PRAYER GUIDE

A Prayer Resource for Pastors, Churches, Small Groups, and Ministry Leaders

---

Praying for Jerusalem, Jewish Neighbors, Israel, and Our Communities



HILC
Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition

NHCLC
NATIONAL HISPANIC CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ADL®
FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD

PRAYER GUIDE

A Prayer Resource for Pastors, Churches, Small Groups, and Ministry Leaders

Praying for Jerusalem, Jewish Neighbors, Israel, and Our Communities

Key Texts

Psalm 122:6; Jeremiah 29:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 5:9; Psalm 78:4

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This prayer guide is designed to help pastors, churches, small groups, youth ministries, prayer teams, and families pray with biblical conviction, human compassion, spiritual humility, and moral courage.

It may be used in a Sunday service, a midweek prayer gathering, a small group, a youth gathering, a leadership meeting, or as a personal prayer resource.

The goal is simple: to help the Church pray faithfully for Jerusalem, for Jewish neighbors, for Israel, for local communities, for leaders, for the next generation, and against hatred and antisemitism.

PASTORAL NOTE

Pastoral Note

Prayer becomes more faithful when it becomes more personal.

Jewish people are not only connected to biblical history, current events, prophecy, or theological discussion. They are neighbors, families, students, colleagues, friends, and worshiping communities who may be carrying real concern in this moment.

Where appropriate, leaders may briefly mention a real relationship, a local synagogue, a Jewish neighbor, a rabbi, a campus concern, a community partner, or a story shared with permission.

The purpose is not to speak for Jewish people. The purpose is to help the Church pray with compassion rather than distance.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use the entire guide in one extended prayer gathering.

Select one or two prayer focuses for a shorter service or small group.

Assign different leaders to lead different prayer focuses.

Use the sample prayers as written, or adapt them in your own words.

Leave space between prayer sections for silence, repentance, intercession, or worship.

Encourage people to pray for real people and local communities, not only broad categories.

OPENING PRAYER FRAMEWORK

When the world grows louder, the Church must become deeper in prayer.

When fear increases, the Church must seek the face of God.

When division rises, the Church must carry the peace of Christ.

When hatred appears, the Church must respond with truth, compassion, and courage.

Prayer is not an escape from responsibility.

Prayer is one of the ways we take responsibility before God.

We pray because Scripture commands us to pray.

We pray because people need peace.

We pray because our cities need healing.

We pray because Jerusalem matters to God's purposes.

We pray because Jewish neighbors near us are not issues to discuss, but people to love.

PRAYER FOCUS 1: PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

> **Psalm 122:6 NKJV**
>
> "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.'"

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray for the peace, protection, and flourishing of Jerusalem.
- Pray for families, leaders, worshipers, and communities who live in the city.
- Pray with humility, not arrogance.
- Pray from Scripture, not merely from headlines.
- Remember that Jerusalem is not an abstract religious symbol. It is a real city filled with real people.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> Lord, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We ask You to protect the people who live there, comfort those who are afraid, guide those who lead, and let Your mercy be seen in the city. Teach us to pray with humility, faith, and love. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, let Your peace rest over Jerusalem.

Lord, protect families, children, worshipers, and communities in the city.

Lord, give wisdom to those who carry responsibility there.

Lord, teach us to pray according to Scripture, not according to fear.

Story Note for Leaders:

If you have visited Jerusalem or Israel, briefly share what made the city personal to you. You may mention walking the streets, praying near places connected to Scripture, seeing families, visiting markets, or meeting people who live there. If you have not visited, remind the church that Jerusalem is connected to Scripture, worship, covenant, memory, and home for Jewish people around the world.

PRAYER FOCUS 2: PRAY FOR JEWISH NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

> **Jeremiah 29:7 NKJV**
>
> "And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive... for in its peace you will have peace."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray for Jewish neighbors, rabbis, synagogues, schools, students, families, and community leaders.
- Pray for protection from antisemitism, harassment, intimidation, and fear.
- Pray for local relationships marked by dignity, trust, and peace.
- Pray that the Church would know how to be a better neighbor.
- Pray that our cities would become places where people can worship and live without fear.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> Father, we pray for the Jewish people in our community. Bless their families, protect their places of worship, strengthen their leaders, and surround them with peace. Make us faithful neighbors who listen well, speak with compassion, and act with courage. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, bless the Jewish families in our city.

Lord, protect local synagogues, schools, students, and community spaces.

Lord, help us be faithful neighbors.

Lord, teach us to listen before assuming and to love before speaking.

Story Note for Leaders:

This is a good place to mention a local synagogue, Jewish community center, campus, family, neighbor, or community leader if appropriate. Do not speak for them. Simply help the church remember that prayer is local and personal.

PRAYER FOCUS 3: PRAY FOR ISRAEL AND PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

> **Psalm 46:1 NKJV**
>
> "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray for families grieving loss, living with trauma, or waiting for news about loved ones.
- Pray for protection over innocent life.
- Pray for healing for those wounded in body, mind, or spirit.
- Pray for hostages, displaced families, soldiers, first responders, medical workers, and caregivers.
- Pray for God's mercy to be present in places marked by fear, grief, and uncertainty.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> God, You are refuge and strength. We pray for all who are grieving, afraid, displaced, wounded, or waiting for news about someone they love. Protect innocent life. Comfort the brokenhearted. Strengthen first responders, medical teams, caregivers, and all who serve in dangerous places. Let Your mercy be near. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, comfort grieving families.

Lord, protect innocent life.

Lord, heal trauma and fear.

Lord, strengthen those serving under pressure.

Lord, let mercy rise in places of suffering.

PRAYER FOCUS 4: PRAY FOR LEADERS AND DECISION MAKERS

> **1 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV**
>
> "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men..."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray for national, state, and local leaders.
- Pray for leaders in Israel, the United States, and communities affected by conflict and fear.
- Pray for wisdom, restraint, justice, protection, courage, and truth.
- Pray for law enforcement, school leaders, campus leaders, and community leaders who must respond to threats or tension.
- Pray that leaders would make decisions that protect life, preserve peace, and restrain evil.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> Lord, we pray for leaders who carry responsibility in difficult times. Give them wisdom, courage, restraint, and clarity. Help them protect the vulnerable, confront evil, pursue peace, and make decisions that honor what is right. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, give leaders wisdom beyond politics.

Lord, give decision makers courage to do what is right.

Lord, protect communities from violence and fear.

Lord, guide law enforcement, school leaders, and civic leaders.

Lord, let truth, justice, and peace prevail.

PRAYER FOCUS 5: PRAY AGAINST HATRED AND ANTISEMITISM

> **Philippians 4:6 NKJV**
>
> "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray against hatred in every form.
- Pray specifically against antisemitism, false accusations, dehumanizing speech, and violence toward Jewish people.
- Pray that believers would refuse careless words, cruel jokes, stereotypes, and conspiracy driven accusations.
- Pray that fear would not control the hearts of God's people.
- Pray for courage to name hatred when it appears and wisdom to respond in a Christlike way.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> God of truth and mercy, search our hearts. Remove hatred, fear, pride, and indifference from us. We pray against antisemitism and every form of dehumanizing speech or action. Make Your Church courageous, compassionate, and clear. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, expose and uproot hatred.

Lord, remove careless words and attitudes from our hearts.

Lord, protect Jewish people from antisemitism, fear, and violence.

Lord, help believers resist stereotypes, conspiracies, and dehumanizing speech.

Lord, make Your Church clear, compassionate, and courageous.

Story Note for Leaders:

This is a strong place to use a brief human example. Consider a Jewish student who now hides a Star of David necklace because the atmosphere around them has become hostile, or a family that wonders whether it is safe to attend synagogue. Introduce this as an example unless it is a real story shared with permission.

PRAYER FOCUS 6: PRAY FOR THE CHURCH TO BE PEACEMAKERS

> **Matthew 5:9 NKJV**
>
> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray that the Church would carry the peace of Christ into divided places.
- Pray for believers to be truthful without being cruel and compassionate without being confused.
- Pray for pastors, parents, teachers, youth leaders, and ministry leaders to model biblical maturity.
- Pray for courage to stand with people who are threatened, mocked, or isolated.
- Pray that Christian witness would be marked by humility, conviction, and love.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> Jesus, make us peacemakers. Teach us to carry Your presence into our homes, churches, workplaces, schools, and communities. Help us speak truth with love, reject hatred with courage, and live as sons and daughters of God. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, make us peacemakers in our homes.

Lord, make us peacemakers in our church.

Lord, make us peacemakers in our workplace and schools.

Lord, help us speak truth without cruelty.

Lord, help us carry compassion without confusion.

PRAYER FOCUS 7: PRAY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

> **Psalm 78:4 NKJV**
>
> "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD."

Prayer Emphasis:

- Pray for children, teenagers, college students, and young adults.
- Pray for students who encounter hostility, misinformation, or hatred online and on campus.
- Pray for Jewish students who may feel vulnerable, isolated, or targeted.
- Pray for Christian students to become upstanders, not bystanders.
- Pray that the next generation would learn to love truth, resist hatred, and honor people made in God's image.

> **Sample Prayer:**
>
> Father, we pray for the next generation. Give them courage, wisdom, discernment, and compassion. Protect Jewish students from fear and hostility. Raise up Christian young people who will stand for truth, resist hatred, and love their neighbors well. Amen.

Prayer Prompts:

Lord, protect Jewish students from fear, isolation, and hostility.

Lord, give Christian students courage to be upstanders, not bystanders.

Lord, give parents and youth leaders wisdom.

Lord, help the next generation love truth and reject hatred.

Lord, teach our young people to honor every person made in Your image.

SUGGESTED PRAYER FLOW FOR A SERVICE

- Open with Psalm 122:6 and a brief explanation that Scripture commands us to pray for Jerusalem.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- Pray for Israel and all people affected by conflict, trauma, fear, and grief.
- Pray for Jewish neighbors, local synagogues, schools, students, and community leaders.
- Pray for government, civic, campus, school, and law enforcement leaders.
- Pray against hatred and antisemitism.
- Pray for the Church to be peacemakers.
- Pray for the next generation.
- Close with a pastoral prayer of peace, wisdom, courage, and compassion.

PASTORAL LANGUAGE HELPS

- Use biblical language before political language.
- Say "Jewish neighbors" when possible, not only "the Jewish community" in abstract terms.
- Speak about Jerusalem as a real city with real people, not only as a prophetic symbol.
- Name antisemitism clearly, but keep the focus pastoral, biblical, and human.
- Avoid exaggerated claims, partisan framing, and careless generalizations.
- Pray with conviction and humility at the same time.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP PRAYER

Have I prayed for Jerusalem because Scripture tells me to pray?

Who are the Jewish neighbors, rabbis, students, families, or synagogues in our community?

Have I asked how Jewish people near me are doing in this moment?

Do my words and online habits add peace or increase fear?

Am I teaching the next generation to resist hatred and honor the image of God in every person?

What practical step can I take this week to be a better neighbor and a clearer witness?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, make us a people of prayer.

Teach us to pray for Jerusalem with biblical faith and humble hearts.

Teach us to seek the peace of our city.

Teach us to love our Jewish neighbors with sincerity, courage, and compassion.

Teach us to reject hatred, resist antisemitism, and speak with truth and grace.

Teach us to carry the peace of Christ into a divided world.

Let our homes, churches, schools, and communities become places where Your peace is seen, Your truth is honored, and Your love is made visible.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE NOTICE

Scripture Notice: Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.