

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



PRAYER GUIDE 2024



[Click here to view a video greeting from Commissioner James Condon](#)

On behalf of Australia Prays,

We warmly welcome you to this year's National Day of Prayer (NDOP) to be held on 18 May from 10am to 4pm AEDT.

Thank you for being a part of this gathering. Our prayer is that you and your community will be refreshed, overflowing and moving in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as you gather for the NDOP.

Please note this prayer guide is just a "guide" only, we welcome you to discern what is best for your gathering and adjust to suit your needs.

If you have the technological capacity, we would love to have you join us for the official prayer and communion service from 1pm to 2pm (AEST) on the 18 May, via Zoom by using this link <https://zoom.us/j/2770144642>

For other resources including information on holding a bible reading marathon, using a prayer tent, accessing promotional material, or to make a donation head to our website. <https://www.australiaprays.com.au>

Thank you for your service and dedication to pray for our nation.

The Australia Prays Team



INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS FROM WES LEAKE - VICE- CHAIR AUSTRALIA PRAYS

The power of reflection is so key in our walk with God, stopping and taking the time to ask God to show us things from his perspective each day.

The key question FOR THIS NDOP is what is God saying to us? What is God saying to our nation? What is on His heart for our nation? How is God leading us to pray? What is He leading us (the body of Christ in the nation) to do?

We know that Jesus is interceding for us individually, as a nation and globally. What is He interceding for us about? How can we join with Him in that prayer, rather than praying what we have prayed in the past or what we think we need to pray to meet the issues of the day?

We sense an invitation from the Lord to stop and listen to what the Father is saying. Let's not pray telling God what we want to happen, but let's hear collectively the voice of Jesus. What if we collated insights that flow from our listening from the different prayer gatherings around the nation and share back to the Body of Christ as a whole?

So many calls to prayer are coming to God with our agendas, "God, this is what we want to see happen. God do this. God for the sake of your people you must do this." We get very busy "doing" this kind of prayer. There is even a sense of purpose and accomplishment on our behalf.

Yet, as meaningful as that all is, unless we actually come, sit at His feet and hear from God first, all that is actually meaningless.

Could our traditions, the ways things are normally done, hinder our hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit and block the fullness of grace which could have been released in our prayer? Perhaps repentance for our lack of intimacy with Him and our busy agenda- focused prayer is needed. His kindness will bring conviction and repentance if we but give Him space.

We need to position ourselves for the next move of God. It is something that comes from sitting with Jesus, rather than what comes from us.

Have we truly got to the point of just sitting and listening to the Father, where the expert Gardener is able to prune us. Perhaps we need our own stuff stripped away, so that we can clearly hear the message from the throne room for this season.

The problem is that with this new approach comes struggle and awkwardness. The letting go of tradition and mindsets and our own agendas is not easy. It requires the grace of God and a willingness to wait on Him.

We believe God is wanting to bring us to the place of being totally surrendered to the Father where there is nothing in us that can hinder what God wants to do.

Wes Leake, Vice - Chair, Australia Prays

SESSION ONE

LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER

10AM -11AM

Suggested Scriptures:

"I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." Ps 46:10b

"I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable." Ps 145:1-3

Worship- Praise and Adoration: (30mins)

Suggested songs: Agnes Dei, How Great is our God, There is a Name. I stand in awe of You, The goodness of God, Holy Forever. Ascribe greatness to our God the Rock, Be still and know that I am God.

Hymns: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, How Great Thou Art.

Meditate and Listening Prayer: on "Be still, and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10 (20 mins)

During our time seeking the Lord for the theme for this year, Winnie Teo from our Team shared something the Lord had spoken to her. We thought you might be encouraged to hear what He said through her.

(Suggestion you could read Winnie's comment out loud at your church/ gathering).

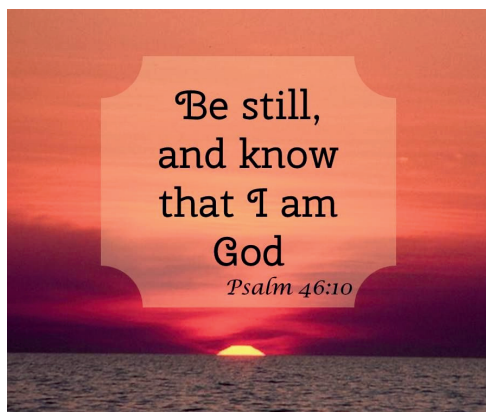
This is what God has been laying on my heart:

"Train the people to FOCUS on Me.

When they keep their eyes on Me, choose to praise and worship Me, their perspective on things and on life will change.

When times are dark, when life is hard, when circumstances are challenging, when all hell breaks loose, choose to FOCUS on Me.

Offer a sacrifice of praise. I am your faithful God. I will not leave you nor forsake you."



Small Group sharing and prayer. (10 mins)

Break into small groups and share what the Lord revealed during the listening prayer time or pray as the Lord leads.

SESSION TWO

THERE IS HOPE!

11AM -12PM

Scriptures: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1-7)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (Jn 16:33)

Meditation and Listening Prayer on Ps 46:1-7. (20 mins)

A time to sit at His feet and put our trust and hope solely in God.



Worship: (15 mins)

Suggested songs: My hope is in you by Aaron Shust, / You Are My Strength by Hillsong / Hope of the Nations by Brian Doerksen / There is a River by Bill & Gloria Gaither / Way maker / Freedom reigns in this place / Healer / Break every chain

Read the following:

Psalm 34: 18. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Isaiah 42:3. A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

Luke 4:18-19

Silent Prayer. (5 mins)

Small Group Sharing and Prayer. (20 mins)

Praying out of what has been revealed in the meditation, listening, worship and silence including prayer for one another – Healing / Encouragement / New beginnings / Reconciliation.

Transition song: Suggestion: I speak Jesus.

SESSION THREE

PRAYING FOR OUR LEADERS

12PM -1PM

Invite people involved in the different spheres of the town, region, city's life to join for this session. (Government / Business / Education / Arts and Entertainment / Health / Justice / Sport / Family / Religion / Media)

WELCOME the leaders and those from the different spheres. (5 minutes).

Explanation of the concept of Praying at the Gates and Listening

Prayer

(10 minutes)

[click here for a short explanation on Praying at the Gates](#)

(Listen in the scripture reading and in the reflective worship and silent prayer time for God's still small voice.)

Each of us has a part to play in strengthening the walls of the city and promoting peace and righteousness within the city.

Servanthood, humility, generosity, compassion, justice, integrity.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and Psalm 46:8-11,

Proverbs 29: 7. The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Proverbs 11:10a. When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices;

General Prayer by leader for leaders present in the room. (5 minutes)

Honour / Blessing / Wisdom and Empowering

Reflective Worship: (10 minutes)

Song suggestions: Change my heart Oh God; Refiner's fire.

Small Group Prayer (20 minutes) Different small groups based on the different spheres of the life of the city. E.g.:

- Government - Federal, State, Local Government, Mayor and Councillors,
- Education – Principals & Teachers, Chaplains etc
- Church Leaders – Christian Charities and NGO's
- Business leaders and workers
- Health – Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Admin etc.
- Justice – Police and Court Officers, Judges, Probation Officers
- Media – Journalists, Editors etc
- Arts and Entertainment – Artists and Musicians etc
- Family – Parents, Grandparents, Child safety officers etc
- Sport – Sport admin people, Umpires, Sports people, Coaches etc

Conclude with Worship: Songs suggestions: God of Australia, The Blessing, God bless our nation by Marjorie Padmore

SESSION FOUR

OFFICIAL PRAYER AND COMMUNION SERVICE:

TASTE AND SEE THE LORD IS GOOD!

1PM -2PM

National Zoom Communion Service :

You can join others across the Nation between 1PM and 2PM AEST and participate in our online Zoom communion service by clicking here:

<https://zoom.us/j/2770144642>

Or you can follow along with the suggested guide and lead your own session



Suggested Scriptures:

Psalms 34:8-10. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. 9 Fear the Lord, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing. 10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Psalms 23:5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Isaiah 25:6-9. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.

In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Leader: Briefly spell out the meaning of: "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"

[Click here to watch a short video explanation.](#)

For Meditation:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if there is anyone you may need to forgive.

Meditate on how eating the bread and drinking from the cup proclaims the Lord's death till He comes

What does this tell us of the power inherent in the Lord's Supper?

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution – Read 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 25

Prayer of Consecration – inviting the Holy Spirit to move through the elements as we partake.

Communion – take the elements.

Release a prayer of Blessing.

Song Suggestion: while elements are distributed: It's Your Blood

SESSION FIVE

PRAY FOR THE HARVEST AND OUR CALL AS A NATION

2PM -3PM

- Pray for the strengthening of evangelists and individuals that they would be inspired and encouraged to be carriers of hope and light.
- Prayer for revival and a great harvest (10 mins)

Read Scriptures:

Matthew 28:18-20, Psalm 96; Matthew 9:35-38 (5 mins)

People to focus on the scripture that they are drawn to as the scripture is read. When they divide into small groups move to a group that focused on the highlighted scripture.

Listening Prayer – Meditation on one of the scriptures. (15 mins)

Worship: (10 mins)

Song suggestions: He Reigns / Glorify your Name.

Small group sharing and prayer. (15 mins)

Exposition of the call of Australia as a Nation. (10 mins)

Australia as a Place of:

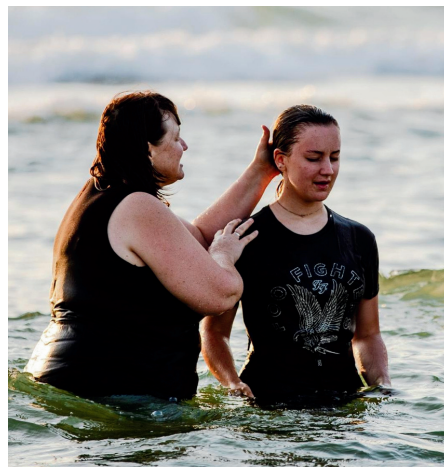
Refuge

Hospitality

A Mission sending Nation.

A Joseph Nation

[Click here for a short video explanation](#)



SESSION SIX

CELEBRATE THE KING OF GLORY

3PM -4PM

Worship: 10 mins

Song suggestions: Crown Him with many crowns / Endless praise

Silence in his presence: 5 mins

Read Scriptures: (10 mins) Psalm 46:8-11; Psalm 24: 1, 7-10; Revelation 5: 1-14

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise for what God has been doing in us through the day.

Prayers celebrating that He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. (10 mins)

Concluding Celebration with Worship Music : (25 mins)

Song suggestions: Holy Forever / Our God Reigns / Worthy of it all / Worthy is the Lamb (Hillsong)

Suggestion: During our discernment time we sensed God speaking to us about feasting (Psalm 34:8).

You could share a meal of celebration together, whether that be breakfast with your community or a dinner at the end of the day. You could invite people from the local community to come and partake in the Lord's goodness with you. There is always room for one more at the table!



Thank you to all the amazing servants and donors who have lovingly and kindly sown into this year's National Day of Prayer whether in time, skill, prayer, finances or by participating.

Thank you. This day couldn't happen without you.

You can keep up to date with and make donations to the National Day of Prayer by going to

www.australiaprays.com.au