
PRAY FOR THE CLIMATE

This prayer guide will equip and inspire your prayers for the climate. It has been produced by Tearfund and 24-7 Prayer as part of the international Renew Our World campaign.

Introduction to Climate Change

Rising global temperatures - caused by climate change - are bringing big changes across the world:

Changes to weather patterns disrupt harvests and put seasons out of balance; more unpredictable weather - including more frequent and intense rains, more floods, and more droughts - put pressure on food supplies and force people from their homes.

“Climate change could push over 100 million people back into poverty by 2030”¹

Everyone will be affected by climate change, but we’re already seeing that it’s the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people who are hit first and hardest. They don’t have insurance or other ways to cope with the loss of income, home or food.

Even faced with these facts, the issue of climate change can still be hard to grasp: it’s big, it’s global, and it can feel difficult to know how to begin to respond.

However, our generation has a choice no other generation will have - we’re the ones who can act and make sure everyone has the chance to live well, as God intended.

The Part We Have To Play

We can all play a part in responding to the changing climate by putting our faith into action. Speaking up for change and adjusting our lifestyle are great ways to respond - see the taking action section for ideas. However, prayer is one of the most important ways that we can take action. We’re commanded to “pray in the Spirit... with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18), and when we pray we’re speaking to a mighty and powerful God. This means that when we pray, we are part of God’s transforming work!

¹ World Bank Group (2016) [Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty](#)

“Love does no harm to a neighbour”

- Romans 13:10

As we lift up prayers and requests about these issues, injustices and difficulties; we must also remember to give thanks and praise for the beauty of the world that we're part of, and praise God for the created earth that we live on. Through our prayers and actions, we'll show our governments we care about a fair and sustainable world, for the love of God and our neighbours.

Introduction to this Guide

This guide contains everything you need to start praying for the climate, either in a 24-7 Prayer room, with others, or just on your own. Before you start, you may like to check out the resource bank below with links to information and inspiration to get you started.

You'll find the following:

1. **Praying for the Climate: 24-7 Prayer Rooms** - practical ideas for adding activities to your prayer room.
2. **Praying for the Climate: Individuals** - ideas to inspire your personal prayer life.
3. **Praying for the Climate: Groups** - how to inspire and encourage group prayer. These ideas can be used in prayer meetings, church meetings or small groups.
4. **Next Steps: Taking Action** - we believe that prayer leads to action: this section contains practical steps you can take to tackle climate change.
5. **Resource Bank** - useful places to learn more to inform your prayers.

Praying for the Climate: 24-7 Prayer Rooms

How to Get Started

A 24-7 Prayer Room is a physical space containing prayer activities to inspire constant prayer. Together, a group of people decide to pray continuously by each taking hour-long slots for a period of time, creating a chain of unbroken prayer.

It only takes 24 people to pray non-stop for a whole day; and 168 people to pray non-stop for a week.



“ The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit...”

- James 5:16-18

Praying for the Climate: 24-7 Prayer Rooms

Devoting space in your prayer room to pray about climate change is a really great way to encourage interactive and devoted prayer. A 24-7 Prayer Room is often made up of different prayer stations, which help people to focus on praying for different things. The following ideas can be used to create prayer stations in a wider prayer room, or to theme your entire prayer room around praying for the climate.

However you use your prayer room to pray, here are a few handy tips to bear in mind:

Make the facts and instructions clear – With a topic like climate change, it can be difficult to know how to focus prayers, so make sure you give specific facts for people to pray into. Include space and ideas to help people to give thanks for God’s creation as a way into praying about issues like climate change. Give specific examples and pointers.

Make space for questions – Prayer stations can often spark interest, so allow space for your community to ask questions, and give ways that they can practically get involved as well as praying.

How to Pray

Try some of the following prayer stations to focus on climate change in your prayer room - check out the resource bank for places to find facts and statistics:

Rising temperatures: Section off part of your prayer room to act as a hot desert. Add lights and switch on and off a heater or hair dryer sporadically to ensure this area is a little warmer than the rest of the room. You could also add some dried and withered plants. As individuals sit in the ‘desert’ encourage them to dwell on the rising temperature of the earth and its impact on humans. Encourage them to turn their thoughts into prayers - you could also include some facts about climate change to further inform their prayers.

Global prayers: On a globe or map, use one colour to shade in the countries which have been most impacted by and are the most vulnerable to climate change, and then use a different colour to shade in the countries which have created the highest carbon emissions. Encourage people to reflect on their country’s situation, and how it is both affected by and responsible for climate change, then encourage them to write prayers on sticky notes on the globe or map.



“Rich countries contribute significantly more to climate change than low and middle-income countries through their emissions. One American contributes over twice as much as one Chinese or one British person; more than six Brazilians; 16 Zimbabweans; and 160 Ethiopians”²

The significance of water: Put a green plant in a big pot of soil, and a pile of wooden lolly sticks beside the pot. Explain how the plant needs to get the right amount of water – too much and it’s drowned, too little and it dries out. Encourage people to first give thanks for creation - for water, earth and life - before encouraging them to think about how variations in rainfall lead to droughts, floods and crop failure. Encourage people to write prayers for affected communities in their country or in other parts of the world on the lolly sticks and plant them into the pot.

Suitcase prayers: Use a suitcase to represent anyone in your country, or globally, who is displaced because of the climate. Encourage people to write their prayers for displaced people on luggage tags, or to draw around their feet as a way of standing in solidarity with those who have to walk to find safety.

Paper people: Using paper and scissors, encourage individuals to make a chain of paper people. Add statistics about people in the world affected by climate change (you can find ideas in the resource bank). Then, suggest people to write prayers in the paper people and to take them away as a reminder that we’re all connected, and to continue to pray for others in our world.

Accidental damage: Provide one or two symbols of fossil fuels such as a piece of coal, an electric plug, or toy car or plane and encourage people to use them to reflect how using these objects has accidentally damaged the balance of creation. Encourage people to write a prayer in response – asking God for forgiveness, grace and wisdom to live in a more conscious way, and to challenge those with the most power and responsibility to do the same.

Praying for those in leadership: Cut out paper crowns to use as symbols of leadership. As individuals decorate - and even wear - the paper crowns, encourage them to pray for those in a place of leadership and influence to have wisdom. You could also give out some pictures and names of some world and national leaders to pray for.

Praying for God’s light in the world: Pray for God’s light to transform the world by lighting candles - or electric tealights – as a way of bringing in God’s kingdom, including to us.

² World Bank [CO2 emissions](#). All data from 2013 (accessed October 2016)

Praying for the Climate: Individuals

How to get Started

Decide how often to pray: set aside a specific amount of time.

Remind yourself to pray: write down your commitment or add it to your phone as a reminder.

Stay informed: find a source of information to help you pray (check out our resource bank for ideas).

Keep going: be persistent!

“I believe God has heard my prayers. He will make it manifest in His own good time that He has heard me. I have recorded my petitions that when God has answered them, His name will be glorified.”

– George Muller

How to Pray

Sometimes, praying differently can really help you to go deeper in your relationship with God. Here are some interactive prayer ideas:

Using the Bible

The Bible contains incredible words that can inform and inspire our prayers. Focus on a passage of scripture as you pray. You might like to:

...rewrite the passage in your own words.

...read in a different translation.

...apply God’s promises in the passage to your prayers.

...read the prayer as a blessing to a particular leader on your heart.

...memorise it.

Here are some passages to get you started, we’ve included a couple of verses from each:

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters...”** Psalm 24 (NIV)

“For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God...” Romans 8:18-27 (NIV)



“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority...” 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)

Using social media

Often, our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds can be a distraction to our prayer lives. However, there are things you can do to make social media helpful when praying:

...Follow key organisations who talk about climate change.

...Share what you're doing: there are lots of Christian organisations tackling climate change who will love to hear how you're praying.

...Challenge yourself to get creative! Turn tweets into prayers; Instagram photos into reflections; Facebook updates into a rallying call to action. Be bold and courageous with your social media prayer presence and challenge others you know to get involved too!

Using your creativity

All of us are creative in different ways – and this can be a real tool to deepen and encourage our prayer life. Even if you don't think you are creative, try the following ideas - you might be surprised at how they help you to pray:

Use art: instead of simply writing, why not draw, paint or sculpt your prayers for the climate.

Use photos: make a photo collage to inform your prayers; or go for a walk and take photos as you pray of the way God is at work in nature and in our world. Print off photos of key issues and communities who are impacted by climate change as a reminder to pray for them.

Use words: write poems to express your prayers: be inspired by the honesty and beauty of the Psalms. Write your own liturgy for the climate, or a simple prayer that you can pray each day. Use a journal to record prayers so that you keep a record of what you're praying for.

Use the outdoors: when praying for our climate, the world around us is the best thing to inspire our prayers. Make a point of looking around your area for impacts of climate change or beauty in our surroundings.

Prayer walking

If you find it difficult to concentrate by sitting still to pray, try going on a prayer walk. Choose a route around your local area and as you walk, pray into whatever you see that speaks to you. You could pray for world leaders when you walk past your local council office, or communities overseas when you get to your town hall.

Use pre-written prayers and liturgy

You may like to provide some pre-written prayers and liturgy. See the resource bank for ideas on where to gather these.



Praying for the Climate: Groups

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world”

– Margaret Mead

How to get Started

Praying as a community is a great way to intercede on behalf of key issues, and praying for the climate is no exception. Here are some practical tips on how to pray together:

Introduce the topic: provide relevant information for your group so that they’re informed on how to pray.

Motivate your group: encourage everyone to remember God and to pray in faith.

Be interactive: keep your group motivated in prayer by introducing different activities across your prayer meeting.

Finish well: motivate people as you close, and encourage individuals to continue praying at home too.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

– Matthew 18:20

How to Pray

There are lots of interactive and interesting ways to pray as a group about this issue, which can motivate and spur your group into action. Try the following ideas:

News prayers

Take a particular climate issue that’s been featured on the news, or on a trustworthy website (see our resource bank for ideas) and either print off the story or use copies of a newspaper to give information to each person. Split into smaller groups and allow everyone to form their own prayers for the issue.

Praying God’s kingdom come

Take a few minutes as a group to simply pray or sing together the words: “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”. Encourage members of the group to really think about the significance of inviting God’s kingdom to come on earth, and to think about specific spaces and places on earth to invite God’s kingdom to reign.



Using the Bible, together

Scripture is an incredible way to inspire prayer together, so choose a passage to read through together a few times that will encourage your group to pray. You might like to choose a few different translations to read through, or encourage different people to read different verses aloud.

You could get started with:

“How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures...” Psalm 104 (NIV)

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” - Genesis 1 (NIV)

“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.” - Revelation 21:1 (NIV)

(You can find additional ideas on the prayer ideas for individuals section too)

Silent prayer

Group prayer doesn't always need to mean praying out loud. Allow time for silent reflection as a group, and encourage people to quietly pray for God's presence across the issues. You could also make space for individuals to listen for God's voice; for words, pictures or Bible passages. You might be surprised to find how praying quietly together brings a new power as you wait on the Lord.

Loud prayer

Group prayer can mean being louder than usual, too! Encourage your group to pray out loud, all at once, and raise their voices in petition to God for transformation of the world. If your group find this daunting, put on or play some loud worship music, and encourage a holy noise to be made to God!

Circular prayers

Sit in a circle together, and encourage everyone to take turns praying out loud for as long or as short a time as they want, pouring out their prayers to God. This simple method is a great way to encourage everyone to form their own words as well as being encouraged and inspired by the prayers of others. Remind everyone that they don't have to think of something original but can repeat the prayers of others, in the knowledge that God hears all of our words.

Getting creative

See the individual and prayer room sections for creative ideas.

Next Steps: Taking Action

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

- Micah 6:8

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

-Romans 12:2

Climate change is hitting the poorest people first and hardest, those who have contributed least to the problem. The past generation didn’t know, and it will be too late to leave it to the next, so this is our generation’s challenge.

Prayer is part of our response - it connects us to God and will shape the way we respond to these issues. The more we pray, the more we become passionate about making change happen. Here are some suggestions to take action:

Living differently: think and pray about steps you could take to live more sustainably and reduce your own carbon footprint. Here are some suggestions to get you started, check out the resource bank for suggestions of where to find out more.

Travel: could you walk or cycle more? Or use public transport, where available?

Food: what impact does the food you eat have? Could you reduce eating meat each week?

Energy: what type of energy powers your appliances at home, work and church? Could you switch to renewable electricity?

Speaking up for change: In 2015 after years of negotiations, 195 nations committed to work together to tackle climate change and keep the earth’s temperature rise below 2 degrees (a very dangerous level for the world). This deal is known as the Paris Agreement. This is a brilliant step, but we need to keep reminding governments to implement it. This includes keeping promises to reduce emissions, and for those most responsible (rich countries) to provide finance to help the poorest countries adapt to the changing climate.

Here are some suggestions for ways you can speak up for change:

How is your government doing on implementing the Paris Agreement? Check out the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) website - unfccc.int.

Visit www.renewourworld.net to join a global movement of Christians acting and praying to tackle climate change.

Can you write or speak to your local or national leaders about their climate commitments?



Resource Bank

Climate change is a big issue that affects so many aspects of life. Here are some useful resources to get you started.

A beginners' guide to climate change : visit www.tearfund.org/climate or read [Footsteps 99 on climate](#) for an introduction to climate change.

Latest news: most news outlets will report on impacts of climate change. Try BBC News, the Guardian, Economist, Carbon Brief (UK focus) for more in-depth reporting. You could also check out unfccc.int for UN and national government response to climate change.

The science: For the authoritative version, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, independent body of scientists which look at climate science research and publish key reports every few years). For a personal take from a Christian working on climate science, try [Katharine Hayhoe's website](#)

The impacts: see IPCC reports and news above; Tearfund's [dried up drowned out report](#) and Tearfund Learn – learn.tearfund.org

Theology: for theological thinking on creation care, justice and other related issues you could read - John Stott's The Radical Disciple and Ruth Valerio's Just Living.

How to respond in your church or community: [Live Justly](#) (a series of 10 sessions including Bible study and reflection looking at justice); TEAR Australia's Renew Our World Bible studies

About 24-7 Prayer

24-7 Prayer is an international movement made up of communities of prayer, missional projects and countless individuals in Prayer Rooms all over the world. For nearly two decades, 24-7 Prayer have helped millions people in countless of locations to encounter God and engage with the needs of the world. The movement began in 1999 when a simple, student-led prayer vigil went viral, spreading into tens of thousands of locations and denominations.

Find out more: www.24-7prayer.com



Renew Our World & Tearfund

Renew Our World unites a global movement of Christians calling for a more just and sustainable planet for all. In our prayers, and through our actions, together we are shaping a world that reflects God's love for all creation so that all people in every nation can enjoy fullness of life. Right now, we are tackling the critical issue of climate change and its impacts on the poorest people who are hit first and hardest.

Find out more: www.renewourworld.net

