

Praying During The Coronavirus Crisis

The following is a prayer guide that you can use as a structure to pray through all the issues, it can be a basis for times of personal prayer or praying together online. Or use it to inform how you pray as you respond to situations. It uses the guide Jesus gave us to use and shows the incredible depth and power of the prayer he gave us.

1. Praise: "Our Father in heaven hallowed by your name"

It is really important that our prayers at this time are not driven by fear and worry. Worship is always the heart of our relationship with God. Take time daily to remember his great love for us and the whole world and all that he has done for us through Jesus and worship him.

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
Psalms 103: 1-5

2. Purpose: Your Kingdom Come, Your will be Done

We know that this virus is not from our Father, and his purpose is not to destroy us. And so we are praying for God to reign. In his victory Jesus is reigning over this world and we pray for him to stretch out his arm and intervene and push back the spread of this virus and save us. Pray for the Lord to intervene to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Pray in Jesus' name that the virus would recede. This is how the early church prayed.

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. Acts 4:30

While God has not sent this virus he always wants to work his good purpose out in and through every situation. Pray for God's purposes to be worked out. Pray that in the shaking that is going on in which so much of materialism and entertainment is being stripped away people may realise how empty life is and turn to God.

Pray for the loving service and witness of God's people at this time.

Pray for the church to love and care for the sick, lonely and their caregivers in practical and sacrificial ways. Pray for an outpouring of love, compassion and service, in Jesus' name. Pray for the church to be a light on a hill and for God's people to live with hope and peace and to witness to the life Jesus gives. Pray for all those who live and die without the knowledge of Jesus to hear about him through this crisis and respond to his love. We pray salvation for every man, woman and child in the world today. Through eyes of faith, we see them becoming our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask in Jesus' name for the gift of salvation for many to come out of this crisis. Pray for those you love who do not know Jesus to come closer to him.

The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise, as some understand slowness but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. – 2 Peter 3:9

3. Provision: Give us today our daily bread.

There is so much need. In each of the following categories think of people you know and pray for them.

For Government – for wisdom for all in authority in the decisions they make.

For health workers – for strength and protection and wisdom as they decide on how to treat people.

For scientists – for God to lead them to a vaccine and testing kits that can help to protect us

For the economy- for people who have lost their jobs, for business leaders as they make decisions, for financial provision for those who are struggling

For the lonely and vulnerable – for people to love one another and care

For peace for those experiencing fear and anxiety and for comfort for the bereaved

For healing for those who are sick

4. Penitence: forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

The response to this virus must be humility – it is a consequence of our mistreatment of creation and a sign of creation groaning (Romans 8:22). We must identify with the rest of the human race and repent of our pride and arrogance in rejecting God and his ways. We cry out for God's mercy on this world.

5. Protection: Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Jesus has died and risen and ascended to rule over the whole universe. Pray for his protection over all those whom you love. Pray the blood of Christ for each family member and those who you are concerned for. Pray for God to protect our society – relationships, economy, law and order.

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen