

NAYA JEEVAN'S
8TH ANNUAL
DAY WITH THE LORD
HANDBOOK

Renewal

But those who hope in
the Lord will renew
their strength.

They will *Soar* on wings like eagles; they will
run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you all again to our Day with the Lord personal retreat where we encourage our friends and partners to set aside special time during September to be with the Lord - for intercession, devotion, deeper study of the Word, and refreshment of our souls. We facilitate this by providing this Handbook for your convenience, full of spiritual resources and ideas to make your Day with the Lord meaningful. Plan ahead, don't wait for your chosen Day to arrive before you start thinking of your devotional activities! Looking through the ideas ahead of time may help you decide how much time to set aside, where you want to spend it, and what special resources you may need to have on hand.

This year's Handbook starts with our theme article by Sister Reena Shrestha. You may want to use it as the centerpiece of your devotional time; it is replete with scriptural examples and thought questions which you can explore in greater depth. We also have added many more prayer resources for you to look through and find deep, thoughtful practices to add to your prayer repertoire.

Our theme for 2022 is:

Renewal

*Those who hope in [or "wait on"] the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

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To encourage others and help make this a community event, please remember to fill in the feedback form once you are done. We will compile answers and send a report to all Day with the Lord participants in October.

[Click here for Day with the Lord Feedback Form](#)



Renewal

By Reena Shrestha

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)*

God created us with a wonderful and mighty plan. Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Psalm 139:17-18 says, “How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you.”

We live in a busy and fast-paced world where our mind is constantly crowded with the cares of this life. Unless we make an intentional effort to set aside time to wait upon the Lord, it is really difficult to hear His voice and understand His leading. Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” **Let us look at the lives of some men and women in the Bible who made intentional efforts to wait on the Lord.**

Jesus

Our Lord Jesus was one of the busiest men on earth in His time. He was all the time surrounded and pressed upon by the crowd that came to Him to be healed and delivered. Other times He was with His disciples teaching them about the Kingdom of God. Nevertheless, Jesus intentionally withdrew himself from the crowd frequently to be alone with the Father (Luke 5:16), where He could hear His Father’s voice and understand His will. He was also empowered by the Holy Spirit in this place of retreat whereby He was able to glorify His Father by doing His perfect will (John 17:1-4).

We can hear the Lord and understand His perfect will only with a renewed mind. Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

We will stay conformed to the world and its systems and continue to yield to the demands of the flesh if we do not intentionally withdraw from time to time from the crowd of our daily routine to seek the Lord.

What does Jesus’ example say to you about your schedule?

Paul

In Ephesians 1:17-20 Apostle Paul writes, “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I

pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”

The redemption that Jesus has gained for us through His suffering on that brutal cross is so huge that our human mind cannot comprehend it unless we are filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. In verse 18 Apostle Paul writes, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know:

1. The hope to which he has called you,

2) The riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people,

3) His incomparably great power for us who believe. This is the same power as the mighty strength he exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

How can these three qualities - the products of spiritual enlightenment – help you in your life?

In Ephesians 3:14-20 Paul again writes: “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Friends, the day we were born again we entered the kingdom of God (John 3:3). God raised us up with Christ Jesus and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6). However, our human mind with all its limitations is not capable to grasp things of heavenly realms where God has seated us unless we allow the Holy Spirit to renew it. Waiting in His presence in prayer, fasting, worship, reading of Scripture or even staying still before the Lord makes our spiritual senses active and enlightened. That is when the Lord can speak to us and teach us his kingdom principles. It is in this place where God reveals to us the glorious riches of His inheritance and His incomparably great power which He exerted when He raised Jesus from the dead. Once we receive the revelation of His promised inheritance, we will see it come to pass in our life.

What changes do you need to make in order to experience spiritual enlightenment and the qualities it produces?

Mary and Martha

We are all familiar with the story in Luke 10:38-42 of the two sisters, Mary and Martha, whom Jesus and His disciples were visiting. Here Martha is doing her best to serve the Lord in an excellent manner since the Lord had visited their house. However, Mary chooses to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to Him, setting aside everything else. Both of them loved and honored Jesus in their own way. However, when Martha complains to Jesus about Mary not helping her in preparing food and taking care of guests, Jesus answered, “Only one thing is needed and Mary has chosen the best part which will not be taken from her.” This statement of Jesus thrills my heart every time I read it. So many times we try to please Him with our works or performance, but it's our heart that Jesus is longing for. He is our bridegroom who longs to be with us and is soon coming to take us, His bride.

Where do you need to do less serving and more sitting?

David

God revealed His mighty plan to David even when He was a young boy by sending Prophet Samuel to anoint him as King of Israel. Likewise God has created you and me with a wonderful plan. However, He can reveal and bring it to pass only in the lives of those who will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal it by spending time seeking Him.

In Psalm 27:4 David expresses his desire to be in God's presence, saying:

“One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.”

In Psalm 63, David sings out of longing for God's presence in the desert:

“You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.”

No wonder God called King David a man after His own heart, since He sought the Lord and desired to be in His presence more than anything else in life.

What do you long for with this kind of desperate thirst?

Joshua

Another mighty man of God who sought the Lord with all His heart was Joshua. Among thousands of people whom God rescued from the bondage of Egypt, He chose Joshua to become a successor of Moses because Joshua sought the Lord with all his heart and lingered in His presence. Exodus 33:11 says, “The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.” Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. He was a most faithful and humble assistant of Moses who followed Moses' way of waiting upon the Lord in the tabernacle where God's presence always came down in the form of a cloud and fire. God did amazing miracles through Joshua by giving him commands that would sound strange and not make sense to men in a natural realm. However, Joshua faithfully obeyed them since he was familiar with God's kingdom and its operation.

Have you been disciplined by a “Moses”? What valuable lessons have you learned from him or her? Do you have a “Joshua” whom you can disciple in a life of devotion?

Jesus' Disciples

In Acts 1:6-8, before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples to wait and not go anywhere until they received power from on high. Peter and other disciples were not the same after the experience of waiting on the Lord in the upper room. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to preach the gospel with power and boldness accompanied by mighty signs and wonders. They were filled with wisdom and revelation from the Lord whereby they were able to do mighty works for God.

Do you ever rush ahead without waiting for the Lord's clear instructions? What is the result of rushing? What is the result of waiting?

What Do We Do As We Wait?

1. We read the Bible. John 1:14 describes Jesus as the "Word" that became flesh and dwelt among us. We get closer to Jesus and know Him more intimately only when we read His scriptures. In 1 Peter 2:2 Peter says, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." We cannot grow in the knowledge of the Lord unless we grow in the Word. In Joshua 1:7-9, God commanded Joshua, "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." In Psalm 119, which is the longest psalm, King David beautifully expresses his delight and love for the Word of the Lord and its significance in many ways. Let me highlight a few of them here:

Vs 14-16 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

Vs 24 Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.

Vs 105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

What other descriptions of the psalmist's love for God's Word can you find in Psalm 119?

2. We worship. Worship has always been the most favorite part of my relationship with God. It is the time when I express my love and adoration to Jesus, my Master who is my everything. In Mark 14:3-9, we see Mary worshiping Jesus by breaking the most expensive perfume at Jesus' feet. Mary made this expression to show how Jesus was so much more valuable to her than anything else. Even though nobody around understood this act of hers and rebuked her harshly, Jesus responded, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.... She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." As Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, the fragrance would have clung to her as much as it did to her Lord. This is a beautiful picture of what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2:15: "For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." True worship is a lifestyle where we express our love and adoration to our bridegroom Jesus by laying down our self, our fleshly desires and pride, and letting Jesus shine in us and letting His aroma spread through us to others.

How can you show your devotion to Lord Jesus today?

3. We pray and fast. Daniel waited on the Lord and prayed three times a day, not only when he had a lot of time but even when the king had made Him a chief administrator. Daniel's lifestyle of fasting and prayer made him so sensitive to the Spirit that God revealed many deep and hidden secrets to him. Daniel not only interpreted the dream of a king but was also able to tell the dream that the king saw like no other magicians or wise men did. In Daniel 10, we see Daniel seeking and waiting upon the Lord in fasting. God, seeing his desperation, answers his cry by sending an angel with the answer to his prayers. The angel was hindered by the demonic prince of Persia for many days; however, Daniel's steadfastness in prayer and fasting destroyed the enemy's strategies and brought the answer. Daniel was not moved by any circumstances that befell him. His constant prayer and devotion to the Lord were the secret of all the blessings and exploits he was able to do in his lifetime for the glory of God.

How does Daniel's example encourage you in the area of fasting prayer?

Eagle

The analogy of Eagle that Prophet Isaiah has given in our theme verse for those that wait upon the Lord is absolutely profound. Their sharp vision, fearless hunting, ability to ride against the storm, their courage and strength greater than other birds, are the amazing traits which make them the majestic king of the air.

We walk through hard seasons where we feel weary and down at times. However, the Lord assures us that if we wait or hope in Him we will experience renewed strength as great as a soaring eagle. By waiting at the feet of our Lord, feeding our soul with His Word, the Spirit of God will renew, rejuvenate and empower us.

I pray that *“Day with the Lord”* will be such a time for each of us.

Further scriptures on “waiting” for your meditation:

Psalm 27:14

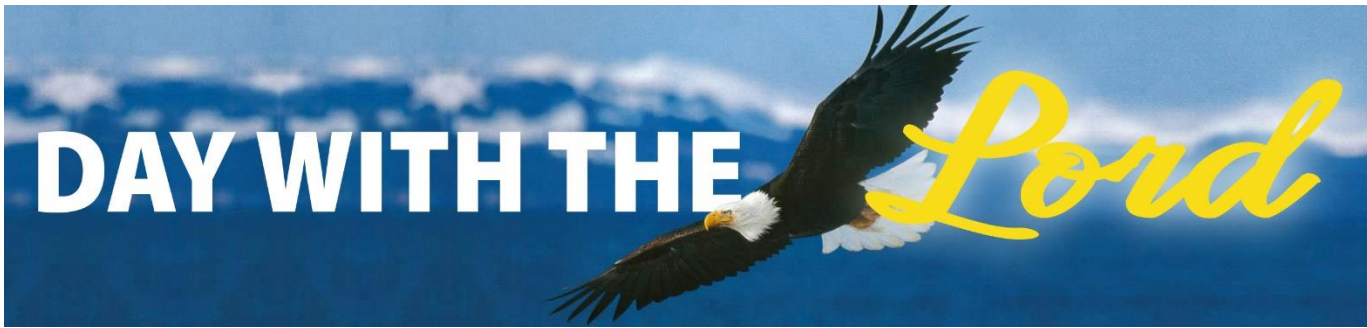
Psalm 123:2

Psalm 130:5-6

Isaiah 30:18

Lamentations 3:24-26

Micah 7:7



Practical Ideas for your Day with the Lord

Since you have taken the time off to be with the Lord, make it meaningful and may you grow in knowing Him as He is.

- ❖ Pray the Lord's Prayer in your own words
- ❖ Spend time in repentance personally and nationally
- ❖ Spend some time praying loudly and some silently; similarly with Bible reading
- ❖ Cover yourself with a prayer shawl during some of your prayers for a sense of the comfort and family inclusion with our heavenly Father
- ❖ Draw or paint a picture that comes to you as you read Scripture
- ❖ Write out a description of the scene and feelings of the characters, imagining yourself as one of those present
- ❖ Hand copy Psalms or other Bible portions into a journal, meditating on the words as you write
- ❖ Sing or listen to hymns, praise, or worship songs
- ❖ Read a whole book of the Bible
- ❖ Read from a devotional book
- ❖ Listen to or watch a sermon
- ❖ Fast throughout the day or for several days leading up to the time; fasting can include food, sleep, entertainment, and other distractions you feel led to give up for a time
- ❖ Write a letter to the Lord
- ❖ Journal your thoughts, impressions, and personal applications
- ❖ Compose a worship song
- ❖ Memorize a passage of Scripture
- ❖ Pray through the names and attributes of God:
<https://www.navigators.org/Tools/Discipleship%20Resources/Tools/30%20Days%20of%20Praying%20the%20Names%20and%20Attributes%20of%20God>
- ❖ Prayer-walk or prayer-drive through a neighborhood or city
- ❖ Pray through a passage of the Bible
- ❖ Read one of the Gospel accounts of someone who encountered Jesus, such as the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50; the centurion whose boy was healed, Zacchaeus, etc. Think about what it teaches us about God and ourselves. Learn it well enough to tell it accurately and pray by name for a particular person you should share that story with during the week.
- ❖ Pray through a newspaper or news magazine article

Prayer Postures

Try incorporating different prayer postures appropriate to your prayer moods or topics throughout your Day (taken from [Strengthening Your Prayer Skills](#)).

- ❖ Sitting denotes rest 2 Sam 7:1
- ❖ Kneeling portrays submission to God Acts 7:60, Dan 6:10
- ❖ Standing displays respect and attentiveness Mark 11:25
- ❖ Uplifted hands mean surrender or praise 1 Tim 2:8, Ps 63:4
- ❖ Prostration indicates beseeching, agonizing, repenting Matt 26:39
- ❖ Walking denotes ownership, expectation of victory Josh 6:1-5

Prayer Resources

- ❖ **Strengthening Your Prayer Skills** by Dr Shashi Jatiani makes an excellent resource for prayer training and is filled with creative ideas to deepen and enliven your prayer times. Consider watching one session during your Day with the Lord, with time spent meditating on your application points. Or look through your SYPS workbook as you plan your Day and incorporate some of the creative ideas found throughout the sessions. If you do not yet have a workbook (hard or soft copy) or the videos or DVDs, please make a donation of any amount to the Breakthrough account <https://give.cru.org/0803950>. We will receive an automatic notification, then contact you and gladly send you what you request.
- ❖ **Video testimonies of salvation and prayer**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk-u40hUR8O0JCa7okOKSgr53JSAslLcJ>
- ❖ **Prayer websites:**
www.tandemprayer.org
<http://www.thisdayipray.com/>
<http://operationworld.org>
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/prayer.html>
<https://www.namb.net/pray/>
<https://pray.interserve.org/>
<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/videos>
<http://southasianpeoples.imb.org/pray>
- ❖ **Devotional apps:**
One Minute Pause (John Eldredge)
Pray as you Go (Loyola)
- ❖ **Prayer Guide for Every Village in South Asia:**
<http://pray4ev.org/>

Prayer Walking Guide

Goal: To pray blessing upon our city and its inhabitants.

What Is Prayer-walking?

- Prayer-walking is simply praying in the very places where you expect God to answer your prayers.
- It's praying in the place where you want to see God work.
- It has been defined as praying onsite with insight.
- It is talking to God about people rather than talking to people about God.
- It is what Abraham did when he walked with God and talked to him about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What Is the Purpose Of Prayer-walking?

- It is to seek God's blessing, mercy and transforming power for the community and its residents.
- It is a valuable tool for identifying needs in a community and awareness of possible future ways to serve.
- It is a way for us to be God's presence and God's servants in a community.

Remember: The presence of God's people guarantees the presence of God!

- It may provide opportunities to interact with and bless people whom you encounter while walking.
- It helps sensitize you to the issues facing a neighborhood. It gets you close to the needs of people. What you are praying for is right in front of you – before your eyes.

Some Things To Do:

- Walk with someone else, not alone.
- Pray aloud in a quiet, conversational tone, if you feel comfortable doing so. If not, pray silently, but let your partner know what you are praying about.
- If anyone asks what you are doing, be prepared to respond: *"We're praying God's blessing on this neighborhood. Is there any special way we can pray for you?"*
- Be open to opportunities to interact with and bless people that may grow out of this experience.
- Plan to spend at least 30 minutes each time. If you are not comfortable doing a prayer walk, do a prayer-drive.
- Smile and be pleasant with people you meet. God may be working in their lives. Ask God to bless them in Jesus.
- Don't be afraid of silence. It's Okay to walk and pray silently for a time or to listen for God's voice.
- Pray with your eyes open – *"watch and pray!"*
- It's Okay if prayer-walking feels awkward to you at first. It will become more comfortable as you do it more.
- Pray with your walking partner before and after your walk.

Some Things NOT To Do:

- Don't call attention to yourself. It has been said that *"you can be on the scene without making one!"*
- Do not knock on doors. This is not the time for home visits. Never go in a house even if invited!
- Do not pray loudly. Greater volume does not mean greater effectiveness. Passion can be expressed quietly.
- Do not make promises of financial or other kinds of help to people you may encounter. Prayer is the mission!
- Remember: This is not your devotional time; this is praying on behalf of others and their needs, not yours!

Some Prayer Helps:

- Pray with a purpose – God's desire for the residents.
- Pray with God's Word – pray God's promises not just the problems that you see. Use scripture in your praying.
- Focus on God, not the technique or method.
- Pray with God's Spirit – what is the Holy Spirit placing in your heart as you walk, observe and pray?
- Pray for discernment to see the neighborhood through God's eyes. Ask God to show you how you can pray with greater insight for the people, places and families.
- Some things to pray for the residents: Pray the blessing of God's will. Pray for the blessing of spiritual hunger. Pray for the blessing of a repentant heart. Pray for the blessing of freedom from fear and bondage. Pray for the blessing of peace. Pray for the defeat of evil and triumph of good in the neighborhood. Pray for salvation for all!
- Pray with compassion and feel God's heart for people.
- Agree with your partner regarding times for fasting. Also choose times to pray privately for the neighborhood.

As you pray God's promises with specific homes or situations in view, you'll find that hope for people begins to grow. You'll begin to see them as God does. You'll grow in compassion and faith!

GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

Try to approach prayer for South Asians from a positive, respectful and compassionate point of view – pray for, not against, them. Avoid fostering a critical, self-righteous, condemning attitude. Keep Mt 7:1-4 in mind and pray with humility not only for South Asians but for yourself, your own culture, and Christians in general.

Praying for Christian Witness to South Asians

These verses are directed at Christians praying for our own witness among South Asians who don't know Christ; a few verses will be found in both sections.

Mt. 22:39	Love your neighbors
Matt. 9:35-38	More workers, motivated by compassion
Deut. 10:18	Love the immigrants among us
Jer 9:23-24	Humility, not arrogance must be our hallmark
Mt 7:1-4	Self-examination not self-righteousness
1 John 1:8-9	Confession and repentance from our mistakes
Mt 28:18-20	We are responsible to make disciples and teach them well
Acts 1:8	We do all in the power of the Holy Spirit
1 Cor 9:19-23	Become like those we serve, enter their world, approach on their terms
Prov 20:5	Witness that tries to draw out the deep thoughts and beliefs of the heart
Prov 18:5	Christians need to be better listeners before we deliver our solutions
2 Pet 3:9	God's patience toward those who need time
Rev 5:9	Every people-group will ultimately be represented in heaven
1 Pet 3:15	We must give gentle and respectful answers
Col 4:4-6	Our conversation must be wise
Mt. 5:43-45	Pray for persecutors
Rom. 12:21	Overcome evil with good (response to opposition)
Acts 4:23-31	Face fears with courage and boldness
Mk 4:2, 33-34	Use of story in sharing God's truth may be more appreciated than preaching
Jer 2:13	Pray for those who are turning from the knowledge of the truth to embracing popular Hindu, New Age beliefs
1 Th 5:12-13	Pray for godly church leaders to set the example in encouraging outreach
2 Cor 6:13	Christian separatism misunderstood and misused
Mt 11:19	Jesus' holiness allowed him to be a friend of sinners, so can we
Jn 17:21-23	Unity that will attract others to Christ

A missionary serving as a prayer leader in a Christian organization informed me with great concern, sure of my interest, that a Hindu temple was being built in his neighborhood and he was organizing Christians to "pray against it." I answered him, "I will pray that the Christians in the neighborhood will welcome their new Hindu neighbors and share the love of Jesus with them."

Praying for the Unsaved South Asians

"I'm very grateful to Hindu heritage for three areas of encouragement. First, it encouraged me to live a moral life. It encouraged me to respect people and relationships. Most of all, it gave me a sincere desire to seek and know God in my life."

When a cultural value is mentioned in a positive way (e.g. Respect), we can thank God for this evidence of common grace and pray the Holy Spirit will use it as a stepping stone to Christ, the perfect model of all good traits.

-Jay Gupta, former Director of SPREAD International

Ac 14:17 Remember, God has not left Himself without witness; pray they will see His messages

Rom 1:18-23	Knowledge of God is evident in creation and conscience
Eccles. 3:11	God has placed eternity in their hearts – a sense that there is more to life than this world
Jer. 29:13	Those who seek the Lord with all their heart will find
Ps. 53:1	Atheists in India are few, but their god-concepts need more truth
Eph. 5:3	While modesty is valued on one level, purity and morality need to permeate hearts and society deeply
1 Tim. 5:1-2	Respect is a high value in Indian society
Eph. 6:1	Parents and elders are honored

Prov. 12:26 Indians are typically cautious in friendship and make fast friends once trust is there
 Rom. 12:13 Hospitality is greatly valued
 Gen 2:23-25 Divorce is not prevalent though increasing; but marriages lack some of the biblical foundations
 Mt. 19:16, Rom. 3:23 Sense of sin is lacking as a works-based religion teaches they can attain salvation and shame emphasis makes them avoid admitting fault
 Jer 9:23-24, Is 64:6 Cultural pride blinds people to the need for repentance and humility
 1 Cor. 11:1 *Guru-shishya* (teacher-disciple) relationship strongly affirmed
 Heb. 9:27 One lifetime in which to reconcile with God, no reincarnation
 Jn. 14:6 Jesus is the way, truth, and life – should be good news to those who pray the “*asatoma*” mantra daily.

Hindu prayer: I am a sinner, what I have done is sin; I am under sin, I am the worst of sinners. Save me, O Lord of Sacrifice.

- *Hindu “Asatoma” mantra: O God, from the Unreal lead me to the Real, from the Darkness lead me to the Light, from Death lead me to Immortality.* Ac. 4:12 Salvation only in Jesus, but Hindu tolerance distorts this understanding
- *Sikh religious greeting: “Sat Sri Akal,” meaning, Truth is eternal.* Ex. 20:2-3 Idolatry is practiced in every culture, sometimes with *murtis* (literal idols), sometimes with materialism or other substitutes for the true God
- *Indian National Motto: Truth alone shall triumph.* Dt. 18:10 Astrology and divination are commonly relied on
 Dt. 18:19-20 Guru cults are popular, each proclaiming their path to salvation
 2 Cor. 11:14-15 When every experience is considered valid, there is little discernment about possible deception
 Jn 11:25 Jesus is the God of resurrection not reincarnation
 Jn 14:27 Only Jesus can impart true peace

Is. 53:4-5 A suffering and victorious savior is good news for the poor

Gen. 1:26 Maintaining the creator-creature distinction is necessary

Jn. 3:3 Being born again takes place in this life – good news for those who think it will take thousands of lifetimes

Rom. 12:9 Don’t tolerate evil, untruth

Eph. 3:20 Power is in Christ alone

Col. 2:8, 20-23 Philosophy has no power to save

Mt. 6:7 Repetitious prayers take the life out of our relationship with God

Is. 14:13-14 Pride – religion, traditions can’t save –for anyone

1 Cor 1:22-24 We need to move from seeking wisdom, signs, or power to the person of Christ

Heb 10:24-25 Pray for appropriate fellowship opportunities for new believers

1 Pet 3:18 Christ is our substitute, but the atonement is not well understood or appreciated in the works-based system of achieving *moksha* (salvation); there is a great analogy or “type” of Jesus’ sacrifice for sin in the Hindu coconut ritual

Vivekananda wrote that the West conquers suffering by trying to eradicate it; the East conquers suffering by embracing it. Jesus embodies both.

In ancient days in India, animals were used as a sacrifice for sins. Gradually priests began to substitute the coconut so as not to harm a life for the sake of worship. The coconut is an excellent symbol of payment for sin. The outside of it shows that sin is dirty, ugly, rough, and unpleasant. Inside, the coconut is smooth and white; its milk is pure and clean because it is unpolluted from the outside. In worship rituals, the coconut is broken by hammering it until the shell cracks and the milk is poured out. Jesus is God’s provision of an offering for our sin. His body and blood are pure and unpolluted by sin. He said, “I give my body to be broken for you,” and the soldiers nailed Him to the cross. He said, “My blood is poured out for the sins of the world,” and the soldiers took a spear and pierced His side. Jesus’ sinless life was the payment for our sins. The coconut is the symbol, Jesus is the reality.

Gal. 3:28, Socio-economic divisions erased in Christ

Col. 3:11

Matt. 9:35-38 Christ has compassion for those harassed by the devil and oppressive religion

Eph. 2:8-9

Salvation by grace, not works

Eph 2:10

Value of works comes after salvation as gratitude

There is a classic debate over grace among the Hindu philosophers: Is it more like a baby monkey clinging to its mother as it is carried around, or like a kitten whose mother picks it up by the scruff of the neck to carry it around? The monkey must contribute to its survival, the kitten is helpless and totally dependent on its mother for survival. Paul would side with the kitten illustration.

Ac 10:34-35

People from every nation can be saved

Ps. 103:13,

There is debate on whether god has any

Ex 34:6-7

attributes (*nirguna/saguna brahman*); but the good news is we can know a personal living God

1 John 3:16

The real lovable God is attractive to people whose gods are distant and unknowable

Deut. 10:18

Immigrants are especially vulnerable and insecure, and need the protection and generosity of the host culture

Mk 1:27-28, Jesus' power is used to help and heal the suffering

Jn 11:45

Lk. 5:16, 9:58, Jesus' demonstrates true spirituality not

Mt 5:3-10 worldliness

Matt. 5:5,9, *Ahimsa* (non-violence) is honored as a traditional value

12:20

John 8:32 Jesus is the truth that sets us free

John 4:24 Worship God in spirit and in truth

Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual guru Srimad Rajchandra allowed himself to die of parasite infestation because of his conviction about not killing even such creatures as amebas.

John 9:5

Jesus is the light of the world

Jer 10:5

Though there are demonic supernatural powers associated with idol worship, ultimately they are powerless

Hindu "Gayatri Mantra": O God! You are the Giver of Life, Remover of pain and sorrow, the Bestower of Happiness. O creator of the Universe, may we receive your supreme sin-destroying light, may you guide our intellect in the right direction.

1Sam 15:22

There is no power in rituals alone without relationship with God

Gal 3:11,

There is no power in rules or law (*dharma*) without a relationship with God

Col 2:20-23

Mt 23:4,13

Jesus opposes religious leaders with oppressive rules

2 Pet 3:9

God is being patient so that more may repent

1 Tim 2:1-2 Pray for South Asian governments and leaders

Jn 8:12 Diwali festival themes can point to Christ the Light of the World

Rom 12:21 Dussehra festival can remind us of the true triumph of good over evil

Col 3:13 Holi festival can remind us of the need for forgiveness

The BLESS prayer formula – verses for each point suitable to share with non-believers

B Body – Matt 9:35

L Livelihood – Gen 2:15

E Emotional – Jn 14:27

S Social – Lk 4:18-19

S Spiritual – Jn 4:24

Further verses for believers:

B Isaiah 53:5 (1Peter 2:24); Exodus 23:25-26; Psalm 103:2-4; Psalm 41:3; Matthew 9:35

L Luke 12:24; Psalms 34:10; Psalms 84:11; Matthew 6:31-32

E Psalm 23:3; Psalm 30:11; Psalm 147:3; Matthew 11:28; John 14:27; 3 John 2; Isaiah 26:3

S 1 Corinthians 10:13-14; Matthew 26:41; 1 John 2:16; James 4:7; Titus 2:12; Hebrews 4:15-16; Philippians 4:13

S Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 8:16-17; Romans 8:15-16

Lectio Divina

“Divine reading” – a close reading of a Scripture passage
Resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

What do I need to know about this spiritual practice?

Lectio Divina is a spiritual discipline of **meditation on Scripture** in which you slowly and prayerfully read and re-read a text in order to listen and apply God’s word to your life. It’s an ancient monastic practice that is used by many Christians today.

- You can use Lectio Divina with any passage of Scripture, but a Gospel story or Psalm works especially well. You simply read and re-read the text slowly, carefully, and prayerfully.
- The goal is not intellectual knowledge but **conversational intimacy with God**. In other words, you’re not seeking information as much as *transformation* — you’re learning to apply the historical and inspired text to the personal text of your life today.
- There are a variety of ways that people do Lectio Divina. Some are more analytical and similar to Bible study and others are more meditative, emphasizing quiet prayer and reflection.
- It’s helpful to both study Scripture and meditate on it because each practice helps us in different ways. Bible study especially focuses on our mind, ideas, thinking, and worldview. Scripture meditation emphasizes our heart, feelings, desires, and prayers.

In Lectio Divina you read the Scripture passage repeatedly in 4 stages (although you may read it more than 4 times). Each time listening in a different way:

- Read (*Lectio*).
- Reflect (*Meditatio*).
- Respond (*Oratio*).
- Rest (*Contemplatio*).

How do I practice connecting with God through Lectio Divina?

- Suggested passages
 - Psalm 1:1-6 | Psalm 91 | Isaiah 58
 - Luke 10:38-42, Mary and Martha
 - Mark 10:46-52, The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus
 - Matthew 8:28-34, The Gadarene Demoniac
 - Genesis 32:22-31, Jacob Wrestles the Angel
 - Exodus 3:1-6, Moses at the Burning Bush
 - Acts 2:1-13, Pentecost
 - Matthew 3:13-17, The Baptism of Jesus
 - Luke 2:41-52, Twelve Year Old Jesus
 - Exodus 3:11-14, I Am Who I Am

Where can I learn more about this spiritual discipline when I’m ready?

- “Lectio 365” is a prayer app with two daily prayers: a shortened lectio divina reading for your morning (push pause to give yourself more time) and an examen prayer for your evening. Examen is a prayer that invites you to look back on your day for evidence of God’s loving presence as well as an invitation to notice and confess how we’ve fallen short today.
- A website: <https://www.soulshpherdng.org/lectio-divina-guides/>. This resource is full of resources for practicing Lectio Divina, including an online course with recordings to guide you through several sessions of reading Scripture this way. We learn through spiritual companions such as book authors, friends and mentors, spiritual directors, Christian ministries, and the local church.
- A book to refer to in the journey: *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* by Adele Calhoun (IVP 2015).

Steps in Lectio Divina

- One method of Lectio Divina is to do four readings, one to focus on each of Guigo's four steps. But these four steps are perhaps best understood as *four underlying rhythms* that are embedded in the process of Scripture meditation.
 - In Latin Guigo's divine reading steps are *lectio* (reading), *meditatio* (meditation), *oratio* (prayer), and *contemplatio* (contemplation). You can use four R's to remember the four steps as **read, reflect, respond, and rest**.
1. **Reading**—In Lectio to read the word of God is to *take it as food and put it into your mouth*. You listen carefully to Scripture — without hurry or intellectual strain. You wait quietly for Holy Spirit to bring God's word to life. Then you pause on the portion of the passage that you're drawn to.
 2. **Meditation**—To meditate on Scripture is like *chewing your food*. You reflect and ponder its deep meaning. Gently repeat to yourself a phrase from the Scripture, turning it over and over in your thoughts and feelings to renew your mind (Romans 12:2).
 3. **Prayer**—Praying Scripture is like *tasting your food*. You respond to the words with feelings, confess your sins or struggles, and ask God for what you or others need.
 4. **Contemplation**—To contemplate on God's word is to *digest its sweetness*. You rest quietly in God's loving arms. No words are necessary at this point and may detract from simply being in God's loving presence. This is the goal of Lectio Divina.
 5. **Incarnatio**—Some spiritual teachers add a 5th step in Lectio Divina of *incarnatio*, which is incarnating the Word by living it out in your daily life.

Three Questions in Lectio Divina

Soul Shepherding's Lectio Divina Guides use three focus questions to guide separate readings of the Scripture. After each reading, time is allotted for quiet prayer or journaling. This works very well as a simple three step model for doing Lectio Divina. It's especially effective for leading Lectio Divina in groups.

1. One Word—What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. Feelings—What do you feel? What specific situation in your life? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. Invitation—What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

Adapted from <https://www.soulshepherding.org/lectio-divina-guides/> written by Bill Gaultiere

Listening Prayer

resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

“Hearing God? A daring idea, some would say--presumptuous and even dangerous. But what if we are made for it? What if the human system simply will not function properly without it? There are good reasons to think it will not. The fine texture as well as the grand movements of life show our need to hear God. Isn't it more presumptuous and dangerous, in fact, to undertake human existence without hearing God?” –Dallas Willard, Hearing God

What do I need to know about this spiritual discipline?

Listening for and learning to recognize God's voice is a part of our spiritual transformation journey. Hearing God's voice doesn't guarantee success or perfection. Also, God is not our magic genie. Rather, through listening we learn to enjoy being in His presence and hearing God's heart of love and gentle direction in our lives. Many people fear not hearing from God at all or have a hard time receiving His words of love. We don't know exactly what Jesus did during his prayer times, but it can be encouraging to imagine Jesus spending time with the Father. There are many methods of listening prayer and some of them are also called contemplative prayer in which the goal is to be still and simply be *with* God (Psalm 46:10).

Like other spiritual practices (Scripture engagement, musical worship, church service with preaching & group Bible study) we are putting ourselves in a position to hear from God. And in each of these settings, we are instructed to test what we hear against Scripture because God will never tell us something that contradicts who He is or what He has already said. Many ministry and spiritual practices today happen not because they are explicitly in the Bible, but because they are derived from principles that we know to be based in the Scriptures.

In listening prayer, we have a task that focuses our concentration and slows us down to listen for God. When the young boy Samuel hears from God, he is sleeping beside the ark (a symbol of God's presence). He wakes up 2 times thinking he hears Eli, the priest, calling for him. Eli realizes that God is calling Samuel, but Samuel doesn't yet recognize God's voice so he tells him what to do the next time he hears the call. Read the full story in 1 Samuel 3:1-19.

How do I practice connecting with God through listening prayer?

The Immanuel Journaling prompts below are an opportunity to practice sharing your heart with God and listening for his loving response.

Immanuel Journaling Worksheet

“Immanuel Journaling” is a listening prayer method that focuses on conversing with God and receiving his empathy and help. To write your two-way prayer letter simply complete each sentence. It's helpful to read your letter out loud to a friend or small group who will listen and pray for you.

Write Your Prayer.

Dear Lord (or other name for God) _____ ,

I need your help with (briefly describe a specific situation of need)...

I appreciate that you (e.g., are emotionally present for me, empowering me, etc.)...

Write God's Response.

Dear ____ (Your Name) ____ ,

Examples of God's loving gentle voice:

I see you in this situation and notice your physical demeanor (e.g., being busy, tossing and turning in bed, clenching your jaw, slumping your shoulders, crying)...

I hear what you're saying (out loud and/or in your mind)...

I understand that you're feeling (e.g., angry, afraid, anxious, guilty, sad, alone)...

I realize this is really big for you because you want...

I'm glad to be with you and I'm proud of you for your (e.g., vulnerability, courage, perseverance, kindness)...

I want to encourage you and help you by (e.g., a Scripture promise)...

The Prayer of Examen

Ignatius of Loyola taught that it was easier to discern places where God spoke to us by looking back on the day that just passed. He called it the prayer of examen. The examen is a listening prayer exercise that invites you to look back on your day for two things:

(1) Where did I experience God's love, hear God's voice or feel particularly close to Him?

(2) Where did I not live from a place of love? (Asking God to shine the light on our shortcomings.)

There are many written guides and (and now apps) for praying the examen.

Download the *Lectio 365* app using the QR code and click on the evening prayer to be guided through the examen prayer. It's nice to have the audio reading as a companion and guide while you learn this prayer.



Prayer of Lament

A form of prayer, usually written as a poem or song
resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

*“To lament—that is to cry out to God with our doubts, our incriminations of him and others, to bring a complaint against him—is the context for surrender. **Surrender—the turning of our heart over to him, asking for mercy, and receiving his terms for restoration— is impossible without battle.** To put it simply, it is inconceivable to surrender to God unless there is a prior, declared war against him.*

“Christians often assume our conflict with God was finished when we converted. At that point, we were enemies of God—indeed, we were, and it was a great battle. But the battle is not over with conversion. Though it is the decisive victory that assures the outcome of the war, it is hardly the last and final fight.

“Sanctification is a lifetime process of surrendering as more and more intense conflicts with God and others expose and dissolve our urgent preoccupation with the self. A lament is the battle cry against God that paradoxically voices a heart of desire and ironic faith in his goodness.” Dan Allender, Mars Hill Review, 1994

What do I need to know about this spiritual practice?

In our grief and sorrow, we cry out our anguish, despair, disbelief, confusion, anger.

Lament is the cry of “Where are you, God?” “Why didn’t you prevent this?” “Why are you silent?” “Why did you abandon me?” “You aren’t doing what I thought you would.” “This is unfair, unjust.”

After trauma, our soul churns with heart-rending cries that, unless expressed, turn us to bitterness and judgment—against both people and God. We can become cynical, numb, or falsely pious.

Rooted in our cry is the assumption that surely, if God truly loved us, he would take away our pain.

In Psalm 13: 1, David asks, *“How much longer will you forget me, Lord? Forever?”*

Lament allows you to fully express your grief and even accuse God. In lament, grief isn’t stuffed or hidden. In expressing the full range of grief through lament, you don’t stay in grief, but move forward in calling out to God for His help.

Lament can lead to a deeper expression and experience of faith. For example, note the shift in Psalm 13, verses 5 & 6: *“I rely on your constant love; I will be glad, because you will rescue me. I will sing to you, O Lord, because you have been good to me.*

How do I practice connecting with God through lament?

Write a psalm of lament. Here are some details to inspire you to get started.

Elements of a Psalm of Lament:

- Cry out to God (your address to God).
- Affirmation of trust (your remembrance of God’s presence in your past).
- Complaint (your anger, pain, heartache, or sadness).
- Confession of your sin or claim of innocence.
- Petition/Request (your deepest desire).
- Additional Argument (anything more, why God should intervene).

- Rage against your enemies (bringing your enemies before God).
- Assurance of being heard (what you need to feel heard).
- Promise to offer praise to God (the promise you can offer to God).
- Assurance (the attribute of God you are thankful for in the moment).

Every lament must have a complaint. All psalms of lament have some of the above elements, but do not require all of them. Some leave us in the process of our wrestling. Psalm 88 ends on a bleak note! “You have taken me from my neighbor and friend; darkness is my closest friend” (Psalm 88:18).

Psalms of lament were a NORMAL part of Israel’s praise and worship, both as individuals and community. We do NOT attempt to solve our own problem in a lament. But purposely turn our eyes towards God, to wrestle, to listen. We can experience the paradox of sorrow with joy.

Write your personal Psalm of Lament:

- Take a recent event (e.g. loss of a friend or family member to COVID), or other trauma or loss. Take time to sit with the event, taking note of all that you feel as you recall it.
- Identify your emotions without judgment.
- Name your complaint without judgment.
- Using the other elements listed, write your personal Psalm of Lament. Be truthful.
- You might consider reading your psalm to a safe person, or to your spiritual community. There is something sacred in the empathy we experience in these safe places with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Where can I learn more about this spiritual discipline when I’m ready?

- Listen to “[Season of Lament](#)” (April 29, 2020) [Things Above](#) Podcast by James Bryan Smith.
- Read more lament Psalms. There are 67 Psalms of Laments (some individual, some communal). Individual laments in the book of Psalms: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 94, 102, 109, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 143.
- Book to read: *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times* by Soong-Chan Rah

The Loads We Carry

A Listening Prayer exercise for those who feel burdened

It is not so much what I have said to God, but what He has said to ME that has changed my life.

Psalm 139:17
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God...



Lord, would you remind me of a time when you turned a heavy load I was carrying into something “light” or “easy” ?

Isn't that just like Jesus to lighten our load?

Matthew 11: 28-29 MSG

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?"

Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or illfitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."



Psalm 55:22-23 Pile your troubles on God's shoulders—he'll carry your load, he'll help you out. He'll never let good people topple into ruin.

Listening Prayer Questions (Part 1):

1. God, in words or in pictures, would you show me what load or burden I am carrying today?
2. How does that make me feel?
3. What are my strategies for dealing with that?

Listening Prayer (Part 2)

1. God, in words or in pictures, would you show me how YOU see this load or burden I am carrying today?
2. If I chose to see things as you do, how does/would that make me feel?
3. What would be my strategies for dealing with that?



What are you carrying?

Sharing the stories that come from interacting with God help us let go of life sucking perspectives and latch onto life-giving ones.

I invite you to share your story with someone...

Let me give you an example...

PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

First Things First

You will never be able to pray for true revival **UNTIL** you first want revival in your own soul.

REVIVAL IN OUR OWN HEARTS:

- Do a reality check: Our hearts are hard, cruel, judgmental, self-righteous, prideful, hateful.
- The pandemic brought out the best of us and the worst of us. I believe God meant it to do just that. He wants us to open our eyes to what is inside us.

Jesus tells us what defiles a person: Matthew 15:10-11; Matthew 15:17-20 (See also Luke 11:39-40; Luke 12:3; Matthew 12:33-34.)

PREPARATION FOR REVIVAL: We must receive correction and transformation; respond to the Holy Spirit and humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and towards one another (1 Peter 5:5-6).

- We invite God to do His internal holy work in us.
- We are prepared to pray for that kind of transformation in others.
- We can't pray for revival for ALL, until we submit to revival for ONE.
- Praying for revival requires a holy discontent which begins with me.

Leonard Ravenhill said, "As long as we are content to live without revival, we will."

OUR FIRST PRAYER FOR REVIVAL THEN IS: "Holy Spirit, reveal my own waywardness, self-righteousness and the unplowed places of my heart (Hosea 10:12 NIV). Help me to yield these to You."

God wants to turn our hearts from barren quarries to watered gardens - (Is 58:11-12).

WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTION.

- HE IS AFTER US, desiring us, and protecting our relationship with Him!
- *God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance* (Romans 2:4).

WE NEED REVIVAL! Example of Cru1995 Revival (Answer to Dr. Bright's prayer and fasting for revival)

Will you pray that God would do whatever He needs to do to revive you?
Revival begins with us FIRST.

The Woman Who Drove the Judge Crazy

DON'T STOP PRAYING

- Luke 18:1-8,: "kept coming to him... keeps bothering me... her continual coming...who cry to him day and night..."
- *Draw the Circle* by Mark Batterson (pp. 62-66)
- Luke 18:5 in the NLT says, "This woman is driving me crazy." I think Jesus admired this woman's audacity and persistence.
- Isaiah 62:6-7 "Give him no rest **until...**"
- Jacob - Genesis 32:22-32
- James 4:2: "You do not have, because you do not ask."

Is our lack of asking God and pestering Him for revival communicating to Him that we are content without it? Is that what you want to communicate?

Read *Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening* by Dan Hayes. It will motivate you to pray for revival.

Will you prayerfully consider being a “crazy” woman or man? Will you press into God, even pester Him for revival? He loves it when we do. It demonstrates faith.

PRAYER: “Give us stalwart hearts to pursue the prayers of your righteous purpose until you come.”

Revival Will Come

God gives us a call to pray and tells us what He will do if we respond.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Hosea 10:12c, “For it is time to seek the LORD, **until** he comes and showers his righteousness on you.”
- God wants to bring revival. In the Scripture He called His people to return to Him.

PERSIST & PRAY

- Pray various Scriptures each day.
- Recite it or meditate on it.
- Picture its fulfillment symbolically or what it might look like in your ministry.
- Scripture I pray each week:
 - Monday** – Acts 2:42-47; Isaiah 11:2-3a; Isaiah 41:17-20.
 - Tuesday** – Psalm 34:8; Zephaniah 3:17; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 17:15; Hebrews 12:14-15.
 - Wednesday** – Hosea 10:12; Isaiah 58:11-12; Luke 18:1.
 - Thursday** – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Habakkuk 3:2; Revelation 3:1-13.
 - Friday** - Ephesians 3:16-19; Mark 11:22-25; Luke 3:4-6; Psalm 68:9; Isaiah 57:14-15.
 - Saturday** – Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 2:14-22.
 - Sunday** – Acts 3:19; Romans 15:13; Psalm 63.

EXAMPLE: Isaiah 41:17-20 (NIV). I picture deserts becoming olive groves.

REVIVAL CARDS

These cards are meant to catalyze prayer in your personal life, discipleship, Bible Study, church, on a mission trip, with your ministry team, or during a prayer walk. May the prayers lifted up through these cards be as seed sown toward the purpose of God on this earth. May He reveal to you the power of prayer, the gift of prayer and HIMSELF: the reward of prayer. FOLLOW LINKS BELOW:

- [Prayer for Revival Card Instructions](#)
- [Revival Cards](#)
(PDF for self-printing)

“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unending love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, **until** he comes and showers his righteousness on you.” Hosea 10:12

Self-Guided Spiritual GPS

*Adapted from the Spiritual GPS Exercise by Danny Mullins, Sustainable Faith
By: Dominique Dawson and Hung Lu

Prep:

- Get comfortable, close your eyes, and feel the ground underneath your feet.
- Try to be still and quiet before the Lord.
- Relax and take deep breaths (inhale for 4 secs, hold for 3 secs, exhale for 4 secs and hold for 3 secs)

Pray: “Give us the grace to know where we have been, where we are now, and hope for what’s ahead, even if we don’t feel it right now.”

Process:

1. Physically- What have you noticed in your body?
2. Emotionally- What are the principal emotions you have felt? Name the feelings specifically.
([Feelings Wheel](#))
3. Mentally-What has dominated your thoughts? Where have you found your thoughts wandering to?
4. Spiritually-Has this situation affected your walk with God? How So?
5. Relationally-Has this taken a toll on your relationships, family, loved ones, etc.?
6. Longings-When you are quiet, what do you find yourself longing for most?
7. Read over your answers slowly. Does anything stand out?
8. How does the Lord want to meet you? What do you sense the Lord is inviting you to?



Naya Jeevan Breakthrough Prayer 2022 Unreached People Group Focus

RAJPUT PEOPLE

“May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord, when they hear what you have decreed.”

-Psalm 138:4

The Rajput (rahj-poot) people group descends from the historical kings and feudal lords of India. Today, nearly 46 million of them can be found in almost all strata of society while maintaining a very strong group identity. Goddess worship and astrology dominate their Hindu religious practice and there are few known followers of Jesus among them. Hundreds of church-planters are needed to reach this vast and influential people group with the gospel of Jesus Christ

- ❖ For humility in the Rajput people that they may see their need of a Savior.
- ❖ That God would raise up Rajput believers with a heart to reach their own people.
- ❖ That 2022 would bring amazing, miraculous works of power among the Rajputs, displaying the authority of Jesus.
- ❖ In 2022, church-planters will roll out new media outreaches designed to engage men and women with the Gospel. Pray this will result in groups meeting to learn from the Bible about the saving power of Jesus

Rajput Prayer Updates

By GG

Praise God for how He is working to bring the Rajput people to Himself! There are two new initiatives underway that are focused on the Rajputs. First, there is a new media-to-movement ministry that is currently being set up: Amritvani Media. Amritvani Media’s vision is that Rajputs (and other high caste Hindus) would hear the gospel message through online media sources and have an opportunity then to pursue deeper understanding of Jesus Christ through contact with local believers. This new venture has many people using their different skill sets to provide an avenue for gospel proclamation and discipleship. While much progress has been made, there are still a few things that need to be settled and done before the media campaigns can begin. May the Lord bless Amritvani Media, leading the campaigns, and drawing Rajputs close to Him! May He bless the efforts of the multipliers so that there may be a church-planting movement among the Rajput people!

The second initiative that is also in progress is the Rajput Prayer Network (RPN). The RPN desires to see individuals, churches, and organizations praying for God to bring His gospel among the Rajputs and for a church planting movement to start among them. We know that church planting movements happen after prayer movements happen. So the RPN desires to facilitate intercessory prayer for the Rajputs in joining with God as He moves to bring these people to Himself. Currently the RPN is giving monthly email prayer points, but it’s also considering other prayer initiatives as well. If you would like to receive these prayer points and join in praying for the Rajputs, please email rajputprayernetwork@gmail.com.

Naya Jeevan Ministry Prayer Points

Updated as of September 2022

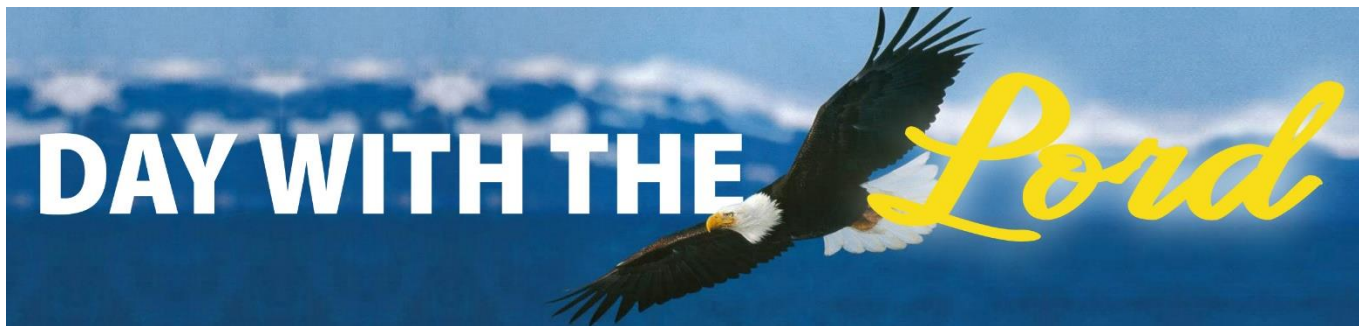
Offering strategies, resources, and training to mobilize believers to share Jesus as good news with South Asian neighbors

Pray for:

- ❖ South Asian churches, pastors and ministries to model love towards their neighbors and caring towards the hurting
- ❖ Political leaders to promote peace, justice and freedom
- ❖ God to raise up a new generation of church leaders for South Asia to replace those lost in the pandemic
- ❖ Covid fears which are hampering group and personal outreach
- ❖ Challenging goals of creating additional video resources for Love Your Neighbor and other programs
- ❖ Passion and excellence to be maintained in the 20+ Love Your Neighbor trainers on five continents
- ❖ For the half-dozen new associate trainers-in-training in several countries
- ❖ To strategically connect more ministry resources with more partners who want to use them this year
- ❖ For our plans to expand Breakthrough resources and equipping efforts
- ❖ Fruitfulness of explorejesusbible.com evangelistic website
- ❖ For the 3,000 Nepali Concise Bibles being distributed by Naya Jeevan partners in North America to their Hindu neighbors, to be a tool the Holy Spirit uses to bring many to salvation

Thank God for:

- ❖ Love Your Neighbor training that is helping believers share Christ out of compassion and sensitivity; for new open doors specially in India that will greatly expand our reach
- ❖ The internet outreach with P2C expanding into new South Asian language groups
- ❖ Faithful financial partners and Churches and for God's gracious provision
- ❖ Adding new video ministry resources this year, including Hindi subtitling on all LYN videos
- ❖ Our administrative assistant Ronald Christopher
- ❖ Our ministry representative Jasmine Jose
- ❖ New volunteer Breakthrough Coordinator Reena Shrestha



Prayer Points for South Asia

Courtesy of IMB (International Mission Board): <https://www.imb.org>

Courtesy of JCC (Judeo-Christian Clarion): <https://judeochristianclarion.com>

Courtesy of SALI (State Anti-Conversion Laws in India): <https://tinyurl.com/ACLaws>

Bangladesh

Please pray for new believers in the Chittagong area. They are under much pressure to revert back to their old religion. They also are discriminated against by family members and neighbors who have not yet chosen to follow Jesus.

Record rainfall in northeastern Bangladesh have caused unprecedented levels of flooding, affecting vast numbers of people. Millions lack dry shelter, water, and dry food. Whole villages and cities sit under several feet of water. Many areas are without power, and while train travel has been restored, many roads and an airport runway are still submerged. Authorities continue their rescue and relief efforts. Pray for the millions of people who've lost everything in the floods--their homes, their belongings, their livestock. Their need is great, and many lack hope. Pray that rescue and relief efforts by the army, navy, and other organizations will be effective and widespread.

As the hot season returns, many lives are affected by the extreme weather both in the city and in rural areas of Bangladesh. The heat isn't just uncomfortable, it's dangerous for many. Ask that believers will be strengthened and not deterred by the weather, and pray for protection again exhaustion and discouragement as they seek to minister to their neighbors. Pray that the most vulnerable, such as the homeless and those who beg daily on the streets, will know and live in God's salvation, and ask Him to supply the basic needs to sustain their precious lives.

A few months ago, there was another fire in the refugee camps. The camps are set up like very small row homes. There is a long line of shelters, with a three-foot-wide road separating them from the next row. Some places have more space between them, but even a small fire can affect many homes. These types of events increase fear and desperation among the residents. Please pray that they will trust in God for their protection.

India

The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and various other factors have led to supply-chain troubles that have resulted in difficulties for the Bible Society of India (BSI) to print copies of God's Word. Thank the Lord for the work that BSI is doing to try to make God's Word available! Pray today that paper mills and printers will be able to source the materials necessary to continue to print the Bible in India. Pray that nothing will hinder the good news getting to those who so desperately need it.

India's Freedom of Religion Acts or "anti-conversion" laws are state-level statutes that have been enacted to regulate religious conversions. The laws are in force in eight out of twenty-nine states: Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand. Please pray for India.

Pray for the Badhiphul people of Uttar Pradesh, India. They are an extremely small people group, numbering only around 600. They are traditionally known for being ironsmiths and carpenters. With a people group this small, their location has been hard to pinpoint. Pray that the Badhiphul people will be located this year and that local believers can be found who have a burden to engage this people group with the gospel. Pray that the first church will be established among the Badhiphul.

Please pray for believing women in western Uttar Pradesh (Braj Speakers) who are being trained in evangelism and discipleship tools. Many women are being equipped and sent out into the harvest to share the gospel and make disciples. Many who are being trained are expressing their gratitude for finally have a means to share the gospel. They understood the importance of sharing the good news, but simply did not know what to say. Pray that God will establish the work of their hands ([Psalm 90:17](#)) as they share among the lost

Many local church planters and leaders (in Jharkhand, India) are relatively young in their faith and often live isolated from the larger Christian community, as they're the only ones in their villages who follow Jesus. Unfortunately, that can lead to discouragement, doubt, and even moral failure. Please pray that good accountability measures will be put in place among the church planters and leaders. Pray [1 Timothy 4:7-12 \(ESV\)](#) for them, asking that they will "train [themselves] for godliness" with their "hope set on the living God," setting an example for the believers in every aspect of their lives.

When you think of India, you probably don't think of it as a place where there are issues with fertility; however, many Mappila struggle with that difficult topic. Many women say that the pressure from society to have children is immense. Please be in prayer for Mappila Muslim women specifically, as they are often expected to stay at home and be mothers immediately after marriage.

In the rural villages of Karnataka, India, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal issues are very common due to the lack of clean water. This affects the growth of children and keeps the adults from being able to have the strength to work. Two women have been trained in a simple, affordable system that will provide clean water for these rural people. Please pray that they will be able to use this skill to enter into these rural villages that are otherwise cut off to outsiders.

Pakistan

A movement among the Punjabi people occurred just shy of a century ago on the subcontinent of South Asia. Millions of people in what was then called India came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Since the time of that movement, many things have happened, including the establishment of Pakistan as a sovereign Muslim nation. There has been little fruit since that mighty work was done, and this can be attributed to many different things. Please pray that whatever the obstacles to the gospel may be, they will be overcome! Ask that the hearts of the Punjabi Muslim people will be softened and that they will have ears that listen to the truth of the gospel. Pray that millions of Punjabis will find hope in Jesus Christ and come to a saving knowledge of who God truly is and what He has done. "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" ([John 14:13 ESV](#)).

People are really struggling due to the financial burden from inflation this year. Please ask the Lord to provide for the Pakistani people, and pray for the economy of Pakistan to begin to thrive.

As a people group, the Dumaki are small in number and may be fading into a larger people group nearby in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. Please pray for biblical resources to become available in their Domaaki language. Pray for the survival of their people, and ask that those who have heard will believe the gospel that has been shared.

Sri Lanka

Please lift up the people of Sri Lanka as they struggle through an economic and political crisis. The government and social services are non-functioning. Day-to-day life for many has become difficult. As well, please remember brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing an increase in persecution. In one week this year, several had to be hospitalized as a result. Ask for boldness to proclaim truth and opportunities to share the Father's love with a nation that is struggling.

Maldives

Tourists know Maldives as an island paradise. However, gangs and criminal organizations run rampant. In some cases government officials are in league with these criminals. “It is common knowledge that certain gangs are in alliance with politicians, parties and security forces and are used for the violent intimidation of dissidents. Radical Islamic groups that want to ferret out Christians and atheists also have connections and influence with gangs and corrupt police networks” (WWR). Maldives has the highest number of jihadist fighters per capita in the world: approximately 200 individuals have left Maldives to fight for ISIS, and these terrorists are welcomed back home as heroes.

Government corruption is a big problem. Al Jazeera produced a documentary exposing corruption in the government, entitled *stealing paradise*. It reveals details of an attempted \$1.5 billion money laundering scheme as well as other cases of bribery, fraud, and other crimes. It was aired on the national cable system in Maldives despite warnings from the government not to do so.

Nepal

Poverty and Malnutrition: In some of the remote villages in Nepal’s westernmost province, children and women are dying of malnutrition and a lack of health facilities. At least 14 percent of women in Nepal’s poorest district do not live past the age of 40. Nearly 41 percent of the children in Muktikot are fighting malnutrition.

Nepal has one of the world’s fastest-growing Christian communities, with the NCS estimating the Nepalese Christian population to number 1.5 million people. The vitality of Nepal’s Christian community necessitates robust organizations to represent them on the national stage—Christians only make up a small fraction of the Hindu majority population. Unfortunately, just as Nepal’s Christian community has grown, the amount of Christian persecution in the country has also grown. In 2018, Nepal amended its Penal Code, banning proselytization and conversion to religions other than Hinduism. Under these new laws, at least 13 Christians, have been fighting conversion charges in the courts. Pray for the success of Christian organizations in their fight against persecution in Nepal.

Tribal Peoples – Pray for any believers there may be within the tribal peoples or near-culture peoples to be a light in the darkness. Pray for the blinded eyes of tribal peoples to be opened and for their hearts to understand the love of God so they may be delivered from darkness and turn to him.

Hindu peoples of the Central Hills – The Central Hills are situated south of the snowy Himalayan region. People in the Central Hills populate mainly river and stream areas that enable rice cultivation and are warm enough for farming grain and potatoes. There is also a heavy reliance on animal husbandry. Food deficits and financial needs drive emigration, as people move out of the hills to seek employment. The increasingly urbanized Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys fall within the hill region. There are nine unengaged, unreached people groups within these areas. Pray for workers to labor there with love.

Bhutan

Pray for revival in the Bhutanese home churches. Pray for the effectiveness of the Jesus film among the different ethnic groups, with a bountiful harvest of souls. Ask God to open the spiritual ears of the Bhutanese as they listen to Christian broadcasts through TV and internet.

Pray that God will supernaturally reveal Himself to Bhutanese through dreams and visions. Pray over the spiritual principalities and powers to be broken that have kept the Drukpa bound for many generation.

Sources: <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2022/7/3/photos-how-malnutrition-is-killing-children-in-a-nepal-village>
<https://www.persecution.org/2022/06/11/nepal-christian-society-celebrates-19th-assembly/>