



7 Ways to Pray for America

A Prayer Guide for our nation to be
transformed through God's Word



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



The Bible is central to the American story. Our great nation was founded upon its wisdom. Throughout our history many of our nation's leaders turned to the Bible for strength, hope, inspiration, and guidance. Abraham Lincoln once said, "In regard to this Great Book [the Bible], I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are found portrayed in it."

The Bible is a foundational text that has shaped American ideals and institutions and guided and sustained Americans in every crisis.

And we believe the Bible is still the answer for America today!

The Bible is the source of human flourishing. It introduces us to Jesus and invites us into a life-changing relationship with him—and that reorders our relationship with everyone else. The Bible has the power to transform our lives, our communities, and our nation as a whole. That's because the Bible is unlike any other book. It tells us who God is, what he has done for us, and how we should live. Reading God's Word reveals our sin to us, and leads us to confess and turn away from it.

That's why we must pray! Pray that the Bible will continue to be America's guiding book and that Americans will turn to it for answers to the brokenness we experience today. Pray that God's Word will transform our nation. Together, let us exalt the Lord who establishes nations and judges justly.

Join us as we pray these seven powerful prayers for America.



Prayer 1: Families



*Lord, transform **families** in America through your Word.*

God cares about families. In fact, the concept of family is his idea! In Genesis 1:27–28a (CEV) we read, “So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said: ‘Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control.’”

In this passage of Scripture, and in Genesis 2:18–24, we are introduced to God’s design for marriage and parenthood. Here we see a model of love, care, protection, and support. That’s how important the institution of family is to God. The family is where we learn how to love others, love ourselves, and love Jesus Christ—and the family has a purpose in bringing order and blessing to the world. We need to watch and pray for God’s protection from conflict, sickness, brokenness, distractions, and other issues our families face.

Praying for God’s Word to be the foundation of every family is crucial. We must pray that families in America will trust the truths in God’s Word to lead and guide them.

Scriptures

Numbers 6:24–26, Psalm 115:14, Proverbs 22:6

Prayer Points

- Pray for healing in families and for the mending of broken relationships.
- Pray that families will go deep in God’s Word together so they can recognize and resist the schemes of the enemy.
- Pray for the restoration of families as a principal place where God’s Word is shared, taught, and lived.

Prayer

Lord, we ask you to bless families in America—families of all shapes and sizes. Bless our homes to be instruments of love, laughter, learning, and growth. We pray that our homes will be places where our children are taught discipline, sacrificial love, and selfless service. We pray that we will teach our children to rightly discern between right and wrong so they can resist cultural and spiritual pressures. Bless families to embody the truths of your Word. We pray for the emotional, physical, and spiritual health of families. Mend broken or strained bonds between spouses, siblings, and other relatives. We long to see your peaceful rule in homes across our country, and we know this begins with personal relationship with the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. We speak a blessing over every family in our nation. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

Laura Gish, *Director of Prayer Mobilization, American Bible Society*





Prayer 2: Churches

*Lord, transform **churches** in America through your Word.*

At the end of Jesus's ministry, as he stood on a hillside in Galilee, he gave his disciples a final command: "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19–20 CEV). What a powerful thing to have Jesus look you in the eyes and say I trust you to carry on my mission. Jesus took a group of unqualified and barely trained disciples and gave them a "great" commission. He wanted them to carry his precious gift of salvation, to extend his kingdom.

The mission of the church today is the same mission Jesus gave his disciples two thousand years ago—go find others and invite them to follow him too. What an honor that Jesus uses us as his messengers of hope!

What does it look like for the church to make disciples? It means to be a witness of the good news of his kingdom—to be salt and light, to love our neighbor, to preach repentance, to feed his sheep, to teach the nations what Jesus commands. We share his gospel witness by using who we are and what we can to display the splendor of Jesus.

Where else do we learn to do that but in the church! The church is not only the vehicle to make disciples but to teach disciples to make disciples. Through the power of God's Word, churches can equip and empower their congregations to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities and to the ends of the earth.

Let's pray that the truths in God's Word will catapult nearly 380,000 churches across America to reach out and share the love and hope of Christ with their community and beyond.

Scriptures

Matthew 5:13–16, Acts 1:8, John 17

Prayer Points

- Pray that churches will be led with a spirit of love and that they will be beacons of hope to those hurting in their communities.
- Pray that churches across America will have a greater desire to read, reflect on, and apply God's Word.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower churches to work together to bring even greater gospel witness.

Prayer

Jesus, we are humbled that you chose us, the church, to continue your mission here on earth. Thank you that you do not send us alone, but you promise to go with us. Come, Holy Spirit. We ask for the gift of faith as we go out and share your Good News. Fill us with so much love for those who do not yet know you. Open the eyes of their heart so that they may receive the love of Jesus. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Angela Chadwick, Global Director of Prayer, Alpha International





Prayer 3: Governmental Leaders

*Lord, transform **governmental leaders** in America through your Word*

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV), “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

Paul encourages us to pray for those in high positions, to pray that our governing authorities will faithfully fulfill their duties. Interestingly, Paul likely wrote this during the reign Nero, one of the most brutal emperors in Rome’s history. Nero persecuted Christians, yet Paul encouraged Christians to pray for all governing authorities so that God’s people could lead a peaceful and quiet life.

Whether you feel your governing authorities are good or bad, godly or not, we should pray for them all. Each leader has a responsibility before God for their service, but they face temptations and power can corrupt. That’s why we need to pray for their souls. God wants to work through those in key leadership positions to bless our nation and its people. Proverbs 21:1 (NLT) says, “The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.” God can direct the heart of any president, governor, mayor, legislator, or administrator, even those opposed to his will, because he’s God. He can use any governing authority to accomplish his will in the world. So, let’s pray that our government leaders and administrators, whether federal, state, or local, will be exposed to the truths found in his Word.

Scriptures

Psalm 2:10-11, James 1:5, Jeremiah 29:7

Prayer Points

- Pray that governmental leaders will seek God’s will and serve him and the people.
- Pray that God would give them wisdom and surround them with godly counsel.
- Pray that they would stand courageously in the face of evil, resisting temptations of power, corruption, flattery, and bribery, and upholding righteousness and justice.

Prayer

Our Father and our God, We praise you for your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to you in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation’s leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. You have said, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge you alone as our Savior and Lord. This we pray in your holy name, Amen.

Billy Graham, *National Day of Prayer, 2001*





Prayer 4: Military Communities

*Lord, transform **military communities** in America through your Word*

Today, men and women of the United States Military risk their lives to guard our security around the world. They struggle with injuries and trauma, survivor's guilt and family separation. Many face fear, depression, and loneliness.

But the challenges of military life go far beyond the battlefield. On average Military members are 42 percent more likely than other Americans to have personally experienced a traumatic event. The suicide rate for Veterans is 1.5 times higher than non-Veteran populations, with 17 Veterans lost to suicide each day. Military families and children endure long absences of their loved ones, changing living situations, and a range of emotional uncertainties.

Those serving our nation endure difficulties that many Americans cannot imagine, but the Bible offers the strength and comfort Military members, Veterans, and their families need in every season of service. Join us as we pray that God's Word will help people enduring the rigors of service, returning to civilian life as Veterans, and living with a loved one in military service.

Scriptures

Psalm 29:11, Ephesians 6:10-20, Isaiah 40:25-30

Prayer Points

- Pray for 35 million Service members, Veterans, and family members to experience the hope found in Scripture. Pray that they'll find God's purposes in their service. Pray for their protection as they serve, and healing for those afflicted with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Pray for approximately 6,200 military chaplains to be a godly influence and witness.
- Pray that biblical resources and programs will continue to reach those in the military community, along with any other resources needed for their care.

Prayer

Lord, we bring our military community before you for healing, direction, and blessing. The stresses on both active military and veterans and their families are huge and we come to you as the ultimate caregiver. We pray for healthy, godly relationships among members of the military and their families that will provide them the framework of strength they need to deal with the many pressures of their service. Help this important community to build their lives on the truth of your Word that they may find the stability they need in this unstable world. May your Word come alive in their lives as they serve you and our nation. In Jesus's Name. Amen.

Dave Butts, Chairman, America's National Prayer Committee



Prayer 5: Businesses



*Lord, transform **businesses** in America through your Word*

Businesses have the potential to serve the common good through ingenuity, creativity, integrity, and excellence. One example of this is Joseph in the Bible (Genesis 41).

Joseph spent 16 years as a slave and prisoner in Egypt. It was in prison that Joseph interpreted a dream for the king—Egypt would go through seven years of abundant harvest and then seven years of famine. And God gave Joseph a creative solution—a business plan—that would spare Egypt. After hearing Joseph’s plan to reserve and store one fifth of the grain during the years of abundance, Pharaoh appointed Joseph ruler over all Egypt.

When the famine came, Joseph’s brilliant food storage program provided food not only for the Egyptians but for neighboring nations. Joseph was a creative problem-solver because he brought God’s wisdom to bear.

Today, God’s Word offers wisdom for business leaders in America. It provides guidance as businesses balance the needs of customers, employees, communities, and the environment. God’s Word is a compass that helps businesses not only prosper but also serve Jesus and those around them.

Scriptures

Deuteronomy 8:18, Exodus 31:3–5, Proverbs 11:3, 2 Corinthians 9:8

Prayer Points

- Pray that Christian businesspeople will rise in each industry, bringing economic blessing, courageous innovation, and godly influence.
- Pray that businesses across America will operate with honesty, integrity, and righteousness, serving people and communities well. Pray that they’ll resist temptations of wealth and power and taking part in ungodly practices that hurt society.
- Pray that men and women called to the marketplace will exemplify Christian values.

Prayer

Almighty God, we pray for ALL who are engaged in the marketplace and ask for your divine guidance for the entrepreneurs, business leaders, innovators, and all of those who work daily to advance free enterprise. May our work honor you with humility and integrity and may the fruits of our labor produce jobs for many, strength for our communities, and increased charity for all. We pray that business leaders will comprehend their great opportunity to create powerful, effective, and productive teams and businesses that bless local communities. Grant them wisdom to lead. And we pray that they will live by the words in Proverbs 16:3: “Ask the LORD to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out.” In Jesus’s name. Amen.

Rob Wonderling, President, The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia



Prayer 6: Education



*Lord, transform **education** in America through your Word*

Educators wield great power and influence. Benjamin Franklin once said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” Good teachers can empower people with knowledge, skills, and disciplines to make a positive impact on society.

But people need to learn more than to prosper economically and emotionally. Education inevitably includes teaching values—and our values are grounded in our beliefs. Scripture tells us of the importance of godly wisdom, understanding, and instruction in guiding lives and communities. Teaching future generations to follow God’s ways is a clear command (Deuteronomy 6:4–7). Parents are instructed to “Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life” (Proverbs 22:6 GNT).

And one of the greatest platforms to gain wisdom and instruction is through school! Education systems have significant influence in shaping minds and lives across our nation. Whether public or private institutions, schools engage the next generation at critical stages of their learning journey: whether elementary, middle school, high school, college, graduate, or post-graduate students. Praying God’s blessing for educators can empower them to be a godly influence among the students they teach, to be imparters of truth, discernment, and wisdom according to his Word. Likewise, we ought to pray for parents who educate their children at home that they will also be strengthened, supported, and led by the wisdom of God.

Scriptures

Proverbs 23:23, Proverbs 2:1–11, Psalm 32:8

Prayer Points

- Pray that God will raise up courageous principals, teachers, administrators, and school board members who model God’s character and stand for truth.
- Pray for godly wisdom in creating learning curriculums that advocate for critical learning needs, from literacy to vocational training, to empower students to follow their God-given calling.
- Pray for grace over parents as they support their children in learning, and for provision for lower income families to have access to strong education opportunities.

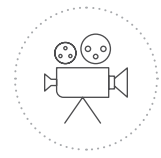
Prayer

Lord Jesus, we exalt you, our Creator, Teacher, and Lord. You created us with minds to learn and call us to increase in wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We pray for education, at every grade-level, and every day of our lives; that we would be life-long learners, disciplined by you continually. Your Word says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10), and we pray that we walk out wisdom in ever-increasing measure as we walk in you and with you throughout life. May every student be educated and equipped to fulfill their God-designed destiny for your glory. In the beautiful and power name of Jesus we pray, Amen!

Kathy Branzell, President, National Day of Prayer Task Force



Prayer 7: Arts, Media and Entertainment



*Lord, transform **media, arts, and entertainment** in America through your Word*

The first thing we learn about God from the Bible is that he is the Creator. He created the heavens and the earth, light, sky and seas, dry ground, plants, the sun, moon, and stars, birds, sea creatures, land animals, and humans. And because we are made in his image (Genesis 1:27) we can also create.

But whatever we create should reflect the beauty and truths of God. American culture is now oversaturated with media. It's widely recognized that kids and teens in America are spending more time than ever using screens and social media. That is why we need to pray that the content that is being shared via these mediums is Bible-centered. We must pray that God will use those who are called to media, arts, and entertainment to model his character and be a conduit for sharing the life-giving truths found in Scripture. Pray for discernment and discipline in our families as we interact with these media, and for a biblical imagination to create new content that connects us with God's beauty and hope

Scriptures

Philippians 4:8, 1 Peter 4:10-11, 2 Timothy 2:15

Prayer Points

- Pray that artists, actors, athletes, musicians, movie makers, magazine editors, video game creators, authors, television workers, internet companies, social media influencers, news networks, reporters, and journalists will use their creative gifts to glorify God and draw hearts to him. Pray that they will create art that reconnects people with beauty and joy.
- Pray that Christians in media, arts, and entertainment will stand for biblical truth and not be influenced by evil forces around them.
- Pray against messages of anger, fear, envy, and lust now permeating media, arts, and entertainment. Pray for messages of love, hope, and truth to fill the airwaves.

Prayer

Lord, we pray for three groups of people involved in the global arts, media, and entertainment industry. First, we pray for Christian entertainment professionals to grow in their faith and connection to loving Christian community in their industry. Empower them to share their faith with the pre-Christians they work alongside. Second, we pray for Christians around the world who are consuming films, music, television, video games, and internet content. Stir their prayers for the Lord's miraculous work among the people, projects, and issues coming from Hollywood—perhaps the world's most influential mission field. Lastly, we ask for pre-Christian professionals in this industry to seek and find Jesus. May the Holy Spirit move in their hearts to inspire God's unconditional love, joy, creativity, and hope that will not disappoint. We bless these decisionmakers and cultural influencers to turn to God and create works that please Jesus and uplift our culture.

Karen Covell, *Hollywood Prayer Network, Founding Director*



American Bible Society

As the Bible Society for America, we are committed to seeing our nation transformed through the power of God's Word. For two centuries, we have designed and distributed biblical resources and experiences to help people engage with the truths of Scripture. Here's how we are engaging Americans in the life-changing message of the gospel today. We provide:

- **[Scripture Engagement Resources](#)**. We equip local church leaders and curious Americans with easy-to-use, contextualized Scripture engagement resources like [Daily Bible Reading](#), [Bible apps](#), [blogs](#), and [Bibles](#), that help make a habit of spending time with God in the pages of the Bible.
- **[God's Word for Military Communities](#)**. Armed Services Ministry provides U.S. Military members, veterans, and their families with free military-specific Bibles, devotionals, blogs, and other resources for spouses, kids, and teens. Our network of 6,200 military chaplains and 1,000 churches help these great American heroes draw strength, healing, and hope from the Bible in their hours of greatest need.
- **[God's Word for Hurting Americans](#)**. Through Bible-based trauma healing resources, hurting people finally experience the love of God and gain the tools they need to continue their journey of healing through lifelong Scripture engagement. Trauma healing resources have been contextualized for children, teens, veterans, prisoners, refugees, and other groups that may face distinct forms of trauma.
- **[State of the Bible Annual Report](#)**. For over a decade, American Bible Society has produced our annual State of the Bible research. This national survey tracks Americans' use and perceptions of the Bible.
- **[Faith and Liberty Discovery Center](#)**. Located in the heart of Independence Mall in Philadelphia, this state-of-the-art public history museum educates and inspires the many visitors to America's most historic square mile. Whether they have deep faith or no faith, guests interact with dozens of history's changemakers who lived out the values of Scripture to make our nation a better place. Most importantly, visitors are challenged to consider what the Bible has to say in their own lives. You can also get the [Faith and Liberty Bible](#) which offers 813 articles and quotations from people in American history who have drawn on the Bible in their work and writings.





AmericanBible.org/Prayer

Jesus looked straight at them and answered,
“This is impossible for human beings,
but for God everything is possible.”

—*Matthew 19:26 GNT*



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