

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER GUIDE

A GUIDE TO HELP LEAD
YOUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY



Start Here

The National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by a joint resolution of Congress calling believers across America to **unite in prayer for our nation.**

The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

This simple suggestive *National Day of Prayer Guide* was created to help lead a prayer event at your church. Please add to it or delete from it to make the event your own.

No matter what,
we know with 100% assurance,

GOD IS GOING TO MOVE!

JUST A FEW IDEAS ON HOW TO FACILITATE A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WITH YOUR STAFF, WITH YOUR CHURCH OR IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- ❑ Bring your church staff together on May 4th for a time of prayer.
- ❑ Announce National Day of Prayer in advance to your church members on Sunday, April 30th. Include it in your church email, social channels, newsletter, etc... Invite your members to come to church the evening of May 4th for a National Day of Prayer service.
- ❑ Open your church to the community by hosting a National Day of Prayer community event on May 4th. Advertise through social channels, on your church marquee, or create invitations for your members to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to join in.
- ❑ Invite other pastors and church leaders to a National Day of Prayer breakfast at your church. Serve donuts, coffee, or whatever you'd like!
- ❑ Share this *National Day of Prayer Guide* with your Small Groups, Men's ministry, Women's ministry, etc to get them praying during their ministry meeting time. If they don't meet on May 4th, encourage them to be praying on the day they do. God is always listening!

**Any way is okay! We just need to PRAY!*

Event Guide:

- Pastor leading the event welcomes everyone and explains the meaning, relevance and power of the National Day of Prayer.
- If you are able, have your worship team/a worship leader lead everyone in worship to enhance your prayer time experience.
- Serve a beverage/snack if appropriate for your event.
- Timing of everyone's event may differ. We suggest approximately an hour, but be in tune to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A Prayer for Our Nation:

OPEN WITH THIS PRAYER

Father, you have told us in your Word to search and try our ways and turn again to you. ¹ So we come before you today as individuals, as families, as your church, and as Americans. ² We come with humble hearts, aware of our sins and failings. ³ We have trampled upon your grace and taken for granted your mercy and forgiveness. ⁴

You know what we are made of. ⁵ You know the content of our character. ⁶ You know that, left to ourselves, our hearts will turn to evil. ⁷ We willingly admit that. Our secret thoughts, our secret desires, our secret lives bring us shame when exposed to the light of your truth. ⁸ Your Word is that truth. ⁹ It pierces and cuts through our defenses and lays us open before you; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. ¹⁰ And so it has done today as we have heard and read your Word.

We confess and plead guilty in thought and deed to: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, addiction to pleasure, drunkenness, greed and idolatry, occult activities, hostility, jealousy, gossip, and envy. ¹¹ We have taken innocent lives, ¹² and trampled the sanctity of marriage. ¹³ We have mismanaged your creation on one hand, and have worshiped creation rather than our Creator on the other. ¹⁴

Continued on next page



We have worshiped the idols of our culture. We have cast off decency and restraint, allowing things that offend you to entertain us. ¹⁵ We have sinned against one another through racism, bigotry, sexism, and hatred. ¹⁶ We have sinned against you and have done what is evil in your sight, so you are right when you judge and justified when you discipline us. ¹⁷

But you are a great and merciful God, full of compassion and mercy. ¹⁸ You have promised that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁹ So, Father, just as we have confessed our sins, we humbly ask you to forgive us. We ask you to heal us. We ask you to restore decency, dignity, righteousness, kindness, and civility to us. ²⁰ Give us leaders who fear you. ²¹ Give us laws that honor you. Give us hearts that are right and true and noble. ²² Protect us from evil. Give us victory against our enemies. ²³ And may we as your church live lives that are pleasing to you ²⁴ and that reflect the character of Christ to the world. ²⁵

We offer this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Written by Pastor Buddy Owens

REFERENCES: (1) LAMENTATIONS 3:40; (2) NEHEMIAH 9:1-3; (3) PSALM 51:3; (4) HEBREWS 10:29; (5) PSALM 103:14; (6) 1 SAMUEL 16:7; (7) GENESIS 6:5; (8) PSALM 90:8; (9) JOHN 17:17; (10) HEBREWS 4:12; (11) GALATIANS 5:19-21; (12) EXODUS 20:13; (13) MALACHI 2:15-16; (14) ROMANS 1:23,25; (15) 2 KINGS 17:15; (16) GALATIANS 3:28; (17) PSALM 51:4; (18) JOEL 2:13; (19) 1 JOHN 1:9; (20) PROVERBS 14:34; (21) PROVERBS 9:10; (22) PHILIPPIANS 4:8; (23) PSALM 108:13; (24) EPHESIANS 4:1; (25) 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18



Follow with worship song

DEPENDING ON THE FORMAT OF YOUR EVENT:

- Have people break into groups of 3-4 to pray together aloud.
- As a large group, have people pray silently in their heart.
- Have people pray aloud as a group. The voice of many will rock the gates of heaven!

YOU WILL BE PRAYING 9 PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Government:** Pray for national, state, and local leaders. Ask God to give them wisdom and integrity.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

2. **Church:** Pray for the churches and pastors in your community. Name as many as you can. Ask God to bless and protect them as they serve his purposes in the world.

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

(2 Thessalonians 3:1)

3. **Military:** Ask God to bless and protect the men and women (and their families) who serve our nation in the armed forces.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

(John 15:13)

4. **Education:** Ask God to raise up teachers and administrators who honor his Word.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

(Proverbs 22:6)

5. **Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services:** Ask God to bless and protect the men and women who protect and serve us.

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

(Isaiah 43:2)

6. **Media:** Ask God to give positions of influence to people who will bring Christian values into television, movies, arts, and entertainment.

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not.

(Romans 1:28)

7. **Business:** Ask God to bless our economy by raising up people who will operate their businesses according to biblical values of integrity and generosity.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

(Psalm 90:17)

8. **Family:** Ask God to strengthen marriages in our community and nation. Ask him to draw the hearts of parents and their children toward one another.

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total.

(Malachi 4:6)

9. **Culture:** Pray for a spiritual awakening to bring us back to our biblical roots, and a return to decency and civility in our national conversation.

Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments.

(Joel 2:12-13)