



Prayer Resource

“I have trusted in the Lord without hesitation or doubts.” (Psalm 25: 1)

In this, the 25th year of the World Weekend of Prayer, can we look back over this quarter of a century and say, “Yes, Lord, we have not faltered, in you alone we have trusted.” **What about the next 25 years? Will we trust Him?**

Think of the millions of children’s prayers that have reached up to God, that have pleaded for Jesus to intervene. How has that changed the world? What are we all being taught by this annual weekend commitment?

Some of those first young people involved in the prayer weekend are now in their 30s. Who are they teaching about prayer and its impact?

How can we best pave the way for the next 25 years? What do we need to teach young people about prayer today?

Much of the work of Viva is based on training: to raise the skill level of those who are committed to work together to transform the lives of children at risk in our, often marginalised, communities; training children, young people, parents and teachers. **Teach me!**

Combining online and Covid-19 safe physical activities in the newly recovering world, let us gather in record numbers to pray. **Let us trust in Jesus.** Let us both teach and be open to receive instruction, that God may rescue millions and millions more children and young people at risk, over the next 25 years.

Just as Moses says to God: **“If you are pleased with me, teach me more about yourself. Then I can know you. And I can continue to please you.”** (Exodus 33: 13a)

In this prayer resource:

- Bible verses
- Answered prayer from Viva testimonies round the world
- Inspiration from two chapters from Matthew 7 & 25
- Activity ideas
- Prayer points

Unpacking our theme: 'Teach me'

Psalm 25: David pours out his heart to God

Read through this Psalm. (For younger children focus on verses 1-6.)

Despite his leadership skills, David feels very vulnerable and under threat. What can we learn from this song of intimacy between David and God?

How do you identify with this emotional journey of the psalmist?

Can you find touchstones for your children's work with other churches in your community?

Can you find applications for young lives at risk in your city?

I trust.

God is trustworthy. Who or what are you trusting?

The LORD is to be fully trusted. 'All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful,' (Ps 25:10a).

Trust Him.

Teach me.

Stop doing things your way. Open your mind to God. Wait on Him. He really does know best. Ask the LORD to teach you his paths (Ps 25: 4).

Instruct me.

Stop blaming others. Don't join the gossipers and the moaners.

Look at your own mistakes first. Then know that God forgives as we see in this Psalm as David asks the Lord to forgive his iniquity (verse 11).

Let Jesus instruct you. Listen to the Father. Read the Bible. Tune in to the teachers of God's love for children.

Rescue me.

Are you lonely? The psalmist David was.

Are you troubled? Are you in anguish? Do others hate you? The great warrior King, David, claims all these troubles.

BUT, he knows God will rescue him. Take refuge in Christ.

"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" (John 6: 68)

The next 25 years.

Look at the first three verses of Psalm 25. Will you embrace David's thinking asking God to show you, guide you? Put your hope in God, setting personal goals beyond June 2021, even to 2046?

Test me.

Can you let God in, to examine your heart? Seek pure motives.

LORD shape my ambition. Holy Spirit, test me.

Go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com to download resources for WWP 2021

Join our Facebook page at facebook.com/WWPrayer

Teach us, Lord

BIBLE STORY ANCHOR

Wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7: 24-27)

STORY

As Jesus sees the crowds, he goes up on the mountainside to teach them. His instructions in the Sermon on the Mount are full of challenge. He wants us to overturn our half-hearted approach to life and embrace love in action, carrying it to new heights of compassion. Towards the end of his address he tells the parable of the wise and foolish builders. Putting Jesus' words into practice is like the wise man who built his house on the rock not the sand.

APPLICATION

Let us examine all our teaching resources against the wisdom of Jesus. May we challenge behaviour through the looking glass of Christ's instruction, compassion and example.

ACTIVITY

Make and decorate two small paper houses. Write a verse from the Sermon on the Mount on one and fix it with tape or similar on a large stone on some kind of tray or bowl. Place the second house on a square of support paper coloured as sand with the word sand written on it. Pour water over both houses as the rain in Jesus' story. Set the foundations so that the house on the sand collapses but the house you have placed on the 'solid' foundation stands. Try out the materials to make sure the illustration will work.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord let us be passionate about learning everyday from the Bible. Cover all the church leaders, all the volunteers and the children and teenagers we engage with in the challenge of Jesus' words.

BIBLE VERSE

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." (Matthew 7: 25)

TESTIMONY

Red Viva Costa Rica held a prayer event where a 9-year-old boy prayed for his father who had struggled with an alcohol and aggression problem for some time. The following week the Lord answered his prayers. The boy's father approached the pastor asking for help to change, so he could make amends and reconcile himself with God.

BIBLE STORY ANCHOR

Parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)

APPLICATION

Invest our time and resources to alleviate the suffering of children, teenagers and families in our communities. Jesus is coming again, may he find us at work for his glory.

ACTIVITY

Make a number of small circles out of yellow paper to represent "coins" or the "talents" mentioned in the parable. Make enough coins to represent the 8 talents the master gave to his servants but also make enough extra coins to give to your participants. Place all the "coins" in a small box representing a treasure chest. Ask the children to chose several "coins" and have them write something on each coin that they will share with their community based on a talent that God has given them. For example, they could send a note to encourage a friend, seeing encouragement as a "talent" God has given them. As the leader you may want to take several coins and write examples of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22 such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...), helping the children see how they can use those "talents" to help their community. *Adapt, develop and rehearse this initial idea for your circumstances.*

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, give us the Spirit's wisdom to see the talents and gifts you have given children and young people in our midst. Give us the courage to allow them to use the gifts that you have entrusted to them.

BIBLE VERSE

"So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." (Matthew 25: 25)

TESTIMONY

The father of a teenager who lives in a slum in the intervention area of Delhi Network, India recently lost his job, putting his family in financial trouble. The teenager prayed to God for his father's situation and to his joy his father soon got a job as a security supervisor, which was a better position than his previous job. Through the World Weekend of Prayer this family came to trust that God does answer their prayers.

Please pray for:

Connecting: that the Holy Spirit teaches us how best to invest our talents to link and inspire a greater number of churches and organisations with the goal of changing children's lives and their situation.

Capacity building: that we are ever more enthusiastic and creative to teach and receive training to strengthen families, to reduce risks for children and to raise the quality of our response to children's needs.

Collective action: Let us embrace Jesus' love for children (Mark 10:14-16) in working together. May his teaching be the foundation of our programmes and projects for improved well-being of young people and children in our locality.

City influence: that through our passionate yet humble communication we are recognised as a credible and influential actor, and partner by administrative authorities, schools, other NGOs and government across our city.

Join us in this prayer

Thank you Lord for listening to children, young people and adults praying through our annual weekend of prayer these past 25 years. Thank you for your amazing and often miraculous response. What a difference you make, Jesus!

Lord, we know how you love when children and teenagers pray. How delighted you are when we listen to you.

In you, Father God, I put my trust. Teach me to build on the foundation of your words Jesus. Instruct me Holy Spirit how to apply my gifts and resources for children at risk across our city. May I be open even more to team work as you open up the next 25 years of opportunity to serve children.

Amen.

What could you do next?

Teach me to pray. Help me to learn how to listen to God in my prayer time. "Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening,'" (1 Samuel 3: 10).

Teach me to change. Ask the LORD at the beginning of each day, "What should I do differently?" Change begins with me. Where and how does He want you to intervene for children and young people today? Let's not rush back to do things in the way we did before Covid-19, but let's try to understand the lessons God had for us, how He might redeem Covid-19 for his use.

Teach me to act. Look for opportunities to teach and be taught to become a greater influence in your community. What have we learnt from our response to the Covid-19 impact?

Teach me to give. Reflect on the parable of the talents. Are you ready for Jesus' return? Can you give of your time, your skills or your resources to the work of Viva for children at risk?