

22–28 MARCH RESOURCES

This is a pack of resources to use in the week starting 22 March, with things to help with one of the four things we believe is important for us to do at the moment: **PRAY**



CONTENTS:

Prompts & Questions – to use by yourself or with others, for all ages to use

Children & Family Resources – activities and responses for children & families to use

Youth Resources – activities designed for young people to be doing

Check out all the resources and media, including a **Worship Playlist** Josh has put together for this week at www.goldhill.org/churchwhereyouare

PROMPTS & QUESTIONS

These prompts and questions are designed to be used by people of all ages and stages of life. If you're an adult using these with children, you can pitch and adapt things for them far better than we can! They can be used:

- by yourself – just take some time reflecting on them, and maybe jot things down
- over the phone – if you're on your own, arrange to call someone and do it together
- with others – carve out some time, gather round and use these as you see fit

Start by reading **1 Timothy 2:1-4** together. You might have different versions of the Bible. Read it in a few if you do! (The notes below quote the NIV)

1. PRAYER, PRAYER, PRAYER

This is all about prayer, but Paul uses different (and big!) words to describe prayer in v1. Think/talk about each of them, and then fill in the grid below:

a. 'petitions': think about 'petitions' that we sign today (if you're with younger ones, you might need to explain what they are). It is asking God to act. **What kind of things might we want to 'petition' God with today?**

b. 'intercession': we don't use this word much today, but it is about praying for other people – acting as a go-between for them to God. **Who can we be doing this for? Are there people or situations who aren't us that we can bring to God in prayer?**

c. 'thanksgiving': not everything is bad, and thanking God is a big part of prayer. **What are things that have happened this week you can thank God for?**

| ASKING GOD | FOR OTHERS | THANKING GOD |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (write some of your ideas) | (write people or things) | (what are you thankful for?) |

2. PRAY FOR LEADERS

Paul's instructions are really clear: we are to pray for 'all those in authority'. We need to pray for our leaders, whether we like them or not, whether we agree with them or not.

Here are some questions for you to consider and explore:

- Our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, needs our prayers. Over the next week, how will you pray for him? What about a different thing each day? (Fill it in here, or put it up somewhere in your home to remember.)

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |

- What other kinds of leaders are there in our world, nation and local community who need our prayers right now? How will we pray for them?
- Are there leaders you know who you can offer to pray for?
- Is there a leader you could write to and ask how you can pray for them?

3. PRAY WITH GOD'S HEART

The reason for Paul telling us to pray is because God 'wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth'. He wants to be close to everyone. We aren't praying to make things better just so it will be easier for us. We want for more people to know God and be close to Him.

So below are lots of types of people. Below each, what kind of prayer could you pray so that they might get closer to God?

Lonely People

Elderly People

Healthcare Workers

Rich People

Business Owners

Happy People

Scared People

Poor People

CHILDREN & FAMILY RESOURCES



These have been put together by Shona. They are a great resource for families to use together, either on Sunday or throughout the week!

To contact Shona, email shona.huntersingh@goldhill.org

Prayer is so important, in the Bible it says:

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NCV)

First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. ²Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God. ³This is good, and it pleases God our Saviour, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth.

Spend some time thinking about what prayer is.

Prayer is...

Spend some time thinking about how you would describe God.

God is...

Prayer is a time where we talk to God, just like we would talk to the people around us. Because we know who God is and what He can do, that can help us when we pray.

Every day is different. Sometimes we might be in a different place, doing different things or feeling different emotions. Even though our days change God is still the same and He always listens to our prayers.

Your days may start to feel a little bit different soon as there is lots going on in our world. What ever the situation, keep on praying, God listens.

Have a think...

Can you think of a time where you have prayed and God has answered your prayer? Or do you have something encouraging you could say to someone when they're praying?

If you have, get your grown up to write me an email to:

shona.hunter-singh@goldhill.org

Over the next week I will put them all together so you can read all of our friends testimonies about prayer. Sometimes hearing these stories can help us in our prayers.

Getting Hands On!

Let's spend some time now praying for the things that are going on in our world at the moment. For this, you will need a hand.

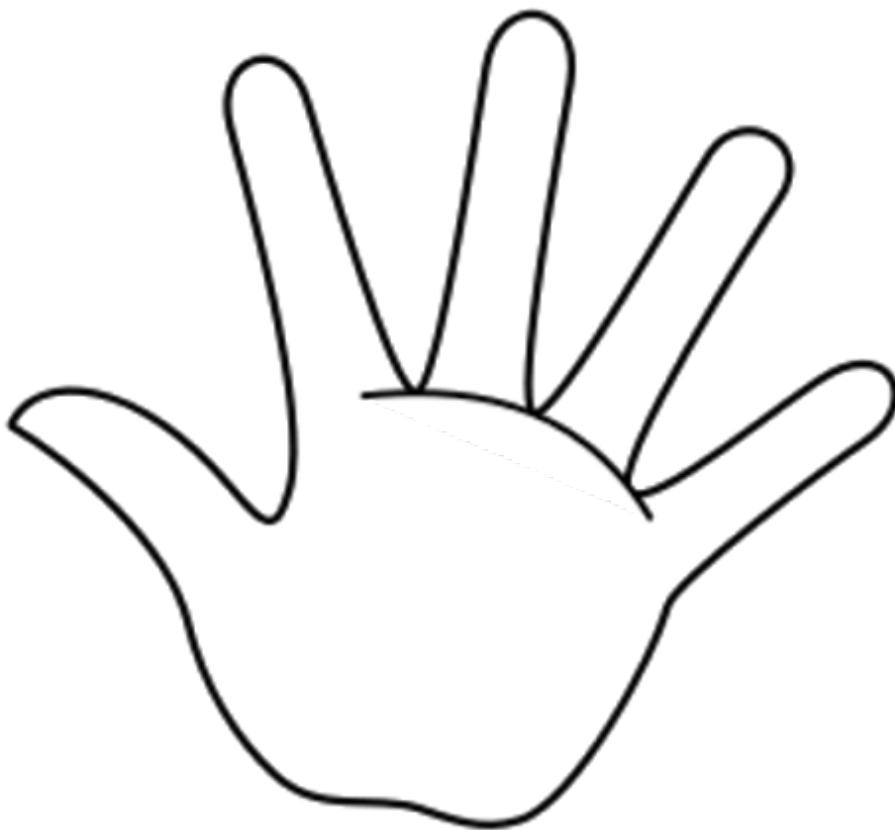
Thumb: Pray for the people who are closest to you. Your family or grown ups that you are with.

Pointer: Pray for the other people that point us in the right direction. Your teachers, doctors, pastors and group leaders.

Middle: Pray for the people that lead our country.

Ring: Pray for the people that may be weak or unwell.

Little: Pray for yourself.



Some other things to try...

- Making a prayer space at home – it could be in your bedroom or somewhere else in your house.
- Write down the names of people you are going to pray for and put them around the house.
- Draw around your hand and write down the names of people to pray for on each finger.
- Tell a friend you are praying for them.
- Start a prayer journal.
- Make a prayer board and pin up all of your prayers – and how God answers them!
- Check out the song 'Pray' by Worship Central. Search for it on YouTube and watch.

Over the coming weeks please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help. We are looking at developing ways in which we can connect with children and families online through apps such as Zoom. This is available to all of our children in line with safeguarding guidelines..

Shona Hunter-Singh, Children's and Family Worker

YOUTH RESOURCES

These are resources from Natalie, designed to give young people something to think about and something to do.

To contact Natalie, email natalie.criddle@goldhill.org



Why do we pray?

We pray because we believe God hears our every prayer. Like our earthly relationships where talking is an important way of communicating, praying (and listening) to our heavenly Father is even more important in deepening our relationship to him.

A prayer-filled response

In 1 Tim 2:1-4, there is some encouragements about prayer. **Go read it**, then look at this:

- Timothy begins by talking of the importance of praying for all people. **Is there anyone you can think of who needs prayer today that you know of?**
- Verse 2 specifically reminds us to pray for those in authority. Pray for our leaders in our country, pray for your head teachers in this time of uncertainty. **What do you think they might need some prayer for?**
- Then Timothy talks about praying for peace. **Can you think of anyone who might need some prayers for peace?** Can you think of any elderly people or people who might be worried about the situation we are all facing right now?

A practical response!

Here are a bunch of things you could do practically this week in light of praying:

- You might want to write a letter to your neighbour saying you are praying for them during this time (even if you don't know them very well).
- You might want to write a letter to the elderly in a care home, telling them about the peace and love of Jesus, or the above passage, or anything God puts on your heart!
- You might want to spend some time listening to God and see if He speaks to you, or if any pictures or words pop into your mind that you think are from God.
- You might want to find a space in your bedroom that you can turn into a prayer space! Write some post-it notes of things you are praying for on the wall, or pictures or words that God gives you!
- Listen to 'Way Maker' by on YouTube - we worship our God who is Lord over all, who knows the ups and downs of life, changes situations, keeps his promises, a massive light in the darkness and the ultimate WAY-MAKER!

During the coming weeks, as a church we are gathering lots of resources (like this pack!), materials and links together in one place. It is all at goldhill.org/churchwhereyouare