

Praying for Our Nation

1. We need to pray for our nation.

a. Praying for our nation pleases God.

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

b. Praying for our nation determines our welfare.

"...work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7 (NLT)

c. Praying for our nation is the most powerful thing we can do.

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

James 5:16b (NLT)

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33b (NLT)

2. We need to get our hearts right so we can pray for our nation effectively.

"At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land." 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NLT)

a. We need to pray that God will wake us up.

"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, '**Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.**' So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."

Ephesians 5:10-17 (NLT)

"...let's not sleepwalk through life like those others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart. People sleep at night and get drunk at night. But not us! Since we're creatures of Day, let's act like it."

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 (Message)

b. We need to humble ourselves.

"Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 18:10-14 (NLT)

c. We need to seek God's face.

Seeking God's face = Seeking God's presence, wanting Him more than anything else.

"Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, 'Seek My face,' My heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek.'" Psalm 27:7-8 (NKJV)

"O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water." Psalm 63:1 (NLT)

d. We need to ask God to show us our sins so we can turn from our wicked ways.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

3. We need to ask God to give us His love and compassion for people in our country who are far from Him.

“As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, ‘Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?’ But Jesus turned and rebuked them.”

Luke 9:51-55

“...love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:44-45a (NLT)

4. We need to keep praying for our nation and never give up.

“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ‘There was a judge in a certain city,’ he said, ‘who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, “Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.” The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, “I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!” Then the Lord said, ‘Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?’” Luke 18:1-8 (NLT)

“We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.” Psalm 33:20-22 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 07-04-21 • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions

Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-16 and then discuss the following questions:

1. Why does God think humbling ourselves is an important part of prayer?
2. Why is repentance an important part of prayer?
3. How good are you at seeking God’s face? What’s the difference between seeking God’s face and asking God to give us good things?
4. Does it really make a difference if we pray for our leaders and our nation? (see Jeremiah 29:7 & 1 Timothy 2:1-6)
5. Discuss the following quotations:

“Let a few of God’s people, they don’t need to be many, get thoroughly right with God themselves – the rest will count for nothing unless you start right there; then let them band themselves together to pray for a revival until God opens the heavens and comes down. Then let them put themselves at God’s disposal to use them as He sees fit. That will bring a revival to any church, any community.” R.A. Torrey

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV)

6. Spend some time as a group praying for:
 - Civil discourse between people and organizations who disagree
 - Christians to have a hunger for God’s Word
 - Opportunities for Christians to show love and understanding to people of all races/lifestyles/backgrounds in our country
 - Spiritual awakening in America
 - Christians to make it a priority to gather for worship, small groups, and service
 - Spiritual power, courage, conviction, and boldness to be given to Christians as they share the gospel
 - Christians to pray and seek God’s face
 - Many to repent of their sins and come to faith in Christ
 - Cynicism and fear to be overcome by focusing on what is true, excellent, and worthy of praise
 - Racial reconciliation in America