

## PRAYER GUIDES

### A Prayer Guide from [frc.org/pray](http://frc.org/pray)

Here are some ways you can prayerfully respond to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- **Pray for an end to the spread of the virus.** The Coronavirus did not take God by surprise; He is still governing and sustaining the world (Col. 1:17). Pray for God's healing mercy and that He would graciously bring this pandemic to an end. Pray for healing for all those affected by the virus.
- **Pray for government leaders.** At all times, Christians are called to pray for those in positions of authority (1 Tim. 2:2). This is especially true during a time of national emergency. Pray for the President, Vice President, governors, mayors, and all those making decisions related to public health and safety. Pray for a spirit of bipartisanship as lawmakers work together to protect people.
- **Pray for church leaders.** Pastors around the country are making difficult decisions related to public worship and the safety of their members. Pray that pastors will have wisdom to faithfully shepherd the congregations under their care, even if they are unable to physically gather (1 Peter 5:2). Pray that Christians will love their neighbors well during this time (Mark 12:31).
- **Pray for the vulnerable.** Authorities tell us that immunocompromised people are especially at risk as the virus spreads. Pray for protection for the elderly, diseased, and those facing financial hardship. Pray for students who are being required to vacate university and college housing with very little notice. Over the next few weeks, there will be many opportunities to meet tangible needs. Pray that God's people meet these opportunities with wisdom and grace (Mat. 25:35-40).
- **Pray for Healthcare Workers and First Responders.** In the midst of the crisis, doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, and first responders are working long hours to provide much needed medical care to those affected by the virus. Pray they'll have wisdom as they care for patients. Pray for energy and stamina as they work. And pray for their families who are making tremendous sacrifices as well.
- **Pray for honest reporting.** Christians should pray for those in the news media. Pray that reporters and journalists would accurately report updates about the status of the virus, and not seek to peddle conspiracies, politicize the threat, or stoke fear where it is unwarranted.
- **Pray for a spirit of generosity.** During this time, churches will face a loss of income at a time when there are many opportunities to meet physical needs. Pray that God's people will manifest a spirit of generosity and sacrificially give of their time and resources to meet needs that will arise (2 Cor. 9:6-8).
- **Pray for a posture of trust.** Scripture teaches us that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Tim 1:7). Pray for enduring faith during this season of heightened fear, anxiety, and confusion. Appropriate precautions should be taken, but Christians must continue to rely on God and trust His purposes and plans (Rom. 8:28).
- **Pray for the spread of the gospel.** In this time of great anxiety, pray that God's people would be ready to meet the world with the comfort and hope that only the good news of Jesus Christ can offer.

### **A Prayer Guide from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**

This prayer guide was sent to SBC churches on Sunday morning, March 15, 2020, as a guide for “Day of Prayer for the Coronavirus (COVID-10) Global Pandemic.”

- **Ask God, in His mercy, to stop this pandemic and save lives** --not only in our communities but around the world, particularly in places that are unequipped medically to deal with the virus (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- **Pray for President Donald Trump and other government leaders** –international, federal, state, and local – to have the wisdom to direct us in the best course of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1-4)
- Scripture says –Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. **Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom** in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is, and they would see their need to turn to God. (Psalm 90:12)
- **Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the globe**, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to the whole world. (Matthew 28:19-20)

### **Praying for Our Country**

**(1) Pray for personal preparation, repentance, obedience, steadfastness, and faith during this time of emergency.** As you pray for our nation, it is important that you prepare your own heart first --going before God and making sure you have no unfinished business with Him. Ask God to help you repent and to be blessable by God.

Be gracious to me, O God, by examining my heart and revealing my sins. According to Your loving-kindness and the greatness of Your compassion, show me where I have strayed from Your will so I may confess my transgressions to You and know the freedom of Your forgiveness. Make me clean before You so I can intercede with an open and contrite heart for my nation. The people of America need You, Lord –we need You to open our eyes and hearts to Your truth. Thank You for beginning to change this country by transforming my own heart. Thank You for hearing my prayer. In Jesus’ Name, Amen. (Psalm 51) *(adapted from Charles Stanley, Turning the Tide, 2011, p. 252)*

**(2) Pray for God to intervene to stop the spread of Coronavirus and the deaths it is causing.**

Lord God, we pray for your protection from the increasing natural disasters – including this Corona virus -- that are taking place in our world. Our hearts are heavy over the immense loss of life that has occurred over the last few years due to them, and now recently, and we pray for comfort for those who have been affected –and that they may know You as Lord and Savior. We ask for wisdom to address the questions people have about You. Please help us to minister to them in meaningful ways, telling them about Your kingdom, which cannot be destroyed or shaken.

Show us how to serve You most effectively during times of tragedy and distress, not worrying about our own losses, but demonstrating Your grace and goodness to others with love, reverence, and awe. We praise You because we know You can work through anything to reveal Yourself to those who are lost. Thank You for hearing our prayers and for healing those who are hurting. In Jesus’ Name, Amen. (Hebrews 12:25-29) *(adapted from Charles Stanley, Turning the Tide, 2011, pp. 269-270)*

**Praying for Leaders In Life & Government (Now and Always)**

1. Pray that God will cause people in authority to realize their sinfulness and daily need for Jesus' forgiveness and guidance.
2. Pray that our legislators will admit their personal inadequacies for the tasks ahead and turn to the Father for the wisdom and courage to carry out their responsibilities.
3. Pray that our lawmakers will reject all counsel that violates the spiritual principles set forth in Scripture, and that they will trust God to lead them in the best direction.
4. Pray that our government officials will be able to resist pressure from those who would lead them astray or tempt them to violate the will of God and His clear standards of right and wrong.
5. Pray that those in authority will actively work to reverse the trends in our nation that dethrone the Lord and deify man.
6. Pray that our leaders will be willing to abandon their political careers and personal ambitions if doing so is in the best interests of the country.
7. Pray that our representatives will rely upon prayer and the Word of God for their daily strength and path to success.
8. Pray that our legislators will restore dignity, honor, trustworthiness, and righteousness to our government and their offices.
9. Pray that our lawmakers will strive to be good examples to all the parents and children in our nation.
10. Pray for all people in authority to be reminded daily that they are accountable to Almighty God for their attitudes, words, motives, and actions.

***(Charles Stanley, Turning the Tide, 2011, pp. 240-241)***