are joined together with one heart. Our fast is a time to give up something- or a number of things that you love, to focus on God. Most often this is food. For you, this can be sweets, soft drink, biscuits, etc. you may also want to give up screen time to take time to pray.

Throughout the Bible we find that whenever God's people set aside time to pray and added fasting to their time of prayer, powerful events followed.

The theme of our 2019 fast is Our City and Our Suburbs. We want to pray and believe for God to work in the lives of others around us. We want to pray for our home city and also for our other churches.

We will be praying for:

Children and young people like us
Mums, Dads, Families and other adults
Local government and leaders
Emergency workers like police and ambulance officers and our nurses and doctors
Teachers and schools
Churches - our locations, others in our city

What we are praying for:

People to be saved
People to be helped
People to be free from things that make them sad, sick or struggling

Kids we want to pray! We want to believe together for God to do great things.

Use this devotional to help you to spend some time with God every day. Ask Mum or Dad to help you if you need.

Each of our locations will hold special prayer meetings. Even though you are young, you should go with your Mum or Dad, because amazing things can happen when everyone is together to pray and worship Jesus. Come expecting that God will speak to you. Come and learn how to pray from great leaders in your church family. Come ready to pray yourself.



DAY 1

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

2 First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them. 2 Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honour God. 3 This kind of prayer is good, and it pleases God our Saviour. 4 God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth

How would you like to have had the Apostle Paul as your teacher? Paul taught Timothy how to be a Pastor and at the top of Paul's teaching was teaching him to pray.

Paul taught that we are to pray for all people. The ones we know and like as well as those we don't. This can be hard, but Jesus said: "Bless those who curse you. **Pray for those who hurt you.**" **Luke 6:28 (NLT)** If we pray instead of complain about people, God can move in our life and theirs!

When we pray for others we can pray God would bless them. We can ask for things they need. We can ask God would protect them and that they would come to know and love him.

Sometimes, Holy Spirit might put someone on our hearts to pray for right away- he even wakes people up to do this. This powerful prayer is called intercession, and people's lives have been saved because someone prayed.

Paul also taught that we should pray for rulers and those in positions of authority. This is not only the right thing to

honour and respect them, but also so that where we live is a great place to be. We can pray that our rulers and those in authority (like our council, government, police) are wise and kind and that they are people who love God and his ways.

We can also thank God for all the great things in our city, like our hospitals, parks, schools, garbage collection, footpaths to walk on etc. The more grateful we are, the more great things we'll see in our city.

Revelation 8:4 speaks of the prayers of God's people rising up to God like the incense burned in the temple. When you speak to God in prayer, the words leave your heart and rise up to God.

What will you pray for during this time?

Who will you pray for?

You might want to start to write a list.

PRAYING FOR OUR CITIES AND OUR SUBURBS

During the next four days, we will focus on the city and suburb of each of our churches. As you read about each place, pray for all the things that come into your heart to pray. This is Holy Spirit speaking to you. Especially pray for our church pastors in each place.



DAY 2

IN CHURCH SYDNEY

OUR CITY: SYDNEY

OUR SUBURB: PENRITH AND BLUE MOUNTAINS

OUR PASTORS: PS JACK AND CAROL & PS ROB AND SONYA

With the Blue Mountains to the west, the Hawkesbury to the north, greater Sydney to the east and all kinds of activity to our south including work on Sydney's second airport now being built, Penrith grows every year.

The population of our local government area has now reached 201,000.

The Nepean River was first sighted by European people in 1789, just 18 months after the First Fleet landed in Australia, but long before that the area was home to the Mulgoa tribe of the Darug people. Today, 3.9% of all people living in Penrith have Indigenous background, the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in any NSW metropolitan area.

Penrith is important in Australian politics.

In March there will be NSW State Government elections and Penrith covers three key electorates (which are represented by someone who will be in our parliament and are called 'seats'). The 'seat' of Mulgoa is currently held by the Honourable Tanya Davies, a member of Imagine Nations Church for many years. Tanya is Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women and Minister for Ageing and she has been able to represent a Christian view on some important things.

In May, Australia will also vote for a new Federal Government. We want those in our government to lead us well.

Penrith City Council are known for strong community values.

IN Church member, Councillor Mark Davies, husband of State Government Minister Tanya, has been Mayor of the Council twice. Our current Mayor, Ross Fowler is well respected in Penrith and we pray for God's wisdom and guidance for him and the other Councillors.

Penrith is also well known for sports and adventure activities and has the Olympic rafting and rowing venues, Panthers NRL stadium and training area, and fun local activities including iFly indoor skydiving, the Jetpack/ Flyboard experiences and Cables Wake Park. Penrith also has the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Art galleries, places to eat out and fun family activities.

But Penrith also has some very real problems including people who are homeless; people who have addictions and a high number of families who aren't kind to each other to the point that it can be unsafe for mums and kids to stay in their family home.

Our church is helped a lot through WestCare who provide safe places to stay for women with children and a range of support with other organisations in Penrith We pray for WestCare's ongoing and growing work among those who need our help.

There are lots of families and kids in our community.

We pray we will be able to reach these families through our Scripture teachers, Chaplains, Student Wellbeing officers, WestCare and Imagine Nations Kids, Youth and Young Families ministries!

There are many people and groups that come together to make up our wonderful city.

So, as we pray for our city, its needs and community leaders, let's also keep in mind perhaps the most important part of all – you and me! That we would be that shining light to our neighbours, friends, people at the shops, kids at school or the stranger we meet – that wherever we live, we would “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

DAY 3

IN CHURCH DARWIN

OUR CITY: DARWIN

OUR SUBURBS: DARWIN AND PALMERSTON

OUR PASTORS: PS TROY AND NICOLE

Darwin is located in the Northern Territory. It is always hot and only has two seasons- dry and wet. Sometimes Darwin has cyclones. Even though it is always hot, you can't swim at the beach because of crocodiles and poisonous jellyfish. Lots of people come and go from Darwin; not many people stay because of how far it is from everywhere else in Australia.

Prayer points for Darwin:

- » Pray for those in our church trying to start a family.
- » Pray that people in Darwin would have good, strong jobs.

» Pray for people to want to move to Darwin and stay in the city.

» Pray that God would provide us with our own building.

» Pray for more kid's church volunteers who love to serve the next generation.

» Pray for our Darwin youth ministry. Pray that teenagers would come to know Jesus and follow him. Pray for a great youth team.

» Pray for the young adults going to university. Pray there would be volunteers who would serve in the university to reach them.

» Pray for ways to reach our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

» Pray for lots of people to be saved and disciples who make disciples.

DAY 4

IN CHURCH MELBOURNE

OUR CITY: MELBOURNE

OUR SUBURB: CAROLINE SPRINGS

OUR PASTORS: PS CRAIG AND MELISSA

Melbourne is the capital city of the State of Victoria with a population of over 4.8 million. It is the second biggest city in Australia after Sydney. Each year Melbourne has over a million international visitors.

Caroline Springs is a north-western suburb of Melbourne and is located within the Melton City Council area. This

local government area has become the fastest growing population centre in Australia not just Victoria.

On 1 September 2014 Ps Craig and Melissa, together with their daughters Rachel, Laura, Reanna, Bethany, Esther and Heleana, arrived in Caroline Springs to start IN Church Melbourne. The church has now grown to around 200 people and on 28 October, 2018 IN Church Melbourne began a Land and Building Fund, believing that they would be able to have their own church building, because they have met in 7 different places since they started..

In Church Melbourne holds 4 family community outreaches each year and are now regularly seeing crowds of 4,000 - 5,000 at each one. They also regularly hold 2-hour Estate Outreaches – where they bring a BBQ Trailer and provide lunch or dinner and kids games in the local estate park. They share the gospel and build friendships. Each of these initiatives sees the church continue to grow!

At the moment, the Caroline Springs area needs 8 more schools and there are 11 new suburbs currently being built next to Caroline Springs! INChurch Melbourne is believing

they can purchase land so they can build a Regional Community Centre with services for families, children, youth and older people. They also want to build a Christian School.

PRAYER

- » Pray IN Church Melbourne would continue to grow, listen to Holy Spirit and be able to care for all the new people.
- » Pray God would help raise \$1million for land and building
- » Pray they would be able to pay their Kids' Pastor this year.
- » Pray lots of people would come to know Jesus!

DAY 5

IN CHURCH PHOENIX

OUR CITY: PHOENIX

OUR SUBURB: DEER VALLEY

OUR PASTORS: PS DAN AND REGAN

Phoenix is the 5th largest city in the USA, with a population of around 1,600,000 people. It has the most sunshine of any city in the world, with an average of 300 days of sunshine every year. It has a hot desert climate, and very little rainfall. In summer, more than 100 days will be over 38 degrees Celsius or 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

20 % of the population in Phoenix live in poverty and more than 1 in 3 children and young people live in a home than is in poverty. 35% of the population speak Spanish as well as English and you can eat great Mexican food in Phoenix.

In John 11 we read that a man that Jesus knew, named Lazarus, had died. When Jesus got to where his tomb was, Jesus yelled: "Lazarus, come forth!" and he came forth out of the tomb alive in his grave clothes.

But what did Jesus say before that? **"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they might believe that You sent Me."** John 11:41

Jesus prayed and the miracle of Lazarus living again, happened!

Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

What have you seen in your own life? Has an answer to your prayer ever been given exactly as you asked for it? Perhaps you've had a powerful healing that doctors can't explain?

Let's pray for the area of IN Church Phoenix:

"Father, we need you and need your help. You change us in ways that can only be changed by you. And we all need to be changed. We need to realize that you're the God of the entire universe and that includes our neighbors, our family, our Mums and Dads, our brothers and sisters, our friends, those we like, and those we don't like. You've saved me to be a voice from you to others.

We pray for the families of Phoenix. May they be strong and full of love. Give Moms and Dads wisdom and help them bring up their children to know and love you.

We pray for the young people and children of Phoenix. May they know and love you and stand up for what is right and true. Would you fill them with your Holy Spirit and the truth of your Word.

We pray for lonely people. May they find a true friend who will tell them about you and encourage them.

We pray for INChurch Phoenix. Would you provide all the church needs to reach everyone, everywhere with your love. Be with Ps Dan and Regan. Fill them with strength and joy. Help them to do all you need them to do.

In the name of Jesus, Amen."

DAY 6

Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

If we want real answers to prayer, then we need to ask God clearly for what we want.

Nehemiah (cup-bearer to the king in Babylon) cried when he learned that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the people were sad and frightened. He fasted and prayed.

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT)

“O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.”

Nehemiah needed to ask the king for permission to return and rebuild the walls, so he prayed for success.

The king granted Nehemiah’s requests and sent him to Judah with a mission to rebuild, letters explaining his support for all Nehemiah would do, as well as timber from the king’s forest.

Wow! God answered his prayer!

Mark 10:46-52 (NLT)

“46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. 47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to

shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

48 “Be quiet!” many of the people yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, “Tell him to come here.”

So, they called the blind man. “Cheer up,” they said. “Come on, he’s calling you!” 50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “My Rabbi,” the blind man said, “I want to see!”

52 And Jesus said to him, “Go, for your faith has healed you.” Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.”

Bartimaeus was clear, “*I want to see!*”

What do you want to see in your city and suburb? Is there someone you love who needs God’s help? Be clear about what you are asking God for.

What do you want God to do in your Kids church and all our churches?

Be clear about what you want God to do in your city and suburb and boldly ask him to help.

1 John 5:15 (NLT)

“And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.”

DAY 7

Ps Rob loves fishing and whenever he fishes, he catches more than anyone else!

Four of Jesus’ disciples were fisherman by trade (Mark 1:16-20). When Jesus called them, He said “**Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**” (Mark 1:17 ESV).

Jesus wasn’t saying they would use rods and hooks to catch people- but that they would be people who would ‘catch’ others for Jesus.

The disciples could have had a lot of questions and even reasons why they couldn’t do what Jesus was saying, but as they followed Jesus, they learnt how they could lead people to be saved.

1 Tim 2:4 GNT says ...{God} wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth.

God wants all of us to *become fishers of men* because He wants *everyone to be saved*. Our families, friends, sporting mates, all those around us. We can think to ourselves, “*I’m not bold enough to share my faith. I don’t know what to say. What if they ask a question I can’t answer?*”

When you go fishing you need rods, bait, sinkers, lures & hooks and if you’re really serious maybe you’d use a GPS Fish Finder- tools to help you catch fish. When you *become a fisher of men* you need to learn some skills or have some ‘tools’ to help you reach people.

What skills can we learn from real fishermen, that will help us reach people for Jesus?

1. Patience – A truly great fisherman has spent countless hours fishing.

I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. (1 Cor 3:6 NLT)

We need to be patient with people. Some plant seeds (tell people about Jesus directly), others water (maybe pray for them) but we all patiently wait for God to work in their lives until they ask him to be their Saviour and friend forever. While we wait, we continue to pray and talk to them about Jesus, we don't give up.

2. Adaptability - A great fisherman knows that fish are picky and is able to change what they do to catch the fish.

It's the same with sharing about Jesus with people. People are all different, so we need to listen to what Holy Spirit is telling us to share with each person, or pray for them. We might need to pray first and then tell them about Jesus for one person. The next person, we might invite to church and they will hear about Jesus at church. Let's try all we can to share Jesus with others.

3. Self Confidence - Trying something new is hard and sometimes it seems like it doesn't work, but a fisherman will test out new ideas and try new things anyway to discover what works best.

Luke 5:10

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."

Do not allow fear to stop you from sharing your faith with others. Keep trying and continue to step out in faith.

As we follow Jesus, He makes us *become* fishers of men. Invite your neighbours, be a bold witness with your friends, speak about Jesus' love with your family, pray with someone at school who needs prayer. Become a great 'fisher of men' for Jesus.

Who might you share about Jesus with, this week?

Who could you invite to church?

Who could you pray for?

Romans 1:16 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

16 I am proud of the good news! It is God's powerful way of saving all people who have faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

 **DAY 8**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

2 First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them. 2 Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honour God. 3 This kind of prayer is good, and it pleases God our Saviour. 4 God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth

God wants us to come before him with our problems, needs, things that make us sad, and scared- and the things that make us happy and thankful. That's a good thing; He wants to hear our prayers and He wants to answer them.

But God also wants us to pray for others, especially those who are our "kings, or those in power".

In Australia, we don't have a King- we have a Queen and we can pray for her.

We also have people in power over us. In Australia we have:
Our Prime Minister and the Federal government
Our State or Territory Premier and their government
Our Local Council

In Phoenix there is:

The President and the Federal Government
State Governors
Local government

We all have:

Police and other law enforcement agencies.
People who influence what our society accepts- like university teachers, or people who work for TV or Radio.

Paul wisely teaches us, that we should pray for these people so we can continue share the Good News about Jesus

Let's take some time right now to pray for our Government.

Pray for the Prime Minister and President
Pray for those who give them advice and make our laws
Pray for those who influence our world.

- » Pray they would be wise, honest and kind.
- » Pray they would stand up for what is right and true, and that we would be able to share about Jesus.
- » Pray they would take care of our city and country.

A TESTIMONY – GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!

STEF AND PHIL MAINEY – INCHURCH DARWIN

Phil and Steph were saved just after they got married in 1988. They had not really known God growing up, so discovering how much Jesus loved them was truly amazing for them. They loved serving God, but found that they began missing what was really important- spending time with Jesus and praying.

This is their story:

In our home church in a small country town in NSW, there was an elderly Polish lady whom I shall call Mrs. S. She had fled Poland during the Second World War and came to our town in the 1950s. She stood about 5 feet 3 inches tall, but she was a fearless prayer warrior who prayed and fasted for days at a time. Her husband was not open to the Gospel and life was far from easy. None of her 5 children were followers of Jesus as adults, and she was constantly persecuted for her faith in our town.

Mrs S sought only God, never recognition from other people. And when she prayed, God heard and God moved. One night, God woke her with a vision in which some young fathers in our church were in serious danger. She prayed for hours. Later that day, we found out that 3 of our very good friends had been swept off rocks into the water while fishing at night and almost drowned, but somehow miraculously were swept back onto the rocks.

If Mrs S. had not prayed in obedience to God that night, the outcome for 3 young families, with 9 children between them, may have been very different.

Phil and I would often visit Mrs S, and the minute we entered her house, she would say, "Come, we pray". You did not question or disobey! Phil and our senior pastor would also spend hours in her company in prayer and then she would feed them stews and desserts she had prepared from her garden until they were so full, they could hardly move. Her passion for her Lord and prayer was matched only by her hospitality and her consuming passion for crocheting rugs for those in need across the world.

Mrs S taught me so much about the power of persistent prayer. She prayed daily for her family, she prayed for her church and its leaders and she prayed for our town, often in tears over the way that young people were following the ways of the world and turning their backs on God. She never stopped praying for her husband. And, after almost 50 years of marriage, Mr. S finally admitted his need of Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and was miraculously saved. From that day on, this man, who had been so angry and silent when Christians entered his home to see his wife, became the biggest hugger and smiler in our church! His salvation brought tears to our eyes and joy to our hearts, and taught us that God does answer our deepest cries, but in His time, not ours.

Mrs S passed away a number of years ago at the age of 85, but her legacy lives on. In America, our daughter Annie has on her bed one of Mrs S's crocheted blankets, remembering this powerful woman of prayer with love, as she seeks to serve the Lord in ministering to children from dysfunctional and abusive backgrounds.

Many lives have been saved and changed through dear Mrs S's prayers. I am so grateful to her for leading the way. I am sure her prayers brought peace and quiet to many a struggling soul, including my own.

And now, with many other saints that have given their all for Jesus, she stands with the cloud of witnesses, cheering us on as we run the race of our salvation. Let us run it with grace and passion and let us 'lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author AND finisher of our faith...'. Heb. 12: 1-2.

DAY 9

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father but through me. (John 14:6)

God doesn't want anyone to **not** come to heaven, but there is only ONE way for people to get there, and that is through Jesus.

People don't get to heaven because they are nice or a 'good person'.

They don't get to heaven because they give money to the poor or help others.

They don't get to heaven because they go to church even.

People get to heaven because they know Jesus died for their sin and have asked him to be the Lord and Saviour of their life.

Sometimes, we can have all of God's love in our lives, and forget that others need salvation. We may think that

because God loves people so much, that he'll just let them into heaven- but this is not true. God has done everything so people can be saved- now it's up to us to tell them.

Romans 10:14 New Century Version (NCV)

¹⁴ But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them;

The Bible says that those who bring the Good news about Jesus, have beautiful feet.

Take a look at your feet. Pray that your feet will be Good News feet today!

DAY 10

Matthew 28:19-20 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

¹⁹ Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world

In Caroline Springs, Victoria, are road signs that allows a U-turn. These signs are seen everywhere, often on major roads. They allow a driver travelling in one direction to change their mind and travel in the exact opposite, usually at a set of traffic lights. This is like salvation. We were headed away from God, but when we understand how much Jesus loves us and how He will forgive us and give us new life, then we get to change direction or you could say we get to do a U-turn and head straight back towards God!

John 3:16 (NIV)

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.

Ps Jack and Carol were travelling into the city for a show. They were noticing all the people around but they

started to not just see people as just strangers but they started to see them as people who needed Jesus so they could go to heaven! Each person had a need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and needed to be saved! Ps Jack said that night that God gave him and Ps Carol a new understanding and urgency to spread the gospel.

It's so easy to get busy with good things- family, church or school, dance or sport. However, we don't ever want to lose sight of peoples' need for salvation. Jesus left us with a command to spread the gospel and we need to do it. People's lives depend on it! We don't want to miss the chances we have to share about Jesus

PRAY

Today Jesus, help us see people as You see them. Please give us chances to share with others what Jesus has done for us. Fill us with the courage and longing to share the Gospel. We clearly pray that every Imagine Nations Church will keep growing through new believers! We pray Your Kingdom will come.



DAY 11

1 Timothy 2:1 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them.

Every day, across our cities and suburbs, in both Australia and in Phoenix, there are people who help others:

Police, Fire, Ambulance, Rescue organisations, our Military, Doctors, Nurses, Counsellors, Chaplains, and organisations like WestCare who help the poor and those in need.

These people save lives, protect us, help those who are sad or hurting and care for those in need. Without them, our communities would be pretty terrible.

Let's pray for them today:

- » Pray they would be kept safe and protected as they work or serve.
- » Pray they would have courage and know what to do or say to help people.
- » Pray they would have all the money they need to look after others.
- » Pray they would always be kind, honest and caring.
- » Pray they would be saved, so they can also share about Jesus.



DAY 12

Matthew 19:13-14 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Jesus and Little Children

¹³ Then they brought little children to Jesus so that he would lay his hands on them, bless them, and pray for them.[a]But the disciples scolded those who brought the children, saying, "Don't bother him with this now!"

¹⁴ Jesus overheard them and said, "I want little children to come to me, so never interfere with them when they want to come, for heaven's kingdom realm is composed of beloved ones[b]like these! Listen to this truth: No one will enter the kingdom realm of heaven unless he becomes like one of these!"

Children are very important to Jesus. When the disciples started arguing about who was the greatest, Jesus had a child stand with him and said that he was the greatest.

Jesus doesn't want any child to be lost. He wants every child to know about him, but right across Australia now, most children do not go to church (97%). The number of children going to church in Phoenix is also getting less.

In Penrith last year, **only one** child in a Kindergarten Scripture class in a Public school had ever heard of God. None of them knew about Jesus.

1 John 5:12 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹² **Whoever has the Son has eternal life; whoever does not have the Son does not possess eternal life.**

Without Jesus, children everywhere will not go to heaven.

As children yourselves, you are with other kids all the time. You can change the number of children hearing about Jesus and going to heaven, even better than the adults.

Let's pray for the children of our city and suburbs:

- » Pray they would hear about Jesus
- » Pray they would be invited to church and can come
- » Pray they would be saved

Who, of your friends can you pray for to know Jesus very clearly?

Who can you invite to church?

DAY 13

Hebrews 13:17 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and do what they say. They are watching over you, and they must answer to God. So don't make them sad as they do their work. Make them happy. Otherwise, they won't be able to help you at all.

As you think about your school and your teachers, is this your goal?

All over the world, children are trapped in poverty because they can't go to school. Being able to go to school gives you the chance to learn, to discover what you're good at and allows you to be able to do great things in the world. Learning to be grateful for school and enjoy all the things you get to learn and try and experience, is a wonderful thing.

Being a teacher or school principal is hard. There are so many things they have to teach and sometimes kids and parents aren't very nice. As Christians, we should aim to make their lives better because we are in it. We should also lead the way for other students to be good and be kind to others.

Matthew 5:14-16 New Century Version (NCV)

¹⁴ "You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Let's pray for our schools:

- » Pray the leaders in our schools would love Jesus and be wise, honest and kind
- » Pray that the schools would have all the resources they need to teach well
- » Pray that our teachers would be blessed, strong, wise and happy
- » Pray against bullying in our schools

DAY 14

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

There's just something about being loved. It makes you feel valued, important, welcomed, and accepted.

The teenagers in our cities are finding it harder and harder to know what real love is. They often are trying to please others by the way they act or dress, and don't really love themselves at all even though on the 'outside' they may act as though everything is ok.

Just like you, teenagers in all our cities need to know the love of Jesus and they need others to show it to them. They are waiting to find a peace and love that only Jesus offers. A little bit of love and encouragement from others goes a long way.

Be the kid that makes the teenagers around you feel loved by you. Maybe talk to them about how you could do that.

Let's pray for the teenagers of our cities:

- » Pray they would know how much Jesus loves them and accepts them and they would give their lives to him
- » Pray they would have good friends who help them make good decisions
- » Pray they would have people around them to support them if they feel sad or lonely
- » Pray they would do well at school but not be worried about school work.



DAY 15

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

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

Many young people feel rejected, anxious and fearful. They don't know what they should be doing in life at all, and while they may pretend to not care on the outside, inside they are hurting. We know this because many teenagers harm themselves and hurt others around them.

The teenagers in our families and in our cities need to know they are God's masterpiece, that he has a plan for their lives and they need strong adults around them who can help them and show them who to live.

What about your friends- or kids you know at school?

Do you know someone who has anxiety, or is scared? Or maybe they're the naughty kid, because they don't feel good enough, or think no one loves them.

They all need Jesus loving kids in their world to pray for them!

Let's pray for children and young people:

- » Pray they would begin to know who God made them to be
- » Pray they would hear God speak to them and show them how he will use them in his Kingdom
- » Pray they would listen to the adults around them who love them and who want the best for them
- » Pray they would talk to people who will give them wise answers if things are hard.
- » Pray they would get to youth and kids church and make great friends
- » Pray that fear and anxiety would go from their lives and they would be filled with joy and peace that Jesus gives.



DAY 16

1 John 4:19 (TPT)

Our love for others is our grateful response to the love God first demonstrated (showed) to us.

God loves families. He designed them. He wants them to be places filled with love, joy and peace. Families will never be perfect, but they can be wonderful.

When everyone in a family puts God first and then loves others around them because they love Jesus, then the family will be strong and, hopefully, full of peace and joy and love more than anything else.

In your family, you can love your brothers and sisters instead of fighting with them. You can help and serve your mum or dad, instead of being demanding or rude. You can help make your family the kind of family God wants it to be.

However, sometimes families can be a little crazy. Instead of being places filled with love, joy and peace, families can hurt each other and fight and feel like

everything is all confusing. Some families are so broken, that kids can be scared to be in that family.

We need to pray for our family and the families of our city. Satan does not like families. He wants them sad and broken, but we can pray against his plans.

Let's pray for our own family and for families in our city:

- » Pray they would be families that know and love Jesus.
- » Pray they would be filled with love and joy.
- » Pray that our family and other families would have the food, housing and care they need for everyone in the family.
- » Pray they would be peace filled. Ask God to help you to not fight with other people in your family.
- » Pray that no plan of the enemy would work against your family or any other.
- » Ask that your family would help lead other families to Jesus

DAY 17

Joshua 24:15 NLT

“As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

Pastor Mitch loves maps. He loves that they can show you the way you should go. Before there was Siri or Google maps, you use to have to get a paper map and find where you wanted to go and draw it for yourself. Now we just wait to be told where to go by the phone or car, but that can sometimes not be right! Has that happened to your mum or dad?

Like drawing on the old map and deciding the direction you would go, use our words and prayers to ‘direct’ or heart and lead the way in our families.

We can pray God’s word over our mums and dads, our brothers and sisters, our grandparents and every member of our family.

We can ask God to help us grow to be more like Jesus in our family and show the fruit of the Spirit to all those around us.

We can pray for other families we know and speak out God’s blessing over them. You could pray like Paul did:

Ephesians 3:16-19 (ERV)

16 I ask the Father with his great glory to give you the power to be strong in your spirits. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. 17 I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that your

life will be strong in love and be built on love. 18 And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love—how wide, how long, how high, and how deep that love is. 19 Christ’s love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with everything God has for you.

Would you pray every day for your Mum and Dad and brothers and sisters? Would you pray for a friend’s family?

- » Pray they would be protected and healthy and strong.
- » Pray they would have all they need and be filled with God’s love.
- » Pray they would have joy and be blessed.
- » Pray the fruit of the Holy Spirit- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control would be in your family.

PRAYER

“Lord God, would you help me this day to be strengthened and encouraged. Help me to be the best that I can be for my family. Help me to shine a light for you in my home. Let those around me be blessed because I am here. I pray that your presence would be with me and would fill my home with your peace, love and kindness and that those in my house would know that you are with them. Amen”

DAY 18

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

Marriage should be honoured by all.

Did you know that you are the Bride of Christ? That seems a bit funny, but it shows how important God thinks marriages are. Sometimes people can say that marriage doesn’t matter, or that anyone can be married, but God’s plan from when he first made Adam and Eve, was that families would have a mum and dad who were married and loved each other all their lives.

Sometimes Mums and Dads don’t love each other and sometimes they get divorced, but this was never the plan that God had. It can be very hard if this has happened to your family.

If your Mum and Dad are married:

- » Pray that they would be strong and let God help them love each other more and more.
- » Pray they would be able to listen to each

other and work things out when they argue (because all Mums and Dads do sometimes)

- » Pray that your Mum and Dad would be saved and filled with God’s love

If your Mum and Dad are not married anymore:

- » Pray that God would help them to be kind to each other and work together to look after you
- » Pray that each of them would know and love Jesus

Maybe you have a friend whose Mum and dad are fighting, or thinking about getting a divorce. You could pray for them too.

- » Pray that all the family would know and love Jesus and listen to him
- » Pray that your friend wouldn’t be scared, but would know that Jesus will be with them no matter what happens
- » Pray that god would be able to work in the family and help them

DAY 19

John 17:20-21 The Passion Translation (TPT)

²⁰ “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message.

²¹ I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one.

I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me.

Pastor Troy loves thin and crispy, pepperoni, anchovies and chili flakes pizza. Pastor Nicole likes Deep Pan and her ingredients will vary. Their kids just like a simple traditional cheese pizza, and Scratch (their dog), well he will eat anything that resembles a pizza, including the box.

What kind of Pizza do you like?

Not everyone likes the same pizza and different people will love different types of churches.

Some churches will be simple, some go longer, some have short services, some are more traditional, some are

loud, some are quiet, some are young, some are older, some have smoke machines and some like organ music.

But like a pizza, what hopefully makes us the same is the base. In all churches where we believe in Jesus, he is the ‘base’ and we are on the same team. We serve the same God, and one day we will go to the same heaven.

Jesus prayed that all of his disciples would be ONE- that no matter what church we go to, we would all know we are brothers and sisters because of Jesus.

Let’s pray for the churches of our city who believe in Jesus:

- » Pray the churches would be blessed and have the money they need to reach people for Jesus
- » Pray their Pastor or Minister is kind, wise and has the help they need to do all God has put into their hearts to do.
- » Pray that people’s lives would be helped and changed because of the churches in our city
- » Pray that all the churches would grow because many people have been saved.

DAY 20

Pastor Regan was working hard on her computer. She had a document with images and tables, a graph made with various colors and fonts - then her Benny comes in and in an instant and when she looks back to the screen and it’s white! Empty. All her work vanished. In a panic, she called a friend, who just happens to be an “Apple Genius”. As she explained her crisis he laughed (as he usually does) before giving her the simple solution to my problem: Command Z. And just as quick as it had disappeared, it was back. Exactly as it had been- like it was never gone. Completely restored.

Restoration: The act of returning something to an owner, place or condition.

There are many things and many people in our cities who need to be restored- made new again by God’s love. It’s like everything God has done has gone from their lives, but God can bring it back again.

Nehemiah 9:17

They refused to listen, and forgot your wondrous deeds. They became stubborn, to the point of returning to their

slavery-but You! Are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness; and you did not forsake them.

God is always willing to work in people’s lives.

Do you know someone and you’ve thought, ‘They’ll never get saved?’

Or perhaps you’ve heard adults talk about someone whose life is so messed up, it seems as though nothing could possibly be fixed.

Our God is a god of miracles and love. He can restore! He can restore better than Command Z!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (CEV)

17 Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

Don’t give up praying for someone to come to know Jesus. Keep praying. Keep believing.



DAY 21

It's always exciting to read stories and testimonies of how prayer has changed cities and countries all over the world.

Prayer changes things!

We can pray with confidence for our nation, our neighbourhood, our school and our friends.

God offers hope to our neighbourhood and to our friends. He wants us to live calm and peaceful lives. So many people are living lives that feel crazy. Rather than the dramas we can see around sometimes, God offers us peace and quiet when we look to Him.

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:28: Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.**

This is a promise for us and a promise for our neighbourhood and our country and leaders. It is also a promise for the people who need God.

God's heart is for restoration.

God said: I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord and they shall be my people and I will be their God. For they shall return to me with all their heart. Jer. 24:7 ESV

Let's pray that people in our schools would come to know God!

Let's also pray for people who lead and influence our city.

Your prayers are powerful - your prayers make a difference. Keep praying everyday for your neighbourhood and your school, that people would come to know God.

