

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

FOCUSED PRAYER FOR THOSE
LEADING OUR MOVEMENT



PRAYER GUIDE

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

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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

Our leaders need the focussed, intentional prayers of the Army world as they lead in these days where significant global challenges are impacting the Church.

In this prayer guide, you will find Scripture, a written prayer and reflection or personal action for each aspect.

You can use this prayer guide personally, in corporate worship, and in small group settings.

Although focussed towards prayer for senior leaders, the topics may be applied to anyone holding a leadership role – from those serving faithfully in their local corps or mission centre to those who have been appointed to lead in any SA ministry expression – and you may wish to broaden praying in your context to include these. Those who lead in any space require prayer support!

We pray for our leaders to maintain a right relationship with God, for it is in pursuing this that the Spirit comes with divine perspective, insight, direction and courage to serve well. Our Army will thrive, God's Kingdom will be extended and those who lead will be strengthened and blessed in knowing that they are held before the Father by their people.

From scripture it is clear that we are to honour, show respect and love for our leaders and to never stop praying.

May your prayers join with the prayers of others, echoed around the world, as we seek God's best for those who are leaders in the Lord's work.

ONE

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

Gracious and Loving God

We acknowledge you as the source of our best counsel and guidance, believing that you always direct us in ways that are best for us.

We pray for our leaders to continually develop their sensitivity to your voice by making time to be in your presence.

Fill them with your wisdom as they listen for you in the quiet spaces.

Surround them also with people who will offer sound advice and encouragement and fill them with a spirit of humility to accept the collective wisdom of these.

Please keep them strong against any voices that would seek to discourage or undermine and tune their ears to words that provide guidance and direction towards Christlike, fruitful leadership.

Thank You for your generosity to pour out your wisdom upon our leaders, giving them the ability to discern your ways and make decisions aligned with your purposes for The Salvation Army today and into the future.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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.

TWO

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Faithful Father,

This world lacks grace and so often
steals our peace.

But you are the God of peace.

Peace that transcends our understanding.

Peace that is deeper and more lasting than anything the world can
offer.

Lord, you call your church to dwell in the darkness, to shine
your light in this hurting and distressed world.

Leading your church is not an easy task.

May our leaders find rest in the knowledge that you are not
surprised by the circumstances of the world.

You are Lord over all and you are always in control.

You are Immanuel, God with us.

Lord, lead us to shalom; to the peace, wholeness and connection
that is possible when we truly rely on you.

When we can't understand the what of what is going on, we can
still praise you for the who of who you are.

You are still near.

Your promises are still true.

Your love is still unconditional.

Your grace is still amazing.

Your timing is still perfect.

Your peace is still ours.

Prince of Peace, our all-knowing, unchangeable Father, fill us to
the overflow.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' - John 14:27 NIV

'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.

THREE

A PRAYER FOR COURAGE

Gracious Lord,

We thank you for blessing this church, The Salvation Army, with so many faithful and obedient leaders.

For those you have chosen to lead your church in these days, give them courage to follow their calling. Guard them from insecurity and ground them in your truth.

We can be confident that you equip those you call with all that they need for this task.

You are faithful and you are so incredibly generous, giving your wisdom, knowledge and discernment to those who ask.

Lord, with your wisdom, give our leaders the courage and conviction to pursue what is good, even when the path is not popular, when the right decision is not the easy one.

Let your voice be the one that sounds loudest above the noise of strong opinions and the feelings of others.

Your promised presence means that we have nothing to fear.

You are for us, you are with us and you are always in control.

Thank you!

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

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

Read the stories of Moses in Exodus 3:11 - 4:13 and the good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

Where do you need to respond with courage today?

FOUR

A PRAYER FOR INTEGRITY

Gracious Lord Jesus

Thank You that we can look to you as our perfect role model of integrity. As you lived and led amongst those who were constantly trying to make your words and motives mean other than you intended, you remained constant in being who you claimed to be and doing what you promised to do.

We pray Holy Spirit empowerment for this same consistency in personal character and leadership actions for our leaders today, for we believe the desire of each of them is to reflect Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

May our movement be filled with leaders whose genuine desire is to be true to who you have created them to be, celebrating and using their strengths for your purposes, and owning their weaknesses in honest humility – empowering the wisdom of others to speak into these, in order to grow.

Our leaders become highly visible representatives of our movement – sometimes being all that others may know of The Salvation Army – so we pray give them courage to genuinely reflect the characteristics of Christ through their words and actions at all times.

Thank You, Jesus for being absolutely who you claimed to be.

Keep our leaders true to who they are in Christ, always.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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?

FIVE

A PRAYER FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Father God,

We thank you for the gift of the church.

You created us for community – to live well together. To encourage one another, to remind each other of the truth that you love us, that you equip us, that we are treasured and we are yours.

Lord, give us a desire to care deeply for our leaders, to value and encourage them as we do with one another.

We know at times leadership can feel lonely, the responsibility overwhelming, the tasks exhausting. Surround our leaders with trusted voices, reliable friends and wise mentors. People who will build them up.

Lord, help us to be those people. To take every opportunity to show genuine care, to share words of affirmation, to see and acknowledge where You are at work through their leading.

Help us all to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. To have humble and gentle hearts in all our interactions with one another. To have patience for one another, bearing with one another in love.

You are seen when we are one.

May it be so.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

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.

A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE

Loving Father

We thank you that all we need in this life is found in your infinite capacity to give 'immeasurably more' to your children.

Because we believe this truth, we confidently come before you on behalf of our leaders to pray for strength and perseverance.

The mantle of leadership can sometimes feel heavy to carry, often requiring decisions to be made that will never please all the people at the same time – it can be a lonely and tiring space to reside.

Grant our leaders, your children, humility and wisdom to know when they are weary and in need of rest, and may your Holy Spirit remind them that they can lean into you always for all things.

In your presence, may they receive your forgiving grace for anything that is entangling or hindering them, lifting their eyes again to Jesus who offers life in abundant fullness.

Replace discouragement with joy, weariness with fresh energy, weakness with renewed strength, and may your gift of patient endurance be poured out upon our leaders in ever increasing measure.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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.

God of hope,

We praise you because we are an Easter people. We stand on resurrection ground.

This message, the message of the gospel, gives us endless hope.

We pray for our leaders, that they will lead with confidence in this truth and hold on to the hope that can only be found in you.

Hope that cultivates courage and inspires boldness.

Hope that fuels persistence to find solutions to the most difficult problems.

Hope that looks expectantly to see what you will do next.

Hope that holds all things in perspective.

Lord, help us all to fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal.

Thank you for the freedom that is ours because of Jesus, our Living Hope.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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?

EIGHT

A PRAYER FOR
**FRESH ENERGY
AND CREATIVITY**

Creator God

You created this universe from nothing, fitting together all of its growing, self-renewing details in absolute perfection.

You anticipated that we humans would sin and separate ourselves from you so, in Jesus, you created the perfect solution for the mess we made, and in Him we become new creations.

Made in your image, we too love to create. To think new thoughts, dream new possibilities and bring them into existence, to compose new songs, write new poems and create solutions to problems that we or others make.

We also, though, have a tendency to settle comfortably into what is familiar, and put limits on the new things you may desire to accomplish in your world through us.

Give your leaders, and through them your Army, renewed energy we pray.

Release fresh desire to see new possibilities become realities, courage to empower those who may think or do things differently and willingness to encourage whatever it takes to 'save souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanity'.

Father of all creativity, send your Spirit of freedom and break us out of what is to what could be for the sake of bringing Jesus to those who need to know Him.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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!

Creator God,

Thank you for the miracle of life. For the intricate masterpiece of the human body and the endless wonder of our minds.

We praise you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. You formed each of us and know us all intimately.

Our bodies are your temple, and we are trusted to use the body you have given us to honour you.

Help our leaders to see the need to take care of their bodies and to see that in doing so, they are creating a good example for their people.

We pray for protection for the physical, mental and spiritual health of our leaders.

Lord, please give each of them energy and strength to enjoy the fullness of life, to flourish in ministry, at work and at home.

Let our leaders be reminded that they don't need to journey alone. For those who need healing, rest and restoration, work a miracle in their lives and their bodies. Give them courage to reach out for help when they need it and humble hearts to accept support where it is offered.

When time is short and to do lists are long, care for our body, mind and spirit can be easily forgotten. But for our own good, you command us all to remember the sabbath.

In the demands of life, free our leaders from the expectation of others, and of themselves. Help them to create space for the life-giving rest that comes from you.

To be refreshed. To be ready.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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.

TEN

A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

God, our loving Father

Thank You for the beautiful gift of family, created from your heart because you designed us to journey through this life in community with others. We are grateful for every group of people we are blessed to call 'family'.

We offer prayer for the families of our leaders, thankful that you know them each by name and circumstance.

Many of our leaders are serving in places separated from their own families and we acknowledge before you the sacrifice that this brings. We pray that you will provide good people to 'stand in the gap' when parents and grandparents are unable to be close by.

For any who hold deep concern for the physical, emotional or spiritual well-being of their children, grandchildren or other family members, we ask for your divine counsel and peace to intervene. As well, for any necessary practical human support to be provided.

Along with appointment related responsibilities requiring time, strength and energy, our leaders also have families that need the same and we will often be completely unaware of personal burdens that they may be carrying. Remind us of this reality and give us sensitive spirits, we pray.

In your perfect timing, open the way for precious moments when our leaders can give their full attention to their families. And when it is time to take up their responsibilities again, may they know the blessing of release from those they love.

Thank You that you are intimately aware of the needs of every family -

May you bless and protect them

May you smile on them and be gracious to them

May you show them your favour and give them your peace

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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

Father God,

Your word reminds us that apart from you, we can do nothing.

You are the source of all that we need.

Father, forgive our misplaced attempts to run at life without stopping, when we fill our days with good works and leave no space to be with you.

Help us all to slow down to your pace, to remain rooted in you, to become aware of your constant presence.

Help us to develop rhythms that centre our lives on Jesus, deeply connect us to people, bring joy and most of all bring glory to you.

Leading your church is demanding. Demanding on time and on energy.

We pray that our leaders will follow the example of Jesus. That they will make time to stop. To be with you. To be refreshed and replenished in your presence. To receive vision and guidance, courage and strength. To allow the transforming work of your Holy Spirit to take place.

May they be led more by Jesus,

To live and lead more like Jesus

So that others will be led to Jesus.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **Remain in me, and I will remain in you.** For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

"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. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.

- John 15:1-17 NIV

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?

Gracious, Loving, Patient God

We humbly recognise and thank you for the grace, love and patience you pour over our lives every day. None of these are deserved and we can't do anything to earn them, but rather they come to us as gifts from your heart of infinite goodness.

We pray for leaders in our Salvation Army to have grace-filled, loving and patient hearts, modelling Christ-like responses and actions towards those they serve.

Grant them the assurance of your presence, with abundant patience to accept the responsibilities and challenges that each day brings.

Give them patience with people that require extra time and effort to understand.

When situations arise that have no easy or quick solution, may your Holy Spirit remind them that your answers are always worth waiting for and will be better than anything they can produce on their own.

Forgive the impatience that so easily overtakes us all – the times when we are slow to listen and too quick to offer our own perspective and opinions.

From our senior leaders to our junior soldiers and everyone in between, may we be an army of people whose tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience is extended to each other and into the world around us.

Help us Lord, we pray!

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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 tenderhearted 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.

Loving God

It is our privilege to join our hearts in prayer around the world for our Salvation Army leaders.

We say 'Thank You' for them each, acknowledging their commitment and obedience to their daily 'Yes' to your purposes in their lives.

In a world that values self promotion, often with little regard for the feelings of others, we pray for the counter-cultural presence of those who lead with the humility of Christ. Leaders who have surrendered themselves to your lordship, have humbly accepted that all they have and are is because of you, and whose gratitude for this spills over into their interactions with those they are privileged to serve.

As our Lord Jesus spoke and showed his disciples about living and leading in a different way from those around them, so his teaching is relevant for all his disciples today.

May our leaders and, indeed all of us who follow Christ, seek always to consider the interests of others before our own, enabling space for your Holy Spirit to work in and through us to show the world a different way.

Please keep the hearts of our leaders in tune with Christ's so that their example may inspire us all.

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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 .

A PRAYER FOR
**SERVANT
LEADERSHIP**

Lord,

We thank you because you have raised up, anointed and appointed people to serve and lead your church.

What an honour and privilege it is to be entrusted with this responsibility.

Reassured by the knowledge of your abiding presence, may our leaders continue to have the courage to reach out and support one another, to stand firm in what is true, to decrease when others should increase, and to lead with vision and compassion.

Lord, we thank you for your enduring presence and perfect wisdom that illuminates the thoughts, decisions and actions of our leaders, for your endless patience, compassion and love.

Help our leaders to remain focused on you, to live and to lead as humble, grateful, assured, and generous servants.

To live and to lead as an example.

To live and to lead as faithful followers of Jesus.

As we pray for our leaders, we also pray this prayer for ourselves.

In our relationships with one another, help us to have the same mindset as Jesus who, despite being in very nature God, humbled himself to full humanness. To serve others. Not for personal gain but so that others would know you.

By your grace, may our example, our words, our actions and our reactions, point people to you too.

Help us Lord, we pray!

AMEN

SCRIPTURE:

'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?



TRANSLATED
GUIDE



PRAYER
VIDEOS



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THE SALVATION ARMY INTERNATIONAL
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