



Count on it

Living in the certainty of God's Word



PRAYERS

Use or select from these prayers for an adult or all-age service. Mingle them with elements of your regular liturgy or spontaneous prayer in ways that best suit your congregation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wonder-making God

By your spoken word you created all that is

By your living Word, Jesus, you bring us to salvation

By your Spirit, source of your written Word through prophets and apostles,

You guide and renew us

As we gather today

To worship and pray, share testimony and learn

Help us to receive your Word

and catch your vision

Help us to believe your Word

and hold to it even when our faith is tested

Help us to release your Word

into a world gasping for its holy breath of life.

Amen.

TWO PRAYER POEMS FROM MODERN-DAY MIGRANTS

Feel free to use these in connexion with the *Talk* or the *Gulf Stream* DVD. Both poems – from refugees now living in Europe – illuminate the experience of the Israelites living in Babylon when Isaiah addressed them, of migrant workers in the Middle East, and of thousands of others Bible Society is working to help. Use one or two female voices for each of these readings.

I chose to leave, Lord.

I left behind the village orchards,

The misery of famine,

The laughter of children, the noise of war.

The singing of women at work,

And the shame of my failures ...

I was living a peaceful life with my family,

Now I'm alone,

With all the worries that go with being an immigrant.

When morning comes I pray to you:

Be my strength and my guide in these difficult days!

When evening arrives
And I start to worry about tomorrow,
Take away my fears and renew my courage.
Look favourably upon me, my God,
You are the Father and you never forget your children
I left the life I had to become a new person.
I don't know what lies ahead,
But I believe that in your love
You will give me a new start in life,
Somewhere far away from the pain
That pushed me to leave.

Ruth, Congo

Lord, it's true that you are close to everyone.
I worship and bless you, from this foreign land
Where you had already prepared a place for me.
I thank you for sustaining me at all times and in every situation.

When I look back and see how you helped me cross valleys, mountains and rivers,
I can truly say that you are Emmanuel 'God with us'. And my prayer is that my
children, their children and everyone who reads this will know that there is no other
God like you, who takes care of everyone who comes to you in need.

You placed generous people along my journey; you protected me from danger,
you changed circumstances in my favour. You fed me even though I hadn't
planted anything, and you clothed me even though I spent no money. In all my
times of worry, fear and discouragement, you were always there and your gentle
voice whispered these words: 'I will never leave nor forsake you.' (Joshua 1.6)

You are totally trustworthy. You became man even though you were God, so that
you could come close to your people. You lived in exile when you were still in your
mother's arms; you knew what it was to be hungry; you suffered injustice, betrayal
and death on the Cross. Thank you for making this incredible sacrifice so that we
could come close to you.

I bless you my God, because I'm no longer a stranger. I've found a place to settle
among your people. Teach me, Lord, to help the poor; to share, to love, to forgive.
Bless all those who have opened their arms, their homes and their pockets to help
those in need.

Yvonne, Rwanda

INTERCESSIONS

We pray for all involved in the translation, distribution and production of the Bible
worldwide, in print, online, in Braille or audio.

Empower them by your Spirit and your Word.

We pray for all who help people understand and grasp the truth of your Word, and
then help them live by it.

Empower them by your Spirit and your Word.

We pray for Bible Society and ourselves as we work to make the Bible credible by the way we live and in all the ways we pass on its good news. Help us as we respond to the questions people ask, the problems they face, and the reality that we are all loved and called to follow you with our whole lives.

Empower us by your Spirit and your Word.

Lord, so shape your people everywhere by your Word that we bring life and hope to those around us.

For the glory of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

REFLECTIVE WORSHIP SONG

Within this pack you will find a specially commissioned song, *My thoughts are not your thoughts*, based on Isaiah 55.8–9. You could use this recording or invite your choir/music group to sing it during reflective prayer in response to the talk or during Communion.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

As clouds climb, spread and fill the sky,
And rain falls, stirring seeds into luxuriant life
Lord, refresh us with your rain
Let your drops of vision, challenge and promise
Fall upon us.
May we soak them up
Thrill in your higher-than-earth thoughts
Live by your higher-than-our ways
Run in your greater-than-human strength
And may we join our faith and obedience to your words
Knowing that not one will fall
Until it has done all that you have planned for it.
Amen.

ENDING THE SERVICE: A CLASSIC PRAYER

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*, 1979)

The two 'Prayer Poems' are taken from *On the Road: A Journey through the Bible for Migrants* © 2008 French Bible Society. The 'Classic Prayer' is taken from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979, used by permission of The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Other prayers are by Lindsay Shaw, Bible Society's Creative Resources Officer.