

## Pray Charleston Prayer Guide

Grace Christian Fellowship prays for our city for 24 hours on the 7th of each month. Thank you for making time for this essential priority.

Start here

- To get you started, we've included some prayers to pray straight from the Bible.
- Consider reading the passage and then praying it back as if it's your prayer to Jesus today.
- Feel free to modify it as you pray for your context so that you can pray it with integrity and freedom.
- Let Jesus lead you.
- This format provides a focus for each prayer, a Scripture reference, and a short application for your city.
- So grab your Bible and start praying with these helpful prayers.
- If you need a Bible app, go here <https://www.bible.com>
- If you want to just go to an online Bible from here, go here <https://www.biblegateway.com>.

### 1. Praying for God's Kingdom to Come

**Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13**

"This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, The Father's Character  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, The Father's Kingdom  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. The Father's Provision  
And forgive us our debts, The Father's Forgiveness  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, The Father's Guidance  
but deliver us from the evil one." The Father's Protection\*

\* From Mike Breen in Building a Discipling Culture

Prayer Focus: Pray that God's will would be done in our city as it is in heaven. Ask for His provision, forgiveness, and protection over its people.

### 2. Praying for Unity Among Believers

**Scripture: John 17:20-23 (Look up in your Bible now)**

Prayer Focus: Ask God to bring unity among churches and Christians in the city, so that our witness for Christ would be strong and effective.

### **3. Praying for Spiritual Strength**

**Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19**

Prayer Focus: Pray for the people of our city to experience the love of Christ and be strengthened by His Spirit, growing in faith and righteousness.

### **4. Praying for Open Doors for the Gospel**

**Scripture: Colossians 4:2-4**

Prayer Focus: Ask God to create opportunities for the gospel to be proclaimed in workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. Pray for boldness and clarity for those sharing Christ.

### **5. Praying for Love and Discernment**

**Scripture: Philippians 1:9-11**

Prayer Focus: Pray that our city would be filled with wisdom, love, and righteousness and that believers would be a light in the community.

### **6. Praying for Endurance and Fruitfulness**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:9-12**

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help His people in the city live in a way that pleases Him, bearing good fruit and remaining faithful despite challenges.

### **7. Praying for Boldness in Sharing the Gospel**

**Scripture: Ephesians 6:18-20**

Prayer Focus: Pray for pastors, missionaries, and everyday believers to share Christ fearlessly and faithfully, even in the face of opposition.

### **8. Praying for Courage in the Face of Opposition**

**Scripture: Acts 4:29-31**

Prayer Focus: Ask God to empower His people in the city to stand firm in their faith and be bold in their witness, no matter the circumstances.

### **9. Praying for Forgiveness and Mercy**

**Scripture: Luke 23:34**

Prayer Focus: Intercede for those in our city who do not yet know Christ, asking for God's mercy and the transformation of hearts through the gospel.

## **10. Praying for Encouragement and Strength**

### **Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

Prayer Focus: Pray that God would encourage and strengthen those in our city who are weary, struggling, or in need of hope.

### **Specific requests for our City:**

#### ***1. Pray for the leaders in Charleston (the region of cities that make up the Charleston metro area)***

Lord Jesus, we come before You, lifting up the leaders of our region (cities)—our mayors, council members, law enforcement, educators, business leaders, and all who serve in positions of authority. Your Word instructs us to pray for those in leadership, that we may live peaceful and godly lives (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We ask that You grant them wisdom, discernment, and integrity as they make decisions that affect our community.

Lord, guide them in truth, that they may seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before You (Micah 6:8). Help them to lead not for personal gain or power but with a heart of service and a desire for the well-being of all people. May they uphold righteousness and work toward policies that promote peace, fairness, and the flourishing of every resident (Proverbs 11:14).

Lord Jesus, we pray for their strength and endurance. Leadership is often a heavy burden, and we ask that You sustain them, give them wise counselors, and protect them from discouragement and corruption (Isaiah 40:31, Proverbs 15:22). Where there is division, bring unity; where there is confusion, bring clarity; where there is selfish ambition, cultivate humility and a spirit of cooperation (James 3:17).

Above all, Lord, we ask that Your kingdom come and Your will be done in our region as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). May Your name be glorified as our leaders govern with justice and compassion, and may they seek You in all they do.

#### ***2. Pray for the leaders of the churches in our community***

Certainly! Here is a prayer for the leaders of the churches in your community, rooted in

Scripture:

A Prayer for the Church Leaders in Our Community

Lord Jesus, we lift up the pastors, elders, deacons, and ministry leaders of the churches in our cities. You have called them to shepherd Your people, to preach the Word, and to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). Strengthen them, Lord, and fill them with wisdom, courage, and steadfast faith.

Grant them a deep love for You and for the people they serve. May they be faithful to Your Word, preaching the gospel boldly and leading with humility and integrity (2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 5:2-3). Guard their hearts against discouragement, division, and temptation, and protect their families as they serve (Proverbs 4:23, 1 Timothy 3:1-7).

Lord, we pray for unity among the churches in our region. May our leaders work together, not as

competitors but as co-laborers in Your kingdom (John 17:20-23). Give them a shared vision for making disciples, caring for the lost and the hurting, and bringing glory to Your name. Fill them with the power of Your Spirit, that they may lead with wisdom, shepherd with love, and endure with perseverance (Colossians 1:9-11). Refresh their souls, Lord, and remind them that their labor in You is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd,

***3. Pray for churches to be started/planted. Pray that your Church of Charleston will work together to plant churches (from mega to micro) all over our city expanding your kingdom as the front lines of that effort.***

***4. Pray for our leaders to equip the saints for the work of ministry as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Raise up many who will “live sent” where they live, work, learn and play.***

***5. Pray that the Church of Charleston will rise up and pray for our city(ies) in our region so that we will begin to see kingdom change in the hearts and minds of our citizens.***

***6. Pray that the people in our churches will continue to engage their neighbors in spiritual conversations (Prayer, Care, Share) each day.***

***7. Pray for us at Grace Christian Fellowship to grow in the following ways.***

1. P—Plant more home, mission and DNA groups that point people to Jesus in his word. May these eventually lead to new churches as well.

2. E—Educate the next generation spiritually, mentally, relationally, and emotionally.

3. A—Assist the poor: the least, the last and the lost of our cities. Especially: The homeless, the Immigrant, and Single

4. C—Care for the sick in our church family (short-term and chronic illness; physical, mental, emotional and spiritual).

5. E—Equip servant leaders in our church family.\*

\* This is inspired by Rick Warren’s PEACE plan. <https://www.thepeaceplan.com>

Lessons learned in ministry

One of my favorite Tim Keller stories was a group of young pastors asked him, “What lesson in ministry do you wish you would have learned earlier?”

We thought he’d say something pragmatic.

His response, “Prayer.”

The **A.C.T.S.** acrostic is a simple and helpful guide for structuring prayer. This structure keeps prayer balanced, ensuring it’s not just about requests but also about worship, repentance, and gratitude.

It stands for:

1. A — Adoration

Begin by praising God for who He is—His character, greatness, and holiness.

Example: “Lord, You are sovereign over our city. You are loving, just, and full of mercy.”

2. C — Confession

Confess personal and communal sins, asking for forgiveness and a heart aligned with God’s will.

Example: “Father, forgive us for the ways we have failed to love our neighbors and seek Your righteousness in our city.”

3. T — Thanksgiving

Express gratitude for God’s blessings, provision, and faithfulness.

Example: “Thank You, Lord, for the ways You are working in our community, for answered prayers, and for Your constant presence.”

4. S — Supplication

Bring requests before God for yourself, others, and your city.

Example: “Lord, bring revival to our city. Strengthen the churches, guide our leaders, and bring peace and justice.”

“Thankfulness prepares the way for prayer.” -David Watson

3X Handle: Pray for “Your 3” or “3X”

- Who are 3 people far from God but close to you?
- Would you be willing to pray for and build a relationship with those 3 people this year?
- Would you be willing to write their names down and start praying for them to take a step towards Jesus each day?

If all of our 150+ members did this, we’d be praying for over 450 people/day to move towards Jesus. Would that not be amazing?!

3 people far from god but close to us. A handle that helps us ask who are your 3? Let’s pray for our three? If we have a group of 9 are we praying for 27 people far from god that we are pursuing? At 3x.

Other verses to pray through

Verses

- Matt 28:16-20
- Matt 22:37-39
- Acts 1:8

- Jeremiah 24:4-7

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Will you be a “Lighthouse”?

Are you willing to be a Lighthouse where you live, work, learn and play? Your “3” are

likely in one of these places when you cross paths. How do you shine in these places?

Pray through these verses:

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””

John 8:12 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.8.12.NIV>

““You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.5.14-16.NIV>

The Lighthouse Movement emphasizes a simple three-step approach to living on mission in your community:

1. Pray — Regularly pray for your neighbors, city, and those who don't know Christ. Ask God to open hearts and create opportunities for the gospel.
  2. Care — Show God's love through acts of kindness, service, and compassion. Build genuine relationships by meeting needs and being present in people's lives.
  3. Share — Look for opportunities to share the gospel naturally, whether through personal testimony, conversations, or inviting others to church.
- It's a practical way to be a light in your community by praying for people, demonstrating Christ's love, and sharing the good news when the opportunity arises.

### Prayer Changes Things

Saint John Chrysostom (349–407) wrote,

‘Prayer... is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings... The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, it has bridled the rage of lions extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases... rescued cities from destruction... and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt.’

Listening prayer—another tool

1. We pray lifting up our requests to God (Phil 4:6-7; John 10:2-4; 15:7; James 1:2-5)
2. Ask: What do you want me to hear you say to me?
3. Ask: What do you want me to do?

### Pray God-Sized Prayers

“I (Nicky Gumbel) remember so well praying for a baby called Craig. I had been asked to visit a woman in the Brompton Hospital.

Vivienne had three children and was pregnant with a fourth. Her third child, who was

eighteen months old, had a hole in his heart that had been operated on. The operation had not been a success and, not unnaturally, the medical staff wanted to turn the machines off.

Many times they asked Vivienne if they could turn the machines off and let the baby die. She said no, as she wanted to try one last thing. She wanted someone to pray for him.

So I went.

Craig had tubes all over him. His body was bruised and swollen. She said that the doctors had indicated that even if he recovered he would have brain damage because his heart had stopped for such a long time. She told me she didn't believe in God but she said, 'Will you pray?'

I prayed in the name of Jesus for God to heal him. Then I explained to her how she could give her life to Jesus Christ and she did.

I left, but returned two days later. Vivienne came running out the moment she saw me. She said, 'I've been trying to get hold of you; something amazing has happened. The night after you prayed he completely turned the corner. He has recovered.' Within a few days Craig had gone home.

Vivienne went around all her relatives and friends saying, 'I didn't believe, but now I do believe.' A remarkable healing had occurred. This was over thirty years ago. I have kept in touch with the family.

This healing was not autosuggestion; he was a baby at the time.

It was not positive thinking. It was not the placebo effect.

It was a God-sized answer to a God-sized prayer.

Bible in One Year 2023 with Nicky Gumbel: Day 126 • Devotional

Tools that help us pray—Left hand

**Left Thumb:** If you hold your hands together in a prayer position, you'll notice that your thumbs are the closest to your heart. This is a reminder to pray for those who are closest to your heart, such as family and friends.

**Left Index Finger:** We use the index finger to point the way, so this is a reminder to pray for those in our lives who point the way, such as teachers and leaders.

**Left Middle (Tallest) Finger:** The Bible says we're to pray for the people who influence the world, such as those in authority. Our tallest finger can remind us to pray for the

**Left Ring (Fourth) Finger:** Some people believe this is our weakest finger, suggesting it's difficult to hold anything with it. This can be a reminder to pray for those who need our extra support. This would include the sick, the poor, children, and the elderly—or people challenged by a handicap or a mental-health issue.

**Left Small (Fifth) Finger:** Finally, you pray for yourself and your own needs. It's okay to pray for yourself, but by using this model, you think of other people first.

Tools that help us pray—Right hand

**Right Thumb:** Once again, the thumb is closest to your heart, so pray about your heart:

"God, is my heart right with you? Is there anything between you and me that is creating a barrier? Is there anything I need to confess?" You can also pray for the hearts of people around you: your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Right Index Finger: We use the index finger to point the way, so use this as a reminder to ask God about your priorities and schedule. What is most important? What should I let go of?

Right Middle (Tallest) Finger: Use this finger to remind you to pray about your influence. It's okay to ask God to give you more influence or to help you be an example to others. You can pray, "Lord, I'm getting ready to start a new day. People are going to see things in my life, and I want to be a good influence today."

Right Ring (Fourth) Finger: We refer to the fourth finger on each hand as the ring finger so the fourth thing you pray for is relationships.

You pray for your relationships with friends, your family, your spouse (if you're married), your small group, the people you work with, and the people serving alongside you in ministry.

Right Small (Fifth) Finger: Use this finger as a reminder to pray for material blessings. There's nothing wrong with asking God to bless you materially. The Bible says, "You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, The Message).

Another acronym tool to help you pray

Yes! The **P.R.A.Y.** acronym is another helpful guide for structuring prayer. This framework helps keep prayer focused and intentional.

It stands for

1. P — Praise

Start by praising God for who He is and what He has done.

Example: "Lord, You are holy, faithful, and full of love. I praise You for Your goodness and grace."

2. R — Repent

Confess sins and turn away from them, seeking God's forgiveness and renewal.

Example: "Father, I repent of my sins and ask for Your mercy. Forgive me for where I have fallen short."

3. A — Ask

Bring your requests to God, praying for yourself, others, and your city.

Example: "Lord, I ask for wisdom, strength, and guidance. Provide for those in need and bring peace to our community."

4. Y — Yield

Surrender to God's will, trusting Him with the outcome.

Example: "Lord, I trust You with my life and this city. Let Your will be done, not mine."

The when and where of prayer

Prayer is the most important activity of your life. It is the main way in which you develop a relationship with your Father in heaven. If you love someone, naturally you will want to spend time in their presence communicating with them. Like any relationship, communication can take many different forms

Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626), was one of the great theologians and preachers of his day. After he died, his private notebook on prayer was discovered and published. In it he had written two lists:

First, he wrote a list of \*times\* of prayer in the Bible: 'Always... Without ceasing... At all times... Three times a day... Evening, and morning, and at noon... Seven times a day... In the morning, a great while before day... At daybreak... The third hour of the day... About the sixth hour... The hour of prayer, the ninth... The evening... By night... At midnight...'

Next, he wrote a list of \*places\* of prayer in the Bible: 'In the assembly... and in the congregation... Your closet... An upper room... A housetop... The temple... On the shore... A garden... On their beds... A desert place... In every place...' There is no limit to the times, places and different ways in which you can pray

Bible in One Year 2023 with Nicky Gumbel: Day 290 • Devotional

Fasting - some advice

For those who are fasting, here are some helpful quotes to stir your affections for Jesus during this day.

Take time to slowly read through Matthew 6:16-18 and Mark 2:18-22

"Fasting has been practiced by Christians around the world since the earliest days of the church. It is only in our wealthy and pleasure-loving Western world that many Christians have never fasted. Jesus said, "when you fast" (Matt 6:16) not "if". He clearly expected His followers to fast (Mark 2:20)."—Tim Kerr

"The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie.

The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but His gifts.

And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God

Himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable." -Tim Kerr

John Piper

- What are good gifts from God that have replaced your hunger for God Himself? Take time to pray, listen, confess, and receive fresh grace from Jesus.

"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great. I invite you to turn from the dulling effects of food and the danger of idolatry, and to say with some simple fast: 'This much, O God, I want you.'" -John Piper

Thank you for praying.

Lord Jesus, I pray a prayer of blessing over this precious son/daughter of yours who just spent extended time in fellowship and intercession with you. Bless their work, their home, their family, their extended family and friends, their dreams and their health.

Show them your blessings as they reflect on this time and give them a growing hunger for more time with you each day.

Hear their prayers and answer them in accordance with your will. For you are good, wise and able to answer beyond our wildest dreams.

Thank you for hearing our prayers. Thank you for including us in your holy search and rescue mission for those who are far from you but close to us. Help us join you daily in this compassionate effort. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.