

#PRAYGEORGIA

INTRODUCTION

So far, 2020 has brought great challenges and crises. In desperate times like these, God's people are to cry out to Him for forgiveness, guidance, and hope.

The Prophet Joel said: "Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord" (Joel 1:14).

What we need most is the presence and power of God. God's presence is the essence and source of LIFE. Just think about how the Bible begins. Mankind dwelling in unbroken fellowship with God in his presence in the Garden! Think about how the Bible ends — God coming to fully dwell again with man in the new heavens and the new earth!

The rest of the Bible is all about how God has made it possible for us to be restored to his presence — because in our sin we've all walked away from God, we've been born with our back to God, and we've sinned and fallen short of the glory of God! Our sin separates us from God's presence. But praise God He did not leave us without a way of return to his presence!

Christ-followers have been given access to the very presence and power of God through faith in Jesus Christ. As we walk with Jesus each day in His Word and prayer, we experience the constant renewal of God's presence and power in our lives.

Truly, prayer is the path to God's presence and power in our lives. It is through prayer that we connect with God, commune with Him, and experience his presence and power!

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FASTING

Along with coming together in prayer, a different region will be asked to fast each day this week. The designated region will be noted at the bottom of each page.

In Scripture, God's people fast and pray when they are desperate for God. When the situation is so dire that only the Lord can bring help and healing, that is when fasting and prayer are our only recourse. The purpose of fasting is never explicitly stated in Scripture but its connection to penitence, mourning, and supplication suggests a self-denial that opens one to God and to the immaterial aspects of life.

Fasting is a biblical discipline given for the purpose of God's creation to humble themselves before their God. Without our usual comforts, we turn to God with more honesty and intensity. There we connect with the richness of God, who truly meets our needs. Fasting is utter dependence upon the sustaining power and presence of Almighty God.

The word *fast* in the original language references the abstaining from food, but Paul took that further when he wrote that a marital couple's consensual abstaining from physical intimacy as a type of fasting (1 Cor. 7:5). Therefore, fasting can be more than just giving up food. Not everyone is healthy enough to skip meals. Diabetics, women who are pregnant, the elderly, or persons with underlying health problems, should not skip meals. But those of us who are healthy can and should fast as a part of our spiritual discipline.

With that in mind, perhaps your fast could involve one of these areas:

- Fast for 24 hours (drink lots of water).
- Fast for one meal.
- Fast sun up to sun down.
- Juice fast (no food but drink juice).
- Fast from social media, television, entertainment, etc. Use that time to pray and read God's Word.

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REPENTANCE

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Repentance: This word communicates the idea of turning. It is a re-orientation of the heart and mind. It is an inward change of direction, focus, or desire. This inward turning results in an outward turning — a turning from sin to surrender. Repentance is an inward change of heart that results in the outward action of abandoning sin and pursuing righteousness.

Sin is found in our own hearts, in our churches, and in our society. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, we learn that repentance of sin is required for God to hear our cries and prayers. In other words, it is impossible to smuggle our sin into God's presence. Unless we are willing to confess the sin in our lives and surrender to Jesus, then we might as well pray into a muted microphone. So, let's quit trying to smuggle our sin. Let's confess it. Let's repent of it and experience the renewal that comes from God's presence and power!

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to lead us to pursue His presence and power in prayer with repentance.
- Ask God to search our hearts and reveal any and all sin in our lives.
- Confess any and all known sin in your life. Confess sin in our churches. Confess sin in our society.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child a small magnifying glass with a card that says, "Ask God to show you the sin in your own life and repent (or turn away) from that sin."



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UNITY AND HARMONY

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Imagine this kind of unity with God, in social media posts, in marriages, between parents and children, in churches, among neighbors, and in our political life. We are in need of a revival of Ephesians 4:1-3 across our state. God can do it and will do it if we ask Him.

There are different considerations we should make when approaching unity and harmony with our fellow Christians and with others. Consider your responsibility in the disagreement. Approach conversations with humility, and acknowledge the fact that you may be in the wrong. Consider how you speak, and speak carefully while demonstrating love. Consider how to gently speak truth to others who are wrong in a disagreement. Consider ways you can sacrifice to ensure you remain united after a conflict.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that Georgians will walk in long-suffering and respond humbly to others.
- Pray that Georgians will walk in love and make sacrifices to see that others needs are met.
- Pray that Georgians will work hard towards achieving and maintaining unity.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child a heart with a card that says, "Pray that all Christians would seek to love others and strive to live in peace and unity."



TODAY, THE NORTHEAST
REGION IS FASTING.



Georgia Baptist
Mission Board

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HEALING

Mark 2: 4-5 (NIV)

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

In these uncertain times, we can take assurance that our God rules over the world and everything in it. No circumstance or condition is a surprise to Him. We know that He loves to see us live daily, even moment by moment, in complete dependence upon Him. He sees each and every need we have – the needs that are on the surface and the needs that are within our hearts. This is displayed perfectly in Mark 2: 4-5, when Jesus heals the paralyzed man both spiritually and physically.

The past few months have brought suffering upon many people. The effects of COVID-19, racial injustice, riots, and unrest have left so many people broken and in need of healing. Today, let us focus on praying for the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing of our brothers and sisters in Christ across Georgia.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for physical healing for all those who are suffering from the physical impact of the novel coronavirus.
- Pray for emotional healing from the trauma and stress that this year has brought upon us.
- Pray for spiritual healing. Pray that God would set His Church on fire with a passion for the gospel among both preachers and people.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child a Band-Aid with a card that says, “Pray for healing in our state and in our country.”



#PRAYGEORGIA

SALVATION

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (ESV)

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

As we look around our nation in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, global protests, and political unrest, it is obvious that our country needs to experience the saving power of Jesus Christ. I believe that if you and I pray, we can experience a spiritual revival right before our eyes. As we pray for salvation, let us be reminded of what it means to be saved. When we commit our lives to Christ, Jesus releases us from the grasp of sin and Satan. He reconnects us back to God and redirects us so that our lives are in alignment with Him. He saves us from the presence of sin when we go to heaven.

Similar to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, let us desire more than anything for people to be saved. Paul was very interested in proclaiming his testimony about God, helping others know Christ and their need for salvation, and strengthening the faith of others through the power and sufficiency of God.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that God will embolden Christians to share their testimonies and seek the salvation of those around them.
- Pray for churches to be more evangelistic.
- Pray for a record number of salvations in our nation.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child several craft sticks with a card that says, “Write the names of your friends who aren’t Christians on these craft sticks. Pray for them to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.”



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SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

2 Chronicles 23:16 (NIV)

Jehoiada then made a covenant that he, the people and the king would be the Lord's people.

The word “renewal” is defined as “an instance of resuming an activity or state after an interruption.” This year has been filled with many challenges that have interrupted our normal day-to-day lives. These are experiences that no one could have prepared for. When life takes unexpected turns, it is easy for our relationship with the Lord to be pushed to the side or be put on pause. Perhaps you have gotten off track with reading the Word, with praying, or with serving others. So, how can you work towards renewing your relationship with the Lord?

2 Chronicles 23 shows us that we need to take courage and strengthen ourselves to get back to what God has called us to, instead of allowing sinful actions to stand in our way. Regardless of what is going on in the world, we are called to be the Lord's people, living in a way that is pleasing to Him. We need to deal with the sin in our lives and make a covenant with the Lord that we will live for Him.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that God would grant us courage to stand for righteousness and holiness.
- Pray that we will be quick to deal with sin and its strongholds.
- Pray that we would do what's right in the sight of the Lord.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child a white bandana (or white cloth) with a card that says, “Raising a white flag symbolizes surrender. Pray that all Christians would fully surrender their lives to God and His will for their lives.”



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WISDOM

James 1:5-6 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

We have all been in situations where we have needed wisdom from the Lord. This is especially true in these unique times where so many important decisions are having to be made. Should we return to live worship services? Should our small groups begin meeting in person again? How can we minister to a world that is so angry and hurting?

When you find yourself in a place where you need wisdom to make a decision, the good news is that you are exactly where God wants you to be! James 1:5-6 tells us that if we need wisdom, all we have to do is ask God and believe that He will provide it generously. The Lord wants us to turn to Him when we need guidance. There are a few ways you can better position yourself to receive wisdom from God. First, you should make it your top priority to spend time with Jesus. Next, you should use the mind that the Lord has gifted you with to think through your situation. Lastly, you can seek godly counsel from those around you.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for church leaders to have wisdom when navigating reopening churches, small groups, children's ministry, etc.
- Pray for wisdom to be peacemakers in an angry world.
- Pray for wisdom to be God's ambassadors.



JUST FOR KIDS

Give each child a picture of a watch or clock face with a card that says, "Pray that we would all seek to spend more time with God to gain true wisdom and guidance for the days ahead."



#PRAYGEORGIA THANK YOU!

Thank you for the contributions of these Georgia Baptist pastors who helped write this prayer guide:

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Repentance

Kyle Walker, Pastor, Cartersville First Baptist (NW)

Unity and Harmony

David Mills, Pastor, Beech Haven Baptist Church (NE)

Healing

Al Wright, Pastor, First Baptist Waynesboro (EC)

Salvation

Emory Berry, Jr., Pastor, Greenforest Community Baptist Church (WC)

Spiritual Renewal

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Sherwood Baptist Church (SW)

Wisdom

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