



# Prayers

Join the Celebration



# BIBLE SUNDAY 2012 : PRAYERS

## Opening prayer of worship

**L** Eternal God as we gather together to worship you we recognise that the heavens tell your glory  
For the vibrancy of a golden sunset  
For the joy of wind blown clouds  
For the majesty of a resplendent full moon  
And the magic of stars sparkling in the night sky,  
We praise your glorious name

**All** and our hearts rejoice in your creative work.

**L** Yet we rejoice that while the whole of creation bears silent witness to your glory we can express our praise in words and music, signs and symbols, movement and emotions  
For the wonder of your grace to a broken world  
For the power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
For the gift of guidance through law and Spirit  
And the glorious story of your unfolding plans in Scripture  
We praise your glorious name

**All** and our hearts rejoice in your saving work.

**L** Through our worship may we experience now your welcome and your renewal

All

Through our encounter with Scripture may our minds be informed and our wills strengthened for obedience and service

Through our communion with each other may our love and commitment grow to serve you and our neighbours

L

In the name of Christ

All

Amen

## Confession

(after each section\* there could be a pause when people are invited to reflect quietly or name out loud similar issues which concern them)

L

Almighty God you have enlightened our eyes through your commandments

Forgive us that so often even when we know what is right we choose what is wrong, when we know what is your best we choose our own inferior ways

We confess to you our personal failures in our thinking, speaking, feeling and choosing

Forgive us that we often behave selfishly, fail to seize every opportunity to serve others and allow our characters to be deformed rather than remade in the likeness of Jesus\*

All

Clear us from our hidden faults

L

We confess to you our failures to share your values.

Forgive us that we want possessions and gadgets rather than a wise and generous mind.

Forgive us that we seek our own satisfactions and pleasures rather than your ways\*

All Clear us from our hidden faults

L We confess to you our failures as your people  
Forgive us that we do not care for the poor and needy with the same love and passion you have for them  
Forgive us that we do not share your gospel as widely as we could  
Forgive us that we do not attend to Scripture and share the truth of Jesus as fully as we might\*

All Clear us from our hidden faults

L We confess to you the corruption and unnecessary hurt in our world  
Forgive us all for the damage to people and countries caused by economic greed  
Forgive us all for the destruction and death caused by wars and acts of terrorism  
Forgive us all for the degradation that we cause to creation and the fruitfulness of the land\*

All Clear us from our hidden faults

L Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, our rock and our redeemer.  
If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift ... Amen

## Intercessions

These are probable best written in the light of

- a. the Bible Society stories used in the sermon (if the intercessions follow the sermon!)
- b. the way the Bless You campaign is focused
- c. current issues in the news and the life of the local congregation

So what follows is an example rather than definitive



Father thank you that Scripture shows us that you care for all the world and all its people

As your appointed priests we come to pray for the world and one another

As we thank you for the way in which the Bible brings guidance, hope and health to people everywhere we pray for the work of Bible Societies in Cambodia and Nicaragua

- Christians in Cambodia, like Chrey, who long to know you more intimately through your word
- That children in La Mascota Hospital, Nicaragua will receive comfort from God through his word
- [If someone in your congregation shared pray for them here]

We thank you that as you have blessed us with the gift of the Bible so we can bless others as your messengers of love and grace.

We pray

- for all from our church who will contribute by blessing others. Please give them discernment as to who to bless and what to do. We pray for those who receive the blessing that their hearts will be opened to discover your life and love for themselves
- for other churches around the country that as they put this campaign into practice they will be encouraged by the responses people give
- for Bible Society and its supporters that they too will be blessed through the varied work they do at home and globally to introduce the Bible to people's minds and hearts.

As we see that the Bible shows us your care and commitment to the whole world we pray for

[Please select the situations which are most appropriate for your Sunday from the news such as, Syria, Afghanistan or world leaders under pressure]

- situation a
- situation b
- situation c

For those who prefer a response either of the following may be used after each point or after each section or simply at the conclusion

Lord answer our prayers

All and let our cry come to you

L Lord answer our prayers

All you are our rock and our redeemer

L Lord answer our prayers. Let all who take refuge in you rejoice

All spread your protection over them (Psalm 5.11)

## More reflective/meditative piece using Psalm 19

If suitable for your church one image per section can be displayed through the digital projector illustrating 'reviving the soul' e.g. refreshing water; 'rejoicing the soul' e.g. people dancing and singing; 'enlightening the eyes' e.g. shaft of sunlight. Appropriate background 'mood' music may also help.

L (verse 7a) The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul  
 Recall a time when God's Word (Scripture) brought you encouragement and hope  
 Read Psalm 23.1-3  
 [PAUSE]  
 read Isaiah 55.1,3  
 [PAUSE]  
 read Isaiah 55.10, 11a,b



(verse 8a) The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the soul

Reflect on life experiences when you experienced God's joy

Read Colossians 3.16

[PAUSE]

read Psalm 19.10,11

[PAUSE]

read Isaiah 55.12



(verse 8b) The commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes

Read Ephesians 1.17

[PAUSE]

Read Ephesians 1.18

[PAUSE]

read Isaiah 55.6, 8

## Conclusion

Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you - Amen

(other verses from 7–10 can be used in a similar way)



These prayers are written by **David Spriggs**.  
David is Bible and Church Consultant, Bible Society