

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords Prayer, December 2024

Never stop praying.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT)

Prayer is vital to everything we do. We want to follow Jesus' example and connect with God; to ask for peace, transformation, salvation; and to pray for the impact of Lifewords work around the world. Please join us as we pray this month.

1–7 December

The start of Advent

As Advent begins, we're excited about *Little Book of Advent* – our new resource that helps churches, communities, and individuals prepare for Christmas. Framed around three core acts, or stages, *Little Book of Advent* dwells in the waiting and anticipation centuries before the birth of Jesus, celebrates the promises about Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, and the fulfilment of the prophecies, and joins us in the now as we wait for Jesus' promised return.

"Little Book of Advent is an invitation to actively wait for the coming of Jesus, to witness the fulfilment of his life, and to anticipate his return," says Kris Calver from Lifewords. "So, throughout the Little Book, there is a sense of flickering comfort and hope in what has been fulfilled, held in tension with the reality that we are still waiting – but this time for Jesus to come again."

Throughout December, we want to help you get the most out of this new resource – our downloadable guide, *Join the Advent/ure*, offers practical tips and creative ideas for how your church, community, family or household can use and interact with the *Little Book of Advent* throughout the season. It provides ways to engage with the themes of waiting, hoping, and preparing for the coming of Christ, helping individuals and communities reflect deeply on the meaning of Advent.

>> Visit www.lifewords.global/blog to read more about the concept and design of *Little Book of Advent*.

>> Visit www.lifewords.global/shop to order copies of *Little Book of Advent* and to download the free companion resource, *Join the Advent/ure*.

Pray with us

Give thanks for the season of Advent and for how it helps us prepare for and reflect on Jesus' birth. Give thanks for the opportunities we have to extend welcome and peace to others. Pray that God would help us use these opportunities to share good news,

8–14 December

VerseFirst x Beatitudes

In August last year, our Instagram platform VerseFirst began a 5-month campaign to encourage people around the world to engage with the beatitudes, and to create content of their own using the nine “beats” from the NINE BEATS project, and featured in the Ninefold Path resource, as prompts. So far, VerseFirst has seen a rise in views and interactions, an increase in follower numbers, and engagement from new and existing followers who are embracing the call to creatively express their experience of the beatitudes.

Now, over this month of December, the focus is on the “way of radical love” – not only a fitting end to the campaign, but also a great way to mark Christmas and what the concept of radical love means in that context. “This initiative brings together VerseFirst, NINE BEATS and the Ninefold Path,” says Elizabeth King who is heading up the campaign. “It’s encouraging people to think about and engage with the messages of trust, lament, humility, justice, compassion, right motive, peacemaking, surrender, and radical love in a world being torn apart by war, hatred, and division.”

VerseFirst can be found on Facebook and Instagram – @versefirst.

Pray with us

Give thanks for this campaign and for how it is encouraging us to engage creatively with the beatitudes. Pray for the people who are creating and interacting with the content – that they would be prompted to explore more about God and the Bible.

15–21 December

Choose Life in Brazil

Choose Life is our curriculum for young people aged 9 to 14 years, that uses interactive lessons based on biblical values to help children identify choices and their consequences. “Through games and artwork, Choose Life helps children reflect about what is going on around them, enabling them to deal with the moral issues of life,” says Cleisse Andrade from Lifewords in Brazil. “Issues like how to prevent and resolve conflicts, or how to relate to their local community. We look at matters such as honesty and integrity; prevention of drug use; HIV/AIDS and other aspects of safe sexual behaviour. Conscientious decisions, thoughtfully made, will help the children for the rest of their lives.”

In Brazil, over 20 churches and social projects are using Choose Life with more than 620 children. Cleide Alabarce, from a Baptist church in Santa Cruz, Cascavel, in southern Brazil shared her experience of using Choose Life: “The majority of our children live in Mutirão, a very poor and violent place, close to our church. Some have parents and brothers in prison for different reasons: alcoholism, drugs, unemployment ... which leaves them very vulnerable. The church has fought to provide a more dignified life for each of them, using Choose Life. During the Choose Others module we realised that caring about others, and respecting and loving others and oneself, are seeds being planted in their lives, minds, and hearts. During classes and at the end of the module they showed more care and respect for their classmates.”

Pray with us

Give thanks for Choose Life and the impact biblical values are having on the lives of children. Praise God for how the Bible is giving young people tools to help shape their values and world view.

Pray for the churches and projects using Choose Life, that they would have practical resources together with compassion and patience to work alongside the children, helping them make good choices for life.

22–28 December

Peace this Christmas

“Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.” Luke 1:78-79 (NLT)

As we enter Christmas week, join us in reflecting on the year that has gone, and in praying for our world. As we finish another year, and look to the new year, pray with us that God’s peace would reign and that the Bible’s values of hope, peace, and joy would bring change to situations of despair, suffering, and darkness.

Throughout this year, people have been sharing Lifeworlds resources all over the world, helping people engage with the Bible and discover God. Please pray that together, we can bring hope, light, and love to communities everywhere.

Thank you for your prayers this year. We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Thank you for praying with us! Your partnership in prayer is vital to all that we do as we share the Bible’s life words around the world. You can make a donation to our work online at www.lifeworlds.global/donate, by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.