

SEVEN PRAYERS

SESSION 1

This week, pray for Christians who are denied the right to worship freely.

Day 1: Pray for those in countries where Christians must remain hidden. Guide them so that they find others to worship with.

Day 2: Pray for those who are denied the right to build churches. May the laws be reformed and justice prevail.

Day 3: Pray for those whose churches have been destroyed and who have been driven from their homes. Lord, please help them to rebuild their church, wherever they find themselves.

Day 4: Pray for those who are scared to extend church because of surveillance. May they find new places to worship and Christians with whom to share.

Day 5: Pray for those who must travel far to find a safe space to worship. Keep them safe from detection.

Day 6: Pray for church leaders who have to find new ways to meet with their flock. May they be courageous and clever in their approach.

Day 7: Give thanks for the faithfulness of our persecuted brothers and sisters. Thank you, Lord, that the church cannot be constrained within a building, but that everywhere, Christians are finding new ways to be part of the kingdom of God.

SESSION 2

This week, pray for Christians who have to follow Christ alone.

Day 1: Pray for those seeking answers about Jesus in countries where Christian material is hard to find. May they find the answers to their questions.

Day 2: Pray for those who have to keep their faith secret from their own families. May they know that there is a greater family to which they belong.

Day 3: Pray for those who believe that they are the only Christians for miles around. May they safely and securely make contact with others.

Day 4: Pray for those Christians who are in solitary

confinement in prisons. Lord, please bring them comfort and peace.

Day 5: Pray for those who provide online support to isolated Christians everywhere. Give them wisdom and inventiveness in communicating the truth.

Day 6: Pray for those who have been locked away by their own families because of their faith. Keep them strong, Lord, in following You.

Day 7: Give thanks for the courage and endurance of witnesses like Islèm and Wang Ming Dao. Thank You, Lord, that everywhere Christians are discovering that, however separated they are from their Christian family, they can never be separated from You.

SESSION 3

This week, pray for Christians who are denied the right to own a Bible.

Day 1: Pray for Christians who have to hide their Bibles from the authorities. Lord, may these precious scriptures remain hidden.

Day 2: Pray for those who smuggle Bibles into countries where scriptures are forbidden. Grant them courage, Lord, and protect them from discovery.

Day 3: Pray for those who are denied Bibles in prison. May they find ways to read the Bible and to remember the stories.

Day 4: Pray for those who translate the Bible into other languages. Give them wisdom Lord, and creativity to find the right words and images.

Day 5: Pray for those who try to ban the Bible. Holy Spirit, please challenge them to change their hearts, and may they pass laws which allow for more freedom.

Day 6: Pray for those who provide the Bible in other ways - through audio or digital means. May more and more Christians access these materials and encounter you on the internet or on their phones.

Day 7: Give thanks for the power of the Bible to change lives. Help us Lord, to provide the scriptures for those around the world who desperately want them. Let us not take for granted the power of Your word to bring order into chaos, light into darkness, and hope out of despair.

SESSION 4

This week, pray for Christians who are exiled from their family or community.

Day 1: Pray for Christians who are persecuted by their own family. May their courageous, faithful witness speak the truth about the freedom of following Jesus.

Day 2: Pray for Christians who lose jobs or education because of their faith. Help us to do all that we can to help them find new hope for the future.

Day 3: Pray for Christians who are thrown out of their own communities. Lord, lead them to a new home and may they find the help they need to start a new life.

Day 4: Pray for women and girls who are persecuted and oppressed. May they know that You are with them, Lord, and may they be protected from harm.

Day 5: Pray for those under pressure to punish Christians in their family. Holy Spirit, help them to do the right thing and resist the pressure to persecute other family members for following You.

Day 6: Pray for the church family around the world. Lord Jesus, help us all to be a real family to persecuted believers, offering love, acceptance and support.

Day 7: Give thanks for the church family in the countries of the World Watch List. Thank you Lord, that even in the darkest places, Christians are finding a new home and family to which to belong. May we, too, be an active part of that family. Help us to support our brothers and sisters in need, wherever they are.

SESSION 5

This week, pray for Christians who cannot talk openly about Jesus.

Day 1: Pray for Christians who have to keep their faith secret, even from their family. May their lives demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ.

Day 2: Pray for Christians who want to tell others about Jesus but who don't know whom to trust. Holy Spirit, please guide them with wisdom and insight.

Day 3: Pray for Christians who have been treated unfairly in the distribution of aid. May they receive help, and may they have the strength to meet

injustice with forgiveness and love.

Day 4: Pray for Christians who are being prosecuted under unjust anti-conversion laws. May they be treated fairly, and may these laws be repealed.

Day 5: Pray for Christian leaders who are under surveillance all the time. Protect them from gossip and malicious lies. Show them how best to serve You under such pressure.

Day 6: Pray for Christians who are seeking different ways to serve their communities. Encourage them, Lord with a good response and show them where the needs are.

Day 7: Give thanks for the sacrificial, Christlike love of the persecuted church. Lord, may we, too, learn to forgive, to love and to serve those around us more and more.

SESSION 6

This week, pray for Christians who pay a price for following Jesus.

Day 1: Pray for Christians who are imprisoned because of their faith. May they know the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Day 2: Pray for Christians who lose their jobs or are denied employment because they follow Jesus. May they find a way to support their families.

Day 3: Pray for Christians who have to flee their homes because of persecution. Holy Spirit, help them to know that they are safe and secure in God's love.

Day 4: Pray for Christians who have lost loved ones through violence. Please, Lord, bring comfort to the widows, the orphans and all those who grieve.

Day 5: Pray for Christians who live in fear of being found out. Lord God, may they know Your peace and protection.

Day 6: Pray for Christian leaders who seek to support the underground church. Give them wisdom to know what to do, and the courage and determination to act in accordance with Your will.

Day 7: Give thanks for all those who have paid a price for following Jesus. May their lives be an inspiration and an example to us, and may we all be prepared to 'lay down our lives' for one another.