



Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

We're set apart to love and bless people on behalf of the One who loved and blessed us. God has already prepared these opportunities for blessings and merely asks us to walk in them. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

When we begin with prayer, God will move in our lives and our city. A great place to start is to ask God: "How do you want me to bless my neighbors, coworkers, and friends?" Then, as we allow space and opportunity for God, He will open our eyes to people and situations in our lives.

When you do this, your entire mindset can change. You'll start to see relationships as an opportunity to display the Gospel.

Here are a few ways you can pray. Use these as a starting point to begin your conversation with God.

WALK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, around your office complex or school, and pray for people. Ask God to move in their lives and reveal Himself. Before praying for their situations, let's start by praying for their souls, asking God to soften their hearts and open their minds so that they may come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Then, ask God to open doors for you to share the experience, strength, and hope you've found in your relationship with Him.

PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HURTING AND WHO NEED HEALING: Ask God to heal lives devastated by anxiety, stress, and trauma. Pray for the restoration of individuals and communities to wholeness.

PRAY FOR FAMILIES: Ask God to strengthen relationships and open communication between spouses, parents, and children. Pray for peace protection and provisions.

PRAY FOR LEADERS: Ask God to strengthen their integrity and character and help them make wise decisions. Pray for business, government, and church leaders throughout your neighborhood and our city.

PRAY FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR CITY: Pray for God's word to penetrate every sector of our city, families, businesses, education, media, government, and entertainment – ask Him to soften hearts and minds and to spark revival throughout our city.

PRAY FOR RECONCILIATION: Ask God to show you the things that break His heart. Pray for what grieves you. Where do you see the consequences of prejudice or racism? Ask God to bring healing where there has been hurt, bring reconciliation where there has been division, and give each of us the boldness to go deeper with people who are not like us.