

31/15

PRAYER GUIDE

“My times are in your hands.”
Psalm 31:15



In Colossians 2:1, the apostle Paul mentions the *struggle* he has had on the Colossians' behalf. Since he had not yet seen these believers face to face, his struggle for them must have included prayer (1:9–12). Therefore, during this time of the Covid-19 health crisis, we can follow his example by praying for one another and others whom we cannot presently see face to face.

As a practical means of application, we are calling on all in the Cornerstone church family to join us in 31-days of prayer. We encourage you to set aside 15-minutes each day—yourself with your family, or with a prayer partner or two on speaker phone—and pray for God's mercy in these days. We have set out suggested Scriptures to meditate upon and focus your thoughts. We have also included sample prayers and thoughts you may wish to use. Let's together seek God's face for help in these days!

Day	Focus	Text	Encouragement	Prayer and Application
March 23	Personal trust in God	Psalm 31:14-15	All the circumstances of our individual lives are directed under God's rule.	Lord, strengthen my fearful heart to be reminded that You hold my life. Assure me in my moments of fear that You are working out Your good and perfect will.
March 24	Limit the spread	Exodus 8:22 Psalm 115:3	By His divine providence the Lord preserved the children of Israel in Goshen in Egypt. He is in control.	Thank You that we know that You are the Lord in the midst of the earth, and are the one who sets the limits on the Covid-19. In Your mercy, we humbly ask that You protect Your people and limit the spread of the disease.
March 25	Wisdom for Leaders	Proverbs 8:22-31	Jesus is the personification of wisdom.	As we seek to be more like Jesus in our response and reaction to what's escalating around us, may our leaders also seek Your face as they seek wisdom. Please by your common grace, grant all those in leading roles across the world, Christ-like wisdom and not-of-themselves discernment and insight. For Jesus' glory.
March 26	Healing for those who are ill	Psalm 34:17	God graciously hears our prayers and acts in His wisdom.	Merciful Saviour, we lift up to You all those who are ill. Strengthen those in illness, give the medical teams wisdom, and comfort those who have lost loved ones.
March 27	Protection of elderly, disabled, and vulnerable	Psalm 16:1	Where else can we turn but to God alone who can keep us safe?	Pray for those who are particularly susceptible to Covid-19, especially those in retirement and nursing homes. Pray for those with long-term health complications or disabilities, within our church family. Pray that they would know that their times are in God's hands.
March 28	Grace to bear a good witness	Isaiah 40:9	The Lord reigns and we want everyone to hear the Good News.	May we lift up our voices and not fear. Help us to put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6.10-18).
March 29	Protection for NHS workers	Isaiah 40:28-31	The Lord gives strength to the weary.	Thank You that You give power to the faint. Help these workers to mount up with wings like eagles.
March 30	An awakening of hearts	Psalm 107:28	God hears and shows mercy to those who cry to Him in their distress.	Lord, in the distress of these days, may You open many hearts to cry to You for help. Open their hearts to faith in the Lord Jesus.

March 31	Personal trust in God	James 4:13-15	For much of our lives, we seem in total control, planning to do this or that, or go to this or that place. The reality is, all our lives are lived “if it's God will.”	Thank God that whatever comes your way today, or tomorrow, is in His hands, and that those hands are strong and kind. Pray that God would use the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 to grow our awareness of our finiteness, but of God's infiniteness.
April 1	School leaders & teachers	Proverbs 2:1-8	True education begins with the fear of the Lord and a pursuit of His knowledge.	Pray for principals, teachers, and school board members as they make decisions and do their best to carry on the educational process during this challenging time. Pray for the gospel witness of Christians in these roles.
April 2	Wisdom for Leaders	James 1:5-8	The Lord gives an abundance of wisdom in times of trial to those who will humbly ask for it.	Thank You that the government of this world is on Your shoulders (Is 9:6-7). May our leaders not trust in their own wisdom, but let them ask You.
April 3	Healing for those ill	James 5:13-18	God alone is our Healer and Saviour.	As we come before You in prayer, we recognise that You are Lord over all. You can do all things, nothing is impossible for you. Please heal those currently sick with the virus and bring them to saving faith in You; bringing good from evil and redeeming the symptoms of the fall.
April 4	Protection of elderly and vulnerable	Psalm 91	The Lord will deliver those who cling to Him.	We thank You that You surround us with Your mercy and protection. Help us to trust You as our refuge and fortress.
April 5	Grace to bear a good witness	John 13:34-35	We reflect the magnificence of God's love when we show sacrificial love to others.	Gracious Saviour, in these dark and difficult days teach us to love others around us. Give us the vision to sacrificially serve them in Your name, and the courage to tell them the gospel.
April 6	Protection for NHS workers	Hebrews 13:20-21	The God who brought Jesus back from the dead is more than adequate for equipping you to do His will--wherever you are, and whatever that means.	Please Lord protect all healthcare professionals within our church, and within our city, as they care for people in need. Please help Christians to know You are with them, and have promised to equip them for all the challenges that lie ahead. Amen.
April 7	An awakening of hearts	Isaiah 12:2	The Lord God saves all who will trust in Him.	We pray for open doors, open hearts and Your mercy to save.
April 8	Personal trust in God	Joshua 24:15-28	May we also say, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”	Just as the Lord faithfully kept His promises to Abraham and the people of Israel, despite their time and again failing and falling away, so too is He steadfast and faithful to us, despite our own failures and lack of faith. Let the current situation drive us to seek Him afresh and put our trust in Him, who alone is our constant source of hope and strength. Hallelujah! Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

April 9	Limit the spread of the virus	Psalm 104:1-9	God's sovereign power over the earth, even the placing of limits on the oceans after Noah's flood, reminds us that He is in control and sets limits.	Lord, given humanity's universal rejection of You, it would be entirely appropriate for You to wipe us out. So we praise You for Your ongoing provision for our needs, and plead with You that the spread of the virus would slow down. In wrath remember mercy, Lord.
April 10	Wisdom political and educational leaders	Proverbs 15:22	Wisdom is found in many counsellors.	Lord grant our political, local and church leaders wisdom in these days of confusion. Grant wise heads and calm hearts.
April 11	Healing and strength for those ill	Isaiah 41:10	The Lord is the divine Healer, the Great Physician.	We pray that the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in its wings (Mal 4:2) and we ask in faith that You would heal.
April 12	Protection of elderly and vulnerable	Psalm 71:17-21	God delights in those of many years who delight in Him.	Strengthen and keep safe the many among us who have walked faithfully with You many years. Give them confidence in You in their fears.
April 13	Spread the gospel via missionaries	2 Timothy 2:8-10	The Word of God, the gospel, and the Holy Spirit cannot be quarantined.	Gracious Lord, grant us boldness and confidence to continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and rest in it as the power of God unto salvation. Holy Spirit, do a mighty work in our day!
April 14	Protection for NHS workers	Ephesians 6:10-18	Pray for the Lord's physical protection of medical personnel, as well as spiritual protection and strength for believers who are called to serve God in healthcare.	With such a high proportion of Christian healthcare workers, there is a real opportunity to witness bravely and boldly to the sure and certain hope that is ours in Jesus, amidst growing panic and concern. May we all pray on our spiritual armour as we recognise the spiritual battle that also needs to be fought alongside the physical war with the virus!
April 15	A spiritual revival among God's people	Psalm 80	God appoints and uses troubling times to lead His people to repent of their lukewarmness and disobedience, and turn His people back to Him.	Pray that believers will be slow to point their fingers at our ungodly culture, and quick to look in the mirror. Let us remember that judgment shall first come to the household of God (1 Peter 4:17). Pray for the church to repent.
April 16	Grace to bear a good witness	Philippians 4:5-8	While many in our world are in the grip of fear, the Lord calls us from anxiety and into thanksgiving & prayer. This counter-cultural response will be powerful for the gospel.	Pray that appropriate concern for health, family, and the future doesn't turn into undue panic and anxiety. Pray that your reaction to Covid-19 would be an opening to speak to friends, family & colleagues about the hope you have in Jesus.
April 17	Limit the spread	Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 8:28-29	What has been intended to harm us, God can intend for good.	When we can't see a reason for this pandemic or struggle to imagine that it could be used for good, may it prompt us to pray not only that the spread will be halted, but that God will bring good from this worrying situation.

April 18	Revival of prayer in believers' lives	Hebrews 4:14-16	The work of Jesus has thrown open the door to God's throne of grace where we find mercy and help in our time of need.	Gracious Lord, turn us away from self-sufficiency and laziness toward the discipline of prayer. Cause us to constantly approach Your throne of grace with our needs.
April 19	An awakening of hearts	Isaiah 9:2,6	That our lives might point others towards our Wonderful Counsellor.	During a time of great uncertainty and unanswered questions, let us pray that we know—by God's grace alone—a renewed awe and wonder at God's care for us and perfect purposes for us; His salvation plan, the hope of redemption and glorious gift of the Lord Jesus Christ.
April 20	Personal trust in God	Malachi 3:6	Our trust is in our wonderful, loving Father who never changes whatever the circumstances.	Thank you, Lord, that You never change (Mal 3:6). Thank You that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). Thank You that You are the Light of the World (John 8:12).
April 21	Wisdom and salvation for leaders	1 Chronicles 12:32; 1 Timothy 2:1-7	God grants wisdom to leaders who seek His face. Believers should pray for the salvation of unsaved leaders.	Sovereign Lord, we ask You give our leaders wisdom for the new reality in which our day finds itself. Give them courage to do what is right, and compassion to serve the weak. Save those who do not know You.
April 22	Rest in God	Psalms 46	God is our refuge through all of life's joys and struggles.	Gracious Lord, we choose to find safety and help under Your protection. Calm our fears with the news around us, strengthen our hearts to serve in love and fortify our courage with all the challenges. You are our unfailing refuge and we worship You.

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:16–18).