

We Welcome You, **Lord Jesus!**

A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2017*

We're going to pray for other people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools for forty days in a row. Many Christians all over the world are praying for the people who live in their cities during the very same forty days, using the same Bible verses that we will read as we pray.

When Jesus lived among the people of His town, He helped many of them by God's power. He called people to give their lives to God and live with God as king of their lives. Wonderful things happened when Jesus came to towns and homes. Today, we can be the ones to invite Jesus to visit the people of our neighborhoods. Many of them don't know Jesus yet. But Jesus wants very much to visit them and help them live with God's joy and blessing. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to the people so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

"WEEK" ONE, PART ONE:
March 1–March 4, 2017



Seeking God's FACE: The next few days we will pray especially for the Christian people of our community to know God better and to live like Jesus. God wants to be closer than ever with His people. He's inviting us to come closer to Him, as if we were coming to talk with Him face to face.

1

WEDNESDAY

March 1

Bring us near to God.

Read: Matthew 17:1, 5

Pray: Lord, You took Your friends with You up the hill to meet with God. We are only brave enough to go into God's presence because of You and what You did for us on the cross. We are amazed with how happy and pleased our Father God is with You. With You standing beside us as our friend, God's love for us seems so BIG.

Today we pray:

- for others to come near to God and know His love.
- that we would want to be good just because we love Jesus.

2

THURSDAY

March 2

Teach us to be brave.

Read: Matthew 17:6-7

Pray: Jesus, how funny it seems to us that when amazing things happened the disciples would fall down. You were so kind to understand why they were afraid and to comfort them. Help us to be fearless and brave when You do things that we don't understand.

Today we pray:

- for amazing things from God to happen in our lives and in our families and friends.
- for the people in our city to know the comfort of the Lord when they are afraid.

3

FRIDAY

March 3

Live in the center of our hearts.

Read: Matthew 17:8

Pray: Jesus, our hearts and minds are often so easily filled up by the things we see and the things we want. We get side-tracked so easily when really we desire to see You. Would You come and grab our attention for the things You want to show us and teach us?

Today we pray:

- for the hearts of our family to be filled with God's ways.
- that people in our community will know Jesus and not just some ideas about Him.

4

SATURDAY

March 4

Clean us up.

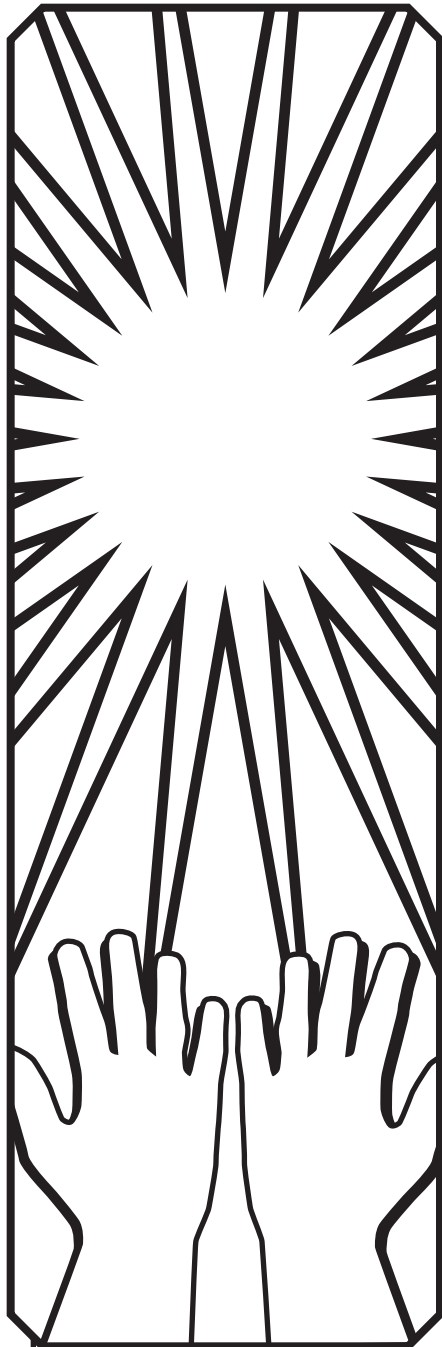
Read: John 1:47

Pray: Jesus, when You saw Nathaniel coming You knew he was honest and true. Sometimes we are not as honest as we should be. Sometimes we fake it or even tell lies when it suits us. You know the tricks we play and You still love us. Help us to be truthful and clean before You.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to help our family learn to live honest lives.
- for people in our neighborhood to want to exchange their unclean lives for clean ones.





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A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2017*

March 1 – March 11, Days 5-11: Seeking God's FACE. We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for people in our neighborhoods and schools. During this week we will be asking God to refresh the spiritual life of Christians. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

5 **SUNDAY**

March 5

Give us hearts of worship.

Read: John 4:23

Pray: Father, we want to be a part of this crowd—the ones who worship You. When You come looking for us we want to be the loudest ones—telling You how great You are and how much we love You. God, we worship You because You are awesome and wonderful, You are kind and near to us when we call out Your name.

Today we pray:

- that our family would worship God in Spirit and in truth.
- that people in our community who are far away from God would hear His voice and come to worship Him.

6 **MONDAY**

March 6

Give us ears to hear Your voice.

Read: Luke 10:41-42

Pray: Jesus, we are just like Martha. We get so tangled up with busy stuff that we forget what is really important. Listening to You everyday is important. You want to talk to us and tell us so many things. Tune our hearts and ears to Your voice and Your good plans for our lives.

Today we pray:

- for the Christians in our community to stop being too busy to listen to God.
- that discovering what Jesus has to say will become important to people who have never known Him.

7 **TUESDAY**

March 7

Humble our hearts.

Read: Matthew 18:4

Pray: Father, sometimes we want to be bigger or older than we are right now. You say that children are special and that even adults should be more child-like...so it must be a good thing. Even as we grow up on the outside let our hearts keep trusting and loving You like little children.

Today we pray:

- for our family to be humble and have clean hearts every day.
- for people in our city to choose to follow Jesus with child-like faith.

"WEEK" ONE, PART TWO:
March 5–March 11, 2017



Seeking God's FACE: The next few days we will pray especially for the Christian people of our community to know God better and to live like Jesus. God wants to be closer than ever with His people. He's inviting us to come closer to Him, as if we were coming to talk with Him face to face.

8

WEDNESDAY

March 8

Wake us up.

Read: Revelation 2:4-5

Pray: Sometimes we forget to put You first in our lives. Other things crowd You out. Teach us to watch closely and see what You are doing in our families and in our city so we can love You more and more.

Today we pray:

- that people in our community would open the eyes of their hearts to really see Jesus.
- for people to love Jesus as much as He loves them.

9

THURSDAY

March 9

Make us one.

Read: John 10:16

Pray: Lord, not one sheep can ever be too lost or too far away for You to find. There are lots of people who need You in our city. Many people have troubles and sadness and they need to be in Your safe shelter. Come and find them, Lord Jesus.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to call for the lost ones in our city to come to Him.
- for the Christians of our city to come together in friendship.

10

FRIDAY

March 10

Pour out Your Spirit on us.

Read: John 7:37-39

Pray: Jesus, You taught the woman at the well that being thirsty had two different meanings. You gave her water to drink and You gave her new life when she came to know that You are God. She went away full and happy and she couldn't wait to tell all the people in her town about You. Keep doing that today in our city.

Today we pray:

- that the people of our city will be thirsty for the water that only Jesus can give them.
- for families in our community to be totally flooded with God's love for us.

11

SATURDAY

March 11

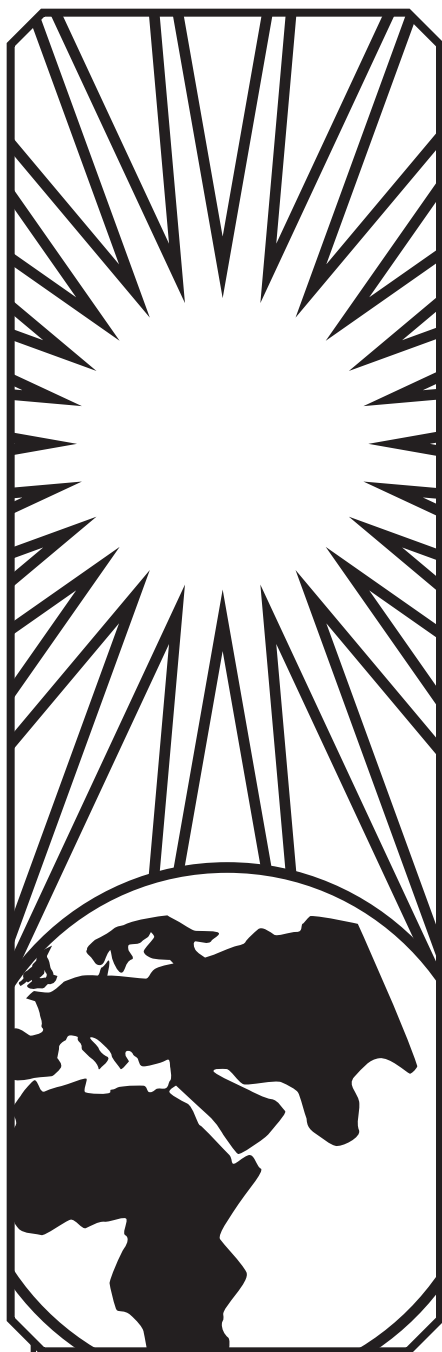
Show Yourself to us.

Read: Luke 24:31-32

Pray: Jesus, we are sometimes slow to recognize that You are walking with us, even though we don't see You like the people in this story. Wake us up and help us tune in to Your voice as we hear the Bible being read and explained. We don't want to miss seeing You work in our lives. Make our hearts so bright with expectation that it's like we are on fire inside with joy.

Today we pray:

- for our neighbors who have never met Jesus to come to know Him.
- for the hearts of our family to clearly know when Jesus is speaking.



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A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2017*

March 12–March 18, Days 12-18: Seeking God to spread the GOSPEL of His kingdom. We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for people in our neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray especially for the good news of God's love to come to those who do not yet know Him. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

12

SUNDAY

March 12

Keep us focused on the world.

Read: Matthew 24:14

Pray: Jesus, the world is a very big place. Even after all the years since You walked on earth as a man—there are still many people who don't know Your name and that You love them. The job to be done in reaching out to people needs more helpers. Let us join You to be Your messengers of good news to the families in our neighborhood and beyond.

Today we pray:

- for Christians in our community to work together to spread the Good News.
- for all kinds of new, creative ways for people all over the world to hear about Jesus.

13

MONDAY

March 13

Help us to proclaim Your name.

Read: Luke 9:60

Pray: Lord, You want to be famous all over the world. Everything we know about You is amazing...and we don't know it all yet. You told us to tell as many people as possible all about You. The stories You told and all of the things You have done are easy to tell others about. Who should we tell about You today?

Today we pray:

- that sharing Jesus with others would be fun.
- for all of the people of our city to hear true stories about Jesus.

14

TUESDAY

March 14

Shine Your light on us.

Read: John 12:35

Pray: Jesus, many people in our city live in darkness because they don't know You. They need to know the happy light of the truth about how much You love them. Show people who You really are—and bring them into Your light.

Today we pray:

- for the people in our city to be rescued from darkness.
- for our family to be a light in our community.

WEEK TWO:

March 12–March 18, 2017



Seeking God to spread the GOSPEL of Christ's kingdom: This week we will pray for the good news of Jesus to spread to every part of our city. Jesus helped people understand how much God loved them. We will pray that many will hear God's call to become followers of Jesus.

15 WEDNESDAY
March 15

Heal people to show Your love and power.

Read: Matthew 4:23

Pray: Jesus, You showed everyone what kind of world You wanted ours to be when You walked around telling people the good news and healing them. What a great way to show people how much You love them—by making them well when they are sick. When we see Your amazing care and power it makes us want to know You more.

Today we pray:

- that God will help people understand His love by healing them.
- that our family will be brave and pray for sick people like Jesus did.

16 THURSDAY
March 16

Send us.

Read: Luke 10:1-3

Pray: Jesus, You often sent Your friends into new cities before You. Maybe they did feel like lambs in the midst of hungry wolves sometimes—but they trusted that You were also coming soon. Send us into the parts of our city that need You the most. We trust You to go with us.

Today we pray:

- for Christians to spread Your Word to every neighborhood.
- that our family will be willing to go wherever You send us.

17 FRIDAY
March 17

We joyfully greet You.

Read: Mark 9:15

Pray: Lord, it is right for crowds to be amazed when they see You for who You really are. If people in our city could see how great You are they would come running to greet You. Open their eyes and hearts to truly understand how wonderful and good You are.

Today we pray:

- for families and friends and classmates and co-workers to run towards God.
- that churches all over our town will be ready to care for all the people who are coming to Jesus.

18 SATURDAY
March 18

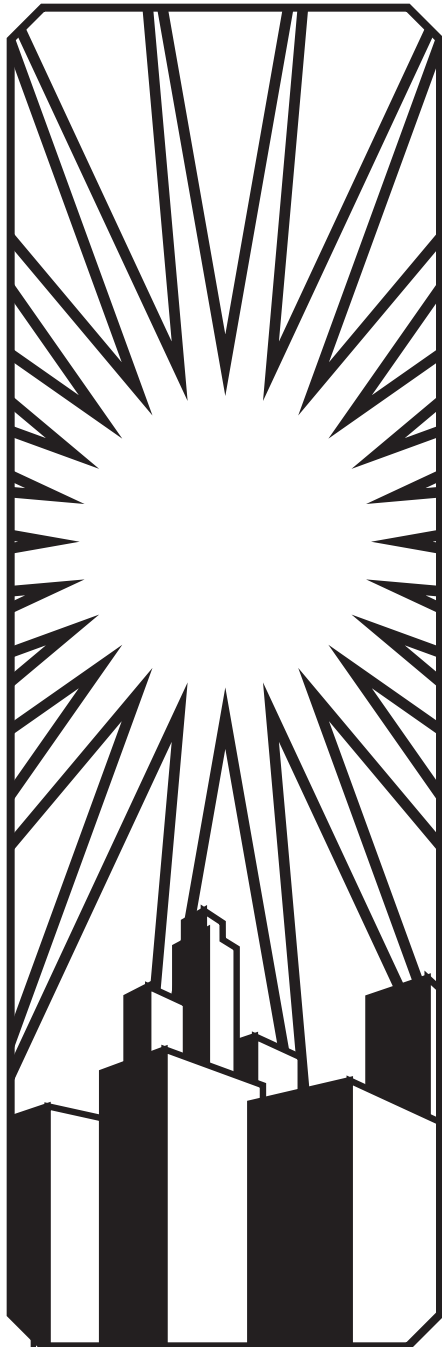
Glorify Your name.

Read: John 12:27-28

Pray: Father, You have always had a great plan for bringing Your glory to the earth. It is the kind of plan that will really work because everyone who knows You wants to see what will happen. Tell us how we can be a part of bringing You great glory.

Today we pray:

- for believers to have open ears to hear their part in God's plan.
- for our family to be used to bring God glory.



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A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY* 2017

March 19–March 25, Days 19-25: Seeking God to bring the RIGHTEOUSNESS of His kingdom. We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for people in our own neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray for God to help people all over town to live right and true like Jesus. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that our town begins to feel just a tiny bit like heaven.

19 SUNDAY

March 19

Make us faithful on the earth.

Read: Luke 18:8

Pray: The answer is Yes! When You come, Jesus, You will find many people believing in You and in the things You have promised to do. We want to be faithful because we love You. We will be busy with actions and prayers to show You our trust in You.

Today we pray:

- for God to bring justice and fairness to the people in our community who are suffering.
- that we would keep remembering to trust that God will keep His promises.

20 MONDAY

March 20

Give us courage to believe You for others.

Read: Matthew 9:2

Pray: Jesus, You must have loved it when these people brought their friend to be healed, knowing that You were the one who could answer their prayers for their friend. You forgave his sin and made him healthy again. We have friends we want to bring to You too. We are so grateful for who You are and that You let us join You in Your business of forgiving and loving people.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to heal people in our city who are sick with sin.
- for people who don't know Jesus to be brought closer to Him by friends who believe Jesus can do anything.

21 TUESDAY

March 21

Make us humble.

Read: Matthew 19:25-26

Pray: Jesus, we sometimes become proud of things we have accomplished, or how smart we are or how well we can do things. But we can't do anything without You. You are the One who gives us all of our abilities, all of our talents and who makes anything that we do possible. You are the Maker of all things and the Giver of all good gifts.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to call the wise, the wealthy, the religious and the powerful in our community to Himself.
- for our family to remember Who has made us and given us all we have.

WEEK THREE:

March 19–March 25, 2017



Seeking God to bring the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of Christ's kingdom:

This week we're praying in hope for what God calls "righteousness," when many people follow Jesus and begin to do what is good and choose what is right in God's sight.

22**WEDNESDAY**

March 22

Set people free.**Read:** Luke 13:16-17

Pray: Lord, many people today are captured by things that they don't understand. They believe things that are not true about themselves and others. They even say and do things they know are wrong and they do not know how to stop. Come, Jesus, and set people free and we will rejoice.

Today we pray:

- that those in our neighborhood who are mixed up in sad, bad things will be set free.
- that Jesus would receive the glory as He helps people live in freedom from evil.

23**THURSDAY**

March 23

Bring Your truth to our leaders.**Read:** John 18:37-38

Pray: Jesus, You are the King of everyone. From presidents and business leaders to principals and parents. Show the leaders in this world how You rule—with honesty and justice and with a heart of compassion for people. Call them to love truth and to value honor more than their own power.

Today we pray:

- for leaders all around the world to come to know Jesus.
- for the leaders in our lives to follow the godly example of King Jesus.

24**FRIDAY**

March 24

Help us to pray and not give up!**Read:** Luke 18:1

Pray: Jesus, You told this story of a very faithful woman in the Bible. She kept asking for justice over and over again for a very long time until she finally got it. We want to follow her example and keep praying that You would make things good and right in our community. Give us strength and courage to keep asking, Lord.

Today we pray:

- for Christians to cry out when others are treated unfairly.
- for the people of our family and our church to keep praying until God answers.

25**SATURDAY**

March 25

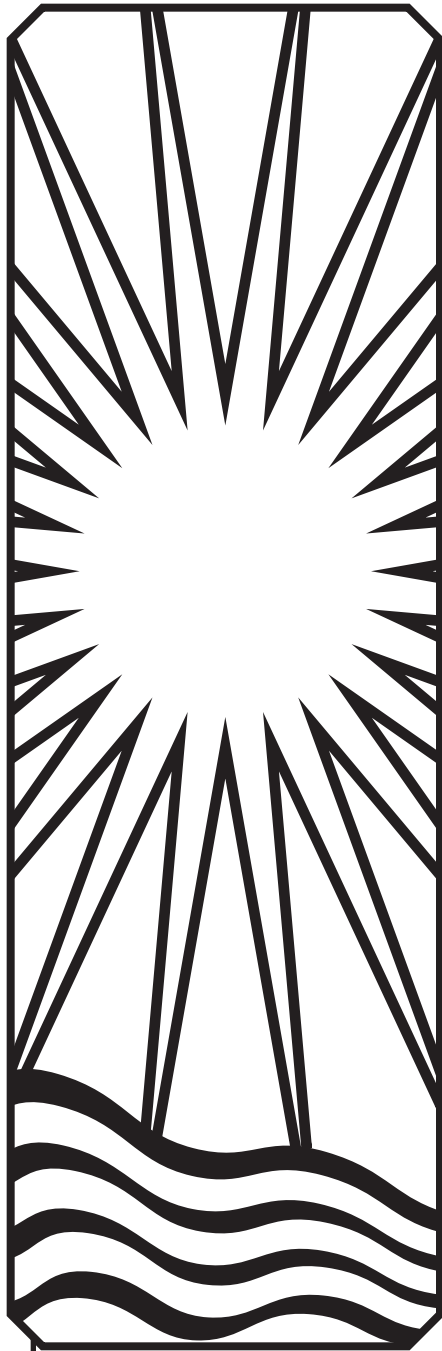
Defeat Your enemies.**Read:** John 12:31-32

Pray: Jesus, it is good to know that You will always be the winner in battles with Your spiritual enemies. Help us to lift Your name up in our city so that those who want to fight against good will see that You are the true, living and most powerful God.

Today we pray:

- for the powerful kingdom of God to be known in our city.
- for Jesus to overcome the powers of darkness in the lives of people who don't know Him.





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A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2017*

March 26–April 1, Days 26-32: Seeking God to bring the PEACE of His kingdom. We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for people in our community. This week we will pray for God's peace to come in and change all of those places where there are troubles. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that our town begins to feel just a tiny bit like heaven.

26

SUNDAY

March 26

Fill us with Your peace.

Read: Luke 19:41-42

Pray: Jesus, ours is a big city too, like this one in scripture that made You cry because of how hard-hearted the people were. Our city is full of busyness, unkindness, selfishness, greed and sadness. Who wouldn't look at some of the places and people and cry? But we trust You, Lord, because You are the Prince of Peace and You love our city and all of the people in it. Fill us with peace that overflows from our hearts to others.

Today we pray:

- for our family to learn how to be peacemakers with Jesus.
- for Jesus to come and bring healing and peace to the people of our city.

27

MONDAY

March 27

Be our teacher.

Read: Luke 21:37-38

Pray: Lord Jesus, we can't make the right choices or know the right things to do unless You teach us. We want to sit at Your feet and learn Your ways. Teach us how to join You in Your awesome job of changing and redeeming our lives.

Today we pray:

- for the ways of Jesus to be told in creative ways in our city.
- that Jesus would change people in our community by the power of His word.

28

TUESDAY

March 28

Show us how to forgive.

Read: John 20:19-23

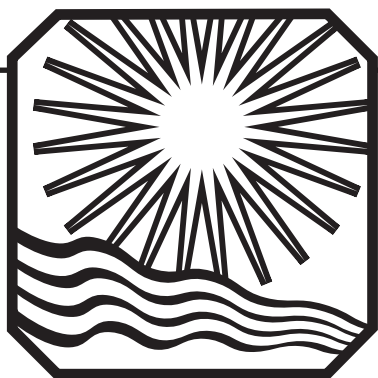
Pray: Lord, Jesus, forgiving others is so hard. When we don't, there can be hard feelings or anger. The gift of Your Holy Spirit gives us the grace and the mercy to forgive. Lord, we need this gift because we want to be the first to say "I am sorry" and "I forgive you" to others.

Today we pray:

- that the Holy Spirit would help my family to learn forgiveness.
- for Jesus to bring a wave of forgiveness to wash over our city.

WEEK FOUR:

March 26–April 1, 2017



Seeking God to bring the PEACE of Christ's kingdom: This week we will pray for God to bring changes in the way people live all over our city. God wants to heal hurt relationships and help people change so that they can live in His peace.

29

WEDNESDAY

March 29

Call Your lost children home.

Read: Luke 15:20

Pray: Jesus, bringing home those who are lost is Your special joy. All through scripture You delighted to return lost sheep, lost coins and lost people. There are lots of people in our town who are far from You and their true homes. Would You call them home?

Today we pray:

- that the ones far from God would feel an overwhelming desire to return to Him.
- that Christians would welcome them home to God's family, just as Jesus does.

30

THURSDAY

March 30

Bring peace to our homes.

Read: Luke 10:5-6

Pray: Lord Jesus, You told Your friends that when they went out to share the gospel they were to look for peaceful people who would help them. We want our houses to be places full of Your goodness and peace so that the lost can find You.

Today we pray:

- that our family will share the gospel of peace with others.
- for Christian homes in our community to be filled with peace.

31

FRIDAY

March 31

Make us peacemakers.

Read: Matthew 5:9

Pray: Lord, we don't live in a very peaceful world. There are plenty of troubles in faraway countries, in our town and everywhere in between. People want what somebody else has, or they don't like each other's skin color or they just want to be the boss of everything. Every place we know of could use a peacemaker. Show us how to be Your peacemakers.

Today we pray:

- for our family to be used as peacemakers in our community.
- for Jesus to speak peace into the struggling marriages and families in our neighborhood.

32

SATURDAY

April 1

Give us Your peace.

Read: John 14:27

Pray: Jesus, sometimes it's hard to feel safe and peaceful. But we don't have to be afraid when we have Your promises to count on! You've said we shouldn't have fearful or troubled hearts because of Your gift of peace. Please give us this wonderful gift.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to give His peace to people with troubled hearts.
- for Jesus to free the people of our community from fear by drawing them to Himself.





We Welcome You, **Lord Jesus!**

A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY* 2017

April 2–April 8, Days 33-39: Seeking God to bring the JOY of His kingdom. We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for other people in our neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray for God to bring newness and hope so that people live with joy like Jesus. Our prayers will welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that our town begins to feel just a tiny bit like heaven.

33 SUNDAY

April 2

Put Your joy in us.

Read: John 17:13

Pray: Jesus, we know that You love us and that You want to speak joyful things to us. It is a promise You will always keep. It is another reason for us to praise Your name!

Today we pray:

- for joy to spring up in the hearts of fearful and unhappy people in our city.
- for people who have had a kind of fake joy to know the real thing and be glad.

34 MONDAY

April 3

Find the lost.

Read: Luke 15:32

Pray: Lord, when this lost boy came home there was quite a party. What will it be like in our town when many people return to the Father God who loves them and has waited so long for them to come? Draw men and women, boys and girls back to Yourself and let the celebrating begin.

Today we pray:

- that those far away would come home to the Father.
- for Christians to join with the Father in rejoicing at the return of their brothers and sisters.

35 TUESDAY

April 4

Show Your power.

Read: Luke 18:41-43

Pray: Jesus, help us to pray the kinds of prayers that make You famous. When people see the power that You have as You heal people and change lives, they can't wait to praise You. Do great things and become more famous in our town.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to come when people cry out and tell Him what they need.
- for lots of praise to come from our city as people see the things Jesus does.

WEEK FIVE:
April 2–April 8, 2017



Seeking God to bring the JOY of Christ's kingdom: This week we will pray for God to bring the special happiness of hope in people's hearts. As people watch Jesus change the lives of their friends, God can make them glad deep inside as they look forward to the good surprises Jesus will bring.

36

WEDNESDAY

April 5

Bring life to the lifeless.

Read: Luke 7:13-16

Pray: Lord, look at our town and see all of the sad, hurting and lonely people. Many walk around as if their whole lives were a funeral march and they are always unhappy. This is not Your plan for people! Come and bring life and hope where there have only been gloomy hearts.

Today we pray:

- for Jesus to bring the light of His Spirit to those whose hearts are broken.
- for peace instead of confusion in the minds of people.

37

THURSDAY

April 6

Be our provider.

Read: Luke 12:32

Pray: Jesus, You know we sometimes act like sheep. We are frightened easily, we can't figure out where to go to find the best food and we sure can't find our way home by ourselves. We need You to protect us and guide us in the way we should go. You are our Good Shepherd and You promise that You will care for us.

Today we pray:

- that lost people in our community would realize how much they need a Shepherd.
- for the followers of Jesus to be free from fears and know that they are cared for.

38

FRIDAY

April 7

Thank You for all You have done.

Read: Luke 19:37

Pray: Lord, let there be amazing worship of You in places where there are a lot of people watching. Let people be surprised and full of joy at the knowledge of all the wonderful things You have done. Stir up our hearts so that we will be among the loudest ones praising You.

Today we pray:

- that all over our city, even in parks and in buildings, the Lord will be adored.
- for people to remember all the great things God has done and then want to glorify Him.

39

SATURDAY

April 8

Show Yourself to us!

Read: Luke 24:36

Pray: Jesus, when You arrived in a room everyone noticed! People wanted to be with You, listen to You, talk to You. Today, we know that our city can be changed by Your presence. Come and make Yourself known to us.

Today we pray:

- for others to see Jesus lived out in the everyday life of our family.
- for those who don't know Jesus to become aware of His loving presence.



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A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2017



Today is the final day of 40 days that we have been praying for people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

Many people spread their
cloaks on the road,
while others spread
branches they had cut
in the fields.

Those who went ahead
and those who followed
shouted, "Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!"

— Mark 11:8-9

PALM SUNDAY:
April 9, 2017

40

SUNDAY

April 9

Hosanna!

Read: Matthew 21:9-10

Pray: As interesting as it would be to watch the stones worship Jesus, we pray that You would visit Your people in ways that will rock the world and turn all the attention to You. They will say, "Who is this?" just like they did in the book of Matthew. We want to be able to tell everyone that we know who You are and then to tell them what You have done in our lives.

Today we pray:

- for people in our city to be filled with wonder as Jesus is made known.
- for our family to be filled with joyful love for Jesus.