



Family Connection



24-7 PRAYER FOR REVIVAL
4 - 10 December 2023

Family Connection

But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children. (Psalm 103:17).

We continue with the second week of our 14-day prayer focusing on families. Let us pray this week for broken families to watch over their family unit in prayer and ask God to intervene in the challenging circumstances they are facing.

MONDAY: 4 DECEMBER 2023
FAMILY CONFLICT

Scripture reading: Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1).

Read this Psalm as a prayer for each of your family members and ask God to **shine His light** into areas of trouble or uncertainty.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Conflict-avoidant-prone families will act as if nothing is happening. Families with a collaborative approach to resolving conflict will talk issues out. Families who aggressively handle conflict tend to attack each other verbally or physically. Each of us will experience a conflict situation in our family and our reaction will contribute to how effectively the situation will be resolved.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, we pray that You will bless families experiencing conflict. We bring these families before You and ask that You will show them the root of their conflict situation. We pray for them to

consider putting time aside for corporate prayer as a family and to ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom on how to pray about the conflict. Holy Spirit, please guide them to correct wrongs and to renew a right spirit within them, so that they be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

TUESDAY: 5 DECEMBER 2023

FAMILY HANDLING TRAUMA

Scripture reading: Psalm 4

But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the LORD will hear when I call to Him. (Psalm 4:3).

Pray about the **prayer life** of your family members. Ask that they remain fervent in prayer, patiently waiting on God who hears and answers prayer.

...to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. (Isaiah 61:2-4).

Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event such as war, a natural disaster, or the sudden illness or death of a loved one. In most cases, the trauma that has not been effectively and healthily recognised, processed, and healed will cause issues in a person's life in some way. Families must support each other while experiencing trauma. Conflict in the family can easily arise because of ignorance or unaddressed pain.

Father, Author of Life, we pray that You will bless families that experience trauma. People are broken from trauma, but Your primary mission in this world is to declare the Good News to the afflicted – the Good News that You are here to heal their broken hearts. You are here to declare freedom to those who have been kidnapped by evil – to set them free and break chains. We pray for families experiencing trauma to walk in the rest of God, in strong faith and in knowing that Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

WEDNESDAY: 6 DECEMBER 2023

FAMILIES MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:25-34

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25).

Consider asking each of your family members to write their concerns on a piece of paper and to place it in a 'prayer jar'. For the next week, gather the family together each day to pray for at least one of the issues.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19).
Money is a common cause of stress for both individuals and families. Providing food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare for each family member can be challenging and a source of stress and conflict. Family

relationships can be further complicated when some family members are spending too much on unnecessary items, or when concerns about finances cause them to lash out emotionally or behave in unproductive ways.

Bread of Life, we pray that You will bless families struggling to meet each of their family member's basic needs. We pray for them to first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to them (Matthew 6:33). We ask that these families see the Light – that they will turn to You in prayer and find a faith that will sustain them, for faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). We pray for the salvation of whole families; may they have hearts that are tender and ready to receive Your love and grace.

THURSDAY: 7 DECEMBER 2023

FAMILIES DEALING WITH HEALTH ISSUES

Scripture reading: Isaiah 53

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5).

Spend time worshipping Jesus as the Saviour and Healer of your family. Thank Him for His shed Blood and ask Him to reveal Himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life to unsaved family members.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (Isaiah 58:11).

People living with chronic illness have so much more than a physical struggle. It can weaken their mind and spirit, leaving them vulnerable to dangerous thought patterns. When they realise they cannot do all the things they used to, they will tend to grieve that loss. Those thoughts are enough to cause depression or even hopelessness. All these emotions can cause much tension in the interpersonal relations and effective functionality of a family.

Father, our Healer and Restorer, we pray that You will bless families dealing with a family member battling a health issue. We pray for families to have open conversations about how the illness is impacting both the kids and parents. Our prayer is that they will focus less on their needs and more on Who You are, what Your desires are, and how they can bring You glory in their situation. Then they shall call, and the Lord will answer; they shall cry, and the Lord will say, 'Here I am' (Isaiah 58:9).

FRIDAY: 8 DECEMBER 2023

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING MANIPULATION

Scripture reading: Galatians 5:16-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a).

Pray for the spiritual growth of your family members as they submit to the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Ask that they will bear the fruit of the Spirit in abundance to make a lasting impact in your community, especially in the lives of people who do not have a relationship with Jesus yet.

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:16-17). Manipulation involves an attempt to control someone else. In short, someone wants you to give up something – time, a personal possession, independence, power, or anything else – for their benefit. Recognising manipulation within families can be particularly difficult when the person is a parent, older sibling, or relative with some authority.

Father, our Strong Tower, we pray that You will bless family members who suffer from manipulation in a family context. We ask for them not to fall victim to the controlling words of another, but to rely on Your Word alone. We pray that You always direct the victim's path in righteousness. Shield them from finding sanctuary in others rather than in You. Grant them strength to guard themselves against the approval of man and to only be sustained by You.

SATURDAY: 9 DECEMBER 2023
FAMILIES DEALING WITH A REBELLIOUS CHILD

Scripture reading: Psalm 119

I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word. (Psalm 119:147).

Pray for your family members to hunger for God's Word and to trust His Word entirely (more than human knowledge and understanding). Ask for them to always regard their devotional time with God as important.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12).

From raising toddlers to teens, parenting can be challenging, and rebellious children can test your patience. Parents may not be able to control their children's actions, but they can control how to teach them the consequences of their actions. Parents must set a positive example of how they react to their emotions for oftentimes our children's behaviour reflects our inappropriate attitudes and behaviours.

Father of all-sufficient grace, we pray that You will bless families dealing with a rebellious child. We pray that You will complete the work that You began in their child's heart. We ask You, Lord, that their children will be taught by You and that the parent's hope will not be in their efforts but in the God Who hears when they call. We pray for parents to continue in prayer and for them to rejoice in the hope that You will hear and answer their prayers. Even in their child's foolishness, may they have patience, and show grace, yet still be firm *in all circumstances*.

SUNDAY: 10 DECEMBER 2023
FAMILIES DEALING WITH LOSS

Scripture reading: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1).

Consider reading this Psalm together with your family (and if you know it by heart, recite it). Give each one a turn to pray what the Lord speaks to him/her through this Scripture passage. Give thanks to God that He watches over you as your Provider, Protector and Guide.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4).

Grief is a difficult process to work through, and not everyone in a family will move through it on the same timeline or in the same way. Grief is a complex experience that can bring up a multitude of difficult emotions that can take a while to subside. Dealing with the logistics of a person who has passed, especially a parent, primary caregiver, or breadwinner, can also be extremely stressful for those left behind. Families dealing with loss need support and compassion from each other, as well as coping skills to help them move through the process.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, we pray that You will bless families dealing with loss. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).* As these families mourn, may You make Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them. In their sorrows, may you lift Your countenance upon them, and give them Your peace.
