

hope  
23-24

# PRAYER



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prepares the ground and anchors everything in Kingdom soil. The mission begins, ends, and depends on prayer. So, before you make any plans or DO anything we encourage you to stop and pray. Don't pray for what you have decided to do. Pray to discern what it is that God wants you to do.

## Where?

It's helpful to have a clear sense of where you are praying for. Start big and define a geographical area to hold out before God. It might be the community or parish your church is in and serves. Start big and let God guide you if and where you need to focus in. You may then want to create a visual prompt and prioritize this area, this could be a map on a wall, a website or even an app.

## What?

Decide how you will approach prayer. We suggest you keep it simple but layer it so that as many people can join in as possible. Consider having individual, group and community layers of prayer, each with a slightly different rhythm.

### Individual

Prayer prompts for people to use to pray on their own. What are the key things to pray for locally and daily?

### Groups

Prayer prompts for groups e.g. small groups to use when they meet together weekly. Opportunities for individuals to come together to pray e.g. once a week in person or online, a WhatsApp prayer

group chat or a Facebook group. You might want to think about the geography of your community and what structures shape and define it e.g. you could pray in postcode groups or by boroughs, estates, roundabouts, etc.

Community - A designated time when everyone can come together, perhaps monthly, to listen to God and to each other; share what they have heard and celebrate answers to prayer; and discern the next steps.

*Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

**Jeremiah 29:7**

## Who?

Whilst it's essential to mobilise and include as many people in prayer as possible, we would encourage you to have a prayer core group. The core group can weigh and discern the prayers from everyone else to provide leadership, encouragement and direction for the community gatherings. We would also encourage you to think across churches. How can churches in your area come together to pray for it? Perhaps there's an existing structure e.g. a 'Churches Together' network, or perhaps it's right to create one. Unity is missional; cross-church collaboration is attractive to those seeking God and community. God blesses unity.

## When?

A layered approach to prayer should mean that there is always prayer happening; that people can opt to join in daily, weekly and monthly. Consider varying the times of the day so that those who work can also join in. Could you have a 7 am prayer slot so people can choose to pray before work? Video streaming prayer times can also make prayer accessible to those who find it harder to get out perhaps because of children at home, time or illness.

## Why?

Prayer invites God into the conversation, God who is capable of anything and for whom nothing is impossible. Prayer changes things. Why wouldn't we pray? Praying is the single most important action before mission planning...or anything!

A year of mission may not be enough time to completely change a church's approach to prayer, but it might be an opportunity to develop and refresh it. Think about the existing culture of prayer in the church. How can you build on it? Perhaps you could include prayers for mission during prayer time in weekly services? Perhaps you already offer daily prayer which could then pivot to include mission plans. Maybe you have small groups that meet who would be willing to adopt and pray for aspects of your mission plans. Do you meet with other churches to pray, and could you do something together?

*'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.'*

**James 5:16**

Aim to make prayer accessible to everyone so that the whole people of God in a place are praying for their streets and the places they go to every day.

## Ways of Praying

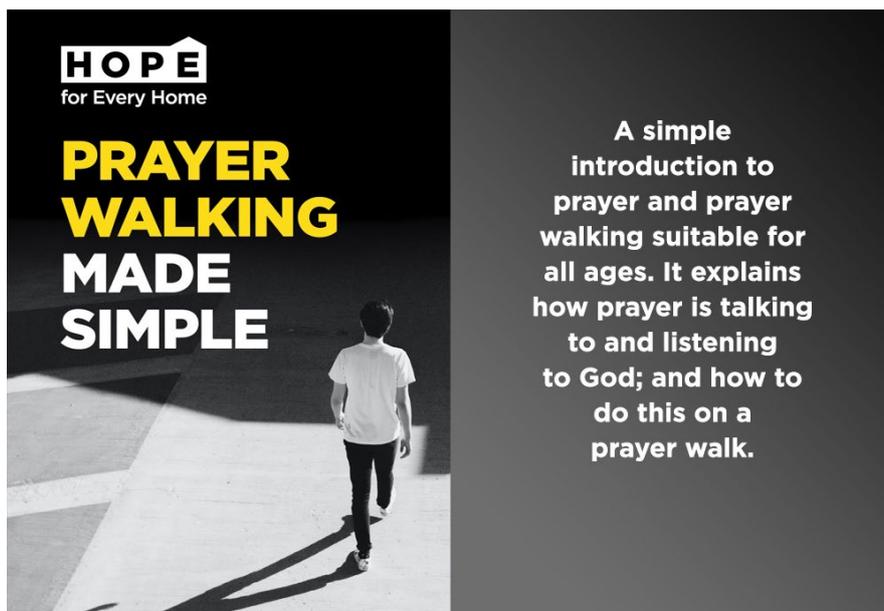
- Make prayer simple and accessible. Invite people to think of 5 friends/neighbours who don't know Jesus whom they could pray for regularly.
- Make prayer a habit. People are too busy for something new, something extra. How could prayer be linked to something we already do every day e.g. taking a shower, putting the kettle on, or driving the car? Two minutes a day can make a massive difference if lots of people join in and just pray.
- To develop a habit, you might want to gather a group to pray once a month for 20 minutes in 2023 to focus on local mission together.



- Our coasters can act as a handy prompt

[BUY COASTERS FROM SHOP](#)

- Create fridge magnets for every street you are praying for in your area and ask people to adopt them.



- Encourage people to try prayer walking. They could pray for the places they visit every day or you could target certain areas as a church. If you have never prayer walked before don't worry. It's as simple as intentionally inviting God to be with you as you walk. Our free download, 'Prayer Walking Made Simple' will help you.

[DOWNLOAD PRAYER WALKING MADE SIMPLE ↗](#)

- For more support with prayer walking you can find a downloadable version of 'A Mile With Jesus' from our friends at Neighbourhood Prayer Network here:

[DOWNLOAD A MILE WITH JESUS ↗](#)

- A simple but powerful way of praying for our streets and communities is to speak words of blessing over them. Pray for the goodness of the Kingdom of God to come and declare it over your community. What does God want to bless your community with? There's a guide from Neighbourhood Prayer Network to get you started here:

[DOWNLOAD GUIDE TO PLANNING A PRAYER WALK ↗](#)

- Create a sense of momentum and togetherness by having a big map of your area in the church or online that people can annotate when they have prayed.



- There is also the OIKOS Prayer App. This free app maps where you and others have prayed. HOPE For Every Home is trying to pray for every street, road and lane in the UK and the OIKOS app helps us to track coverage.

[DOWNLOAD OIKOS PHONE APP](#) ↗

[DOWNLOAD OIKOS APP GUIDE](#) ↗

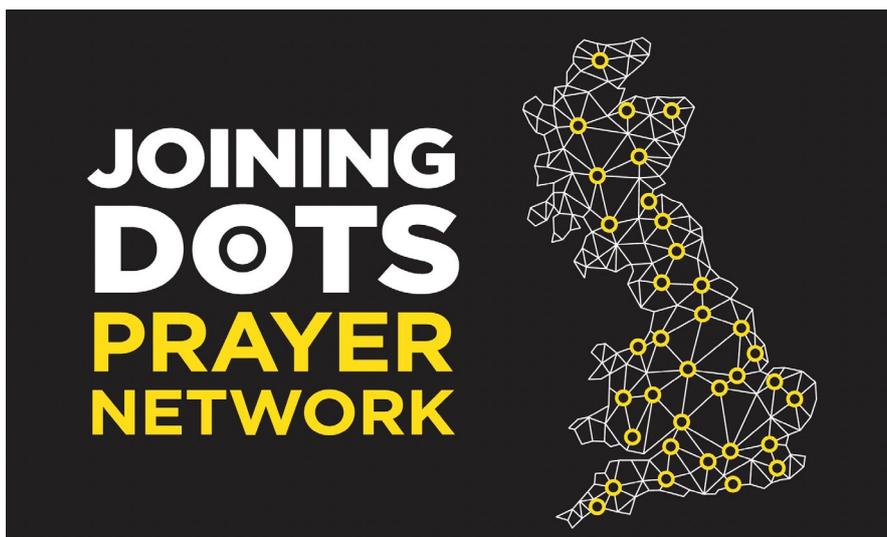
[WATCH THE OIKOS PHONE APP VIDEO](#) ↗

- You might want to create your own OIKOS subgroup for the area you are praying into, or create a link where all your prayers are pinned together and can be shared with everyone involved. Email Sammy - it's easy and we are here to help!
- Prayer is for all ages. If people can't get out to prayer walk, they can still join in virtually and remotely. We have a simple guide from our friends at Neighbourhood Prayer Network to help them here.

[VIRTUAL PRAYER WALKING GUIDE](#) ↗

- Families can pray together; prayer doesn't have to be complicated. There are prayer scavenger hunts, bingo cards and selfie challenges available from Hope for Every Home

[DOWNLOAD YOUTH & FAMILY RESOURCES](#) ↗



- If you form a prayer group for your local area across churches, let us support and resource you. Joining Dots Prayer Network is for ecumenical prayer for a place whether that's a village, town, city or region. There are towns, villages and cities that have already carried out prayer initiatives with resources and experience they are willing to share. Contact us for more information.

[SAMMY.JORDAN@HOPETOGETHER.ORG.UK](mailto:SAMMY.JORDAN@HOPETOGETHER.ORG.UK) 

- There are further resources from our partners at The Evangelical Alliance, Neighbourhood Prayer Network and 24-7 prayer are available here

[HOPE FOR EVERY HOME RESOURCES](#) 

Prayer and listening go hand in hand; listening to God for our communities and listening to our communities to discern what God is doing.

So, keep praying, feed your listening in and  
DON'T PLAN OR DO ANYTHING yet!