A GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR THE

2023 HIGH COUNCIL
PEACE
If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

- James 1:5 NLT

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom.

- Proverbs 3:5-7a

Insert the names of your leaders into these scripture verses and pray wisdom for them every day for the coming week.

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'DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HONOUR THOSE WHO ARE YOUR LEADERS IN THE LORD’S WORK. THEY WORK HARD AMONG YOU AND GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE. SHOW THEM GREAT RESPECT AND WHOLEHEARTED LOVE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK. AND LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH EACH OTHER... NEVER STOP PRAYING.'

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13,17 NLT

IF YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OR IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP, WHAT PRAYERS WOULD YOU WANT TO BE PRAYED FOR YOU?
The Lord's Charge to Joshua

'Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

- Joshua 1:6-9 NLT


Where do you need to respond with courage today?

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Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

Is there anything stopping you from experiencing the peace of God?

Consider how you can live out Philippians 4:4-7 this week.

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INTEGRITY
ENCOURAGEMENT
STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE
HOPE
Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Find a new way to encourage the leaders in your life today. Be as specific as you can with your encouragement.
INTEGRITY

Be an example by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.

- Titus 2:7 NLT

Am I applying the same expectations regarding integrity that I am looking for in my leaders, to myself?

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That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT

In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis wrote:

“a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not … a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.”

Are you living in a way that draws people to goodness, to hope, to Jesus?

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STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE

Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

- Isaiah 40:31 NLT

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.’

- Hebrews 12:1-2a NIV

Ask the Lord to bring the name of a leader to your mind who needs an extra covering of prayer for strength and perseverance.

Lift that name to Jesus every day for the next week.

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FRESH ENERGY AND CREATIVITY
HEALTH
FAMILIES
Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Does this change how you feel about yourself?

Do one thing to better care for your body, mind and spirit this week.

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Then God looked over everything He had made, and He saw that it was very good.

- Genesis 1:31 NLT

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17b NLT

Over the coming week, ask God to reveal any area of your life where He may wish to speak or do something new in or through you.

Be courageous and obedient to His leading!

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Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:5

Read John 15:1-17.

Thinking about your own life, how are you remaining in Christ?

Thinking about the leaders in your life – can you do anything practical to help free up time and space for them to be with Jesus?
One generation commends your work to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

- Psalm 145:4 NIV

May the Lord bless you and protect you.
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord show you His favour and give you His peace.’

- Numbers 6:24-26 NLT

Personalise the blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26 for the family of your leaders by including their names as you pray it over them through the coming week.

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PATIENCE
HUMILITY
SERVANT LEADERSHIP
HUMILITY

Dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”. So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honour.

- 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NLT

Do nothing out of vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Ask the Lord, to show you how you might value the interests of another in a practical way this week.

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PATIENCE

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.

- Ephesians 4:2 NIV

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- Colossians 3:12 NLT

Is there a situation in your life right now where extra patience is required?

Ask God to reveal what He might be wanting to teach you while you wait.

Pray this for your leaders too.

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Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade.

- 1 Peter 5:2-4 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness

- Philippians 2:5-7 NIV

Are you currently embracing or hesitating in your role as one of God's ambassadors, serving others, pointing people to Jesus?

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