

Going Deeper

Praying for Those Not Here Yet



“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, ...[w]on’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.” MATTHEW 18:12,14

God desires everyone to know him. God’s Word says that he would leave the ninety-nine to go after the one who doesn’t know him. As followers of Christ, we are called to partner with him in praying for those who don’t know him to come to know him. At Christ Church, our mission is to be a church for those who are not here yet... those who are far from God or do not know God yet. One of the ways we can live into our mission is by praying for people who are not here yet.

Ask God to Draw Them to Jesus

God draws people to him. It’s not something we can make happen out of our own efforts, so we need to be faithful in praying that the Father would draw those he’s placed on our hearts to Jesus. Think about the people you know who are far from God. Let your heart be open to God and anyone he may bring to your mind. It may help to write down their names as you focus on praying for them.

PRAYER: “Father, I pray for the people around me (list specific names), that you would supernaturally draw their hearts to you. Send your Holy Spirit to them, and give them the desire to give their lives to you. Help them to recognize their longing for more in life as a spiritual thirst only you can quench. Open their ears to hear your voice.”

Bind the Spirit That Binds Their Minds

The truth can be right in front of some people, and they still can't see it because something is in the way blocking their view of God. We can pray against whatever is in their way so that they can see the light of God. We can pray that they would see the truth without any obstacles or distractions interfering.

The god of this world, Satan, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

PRAYER: "Father, bind the evil spirits that are blinding the minds of the people around me. In the name of Jesus, I pray that they would be able to see clearly, to recognize who you are, and to give their hearts to you. Remove all hindrances the enemy would use to distract them from your truth. Open their eyes, Lord, that they might see Jesus."

Pray That They May Have a Personal Relationship with Jesus

Many people think Christianity is just another religion. They only see God through the lens of the organization and institution of the church. They may even feel frustrated, angry, or betrayed by people in churches they have encountered or by religious legalists and their hypocrisy. But God didn't come to build an organization. He came to have a relationship with his children. God wants His beloved sons and daughters to come home. Praying for people to have personal encounters with the living God makes a huge difference.

[H]e returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His father said... "We must celebrate with a feast, for this child of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found." LUKE 15:23-24

PRAYER: “Father, I pray that people will understand how much you love them and that they will come into a meaningful relationship with you. Stir in their hearts a longing to come home, to hear your voice, and to see you welcoming them with open arms. Let them know you are always running to meet them and hold them close.”



Pray for Believers to Cross Their Paths

This is twofold: we can pray for other Christians to influence the people around them positively, and we can also look for opportunities to influence others positively ourselves. God’s plan to reach people is worked through those who already know and love him. Jesus asked us to pray for people to go into the world to be salt and light. He came to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people, and his desire is that everyone would know and love him.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. MATTHEW 9:38

As his “spiritual farmers,” we should be attuned to opportunities to plant spiritual seeds in the lives of the people we encounter each day. We may have no idea who has already been praying for them and the culminating impact our kind word, compassionate act, or loving attitude can have to draw them to Christ.

PRAYER: “Father, I pray for the lost around me to meet believers who will influence them in a positive way. Lord, let my life shine in such a way that people want to know the God I serve. Allow others to see my genuine love and concern for them in all that I say and do. Let me be your hands and feet to serve them and let them know just how much You love them.”

Release the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation on Them

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. EPHESIANS 1:17

It’s that “eureka” moment, that “aha!” when it finally clicks. The most important moment to have this kind of revelation is when the lights come on spiritually. People need to see their own sin, see what Jesus did on the cross, and see the hope that comes from giving their life to God. People need wisdom, not just knowledge, of spiritual things and insight into how spiritual realities directly impact them. We can pray for this kind of supernatural revelation that only comes from God.

PRAYER: “Father, I pray for the people around me to experience the spirit of wisdom and revelation. I pray that they would truly understand their spiritual condition and see what Jesus did for them on the cross. Help them to have the information and experiences needed to come to you, so they can understand all you have for them.”

