

You, US, NOW!



**Prayer
for a
Generation**



**Prayer
Guide**

A banner with a dark background. On the left is a circular icon containing a rainbow and a white silhouette of a person with arms raised. To the right of the icon, the text "Prayer for a Generation" is written in a light green, sans-serif font, and "Prayer Guide" is written below it in a light blue, sans-serif font. The background of the banner features faint, grey silhouettes of various people and symbols, including a smartphone and a person with arms raised.

Prayer for a Generation Prayer Guide

This Prayer Guide was developed for use in a small group setting. We especially encourage intergenerational small groups in which students gather with people their grandparents' ages and everyone in between. But the guide will also work well in any small group: a women's group, men's group, couples' group, seniors' group, etc.

We believe that prayer on behalf of young people will direct their hearts and minds toward God. The main goal of this Prayer Guide is to highlight specific areas for focused prayer. The weekly guides include a brief teaching and some discussion questions, but the main goal is to encourage time together in prayer.

It is also our hope that this guide will build discussion around and shed light on the issues teens and young adults are facing today. We know that the more one generation understands another, the more we will be moved to work together and pray compassionately for each other.

****A note to any teenagers and young adults participating in a small group:**

We believe in you! We believe that God will use you to impact the world with the love of Christ and that you will pursue God with great urgency and passion. In no way do we feel that you are hopeless! We are, however, aware of the challenges that many young men and women face today and we simply desire to do all we can to support you through prayer and partnership.



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Week 1 ~ Called to Pray

Introductory Questions

- Does prayer matter?
- Do your prayers matter?
- Do your prayers really have the power to change anything?

Scripture

Ezekiel 22:30 – I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.

Jerusalem is in a sorry state at this point in its history, marked by people full of corruption who take advantage of the weak. There is no longer a sense of right and wrong. There are mixed messages from the leaders. People are passing along false notions of Truth. God is no longer honored in the land.

There are certainly parallels with society today. The idea of absolute truth is disappearing, especially in our youth culture. Teenagers and young adults are bombarded by false and destructive messages, and they are often unable to discern truth from deception. With no moral absolute, everything else begins to crumble.

But in this passage God says he wants to save Jerusalem. How? Through people who would “stand before Him” in prayer. He was searching for someone to stand in the gap between a righteous God and a sinful nation and plead for mercy and restoration. But He couldn’t find anyone. There is no doubt that God wants to save this entire generation. The question is, who will he find standing in the gap for them? (For a larger context read Ezekiel 22: 23-31)

Discussion

Consider the questions from the introduction again:

- Does prayer matter?
- Do *your* prayers matter?
- Do your prayers really have the power to change anything?
- What does God say about the power of our prayers?
- Might God be building a team of “Gap” men and women to rescue and restore our teenagers and young adults?

Snapshot of a Generation

- 63% of teenagers believe that Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, and all other people pray to the same God.
- 65% state that Satan is not a living being but merely a symbol of evil.
- 3 of 5 feel that if a person is generally good or does good things for others during his or her lifetime, he or she will earn a place in heaven.
- Only 7% of teens make choices based on Biblical principles. (Barna Group)
- 83% of teens say moral truth depends on circumstances. (Barna Group)

Story

One Sunday night at TheHopeLine not long ago, there were three conversations occurring at the same time with young adults from very different backgrounds. One was with a young man who claimed he was a pagan. The HopeCoach respectfully inquired more about his beliefs and asked if he could share his own beliefs in return. The caller heard, for the first time, the story of salvation in Jesus. Two seats down another HopeCoach visited with a young man who claimed to be a Wiccan. The HopeCoach gently responded, “You really seem to be searching for truth right now. I encourage you to pray to God, ask him to reveal himself to you, and be open to seeing what might happen.” They prayed together on the call. Yet another HopeCoach was talking with a boy who had experienced severe bullying his entire life, leaving him angry and bitter against any thought of God. He wondered, if there was a God, why would He allow such pain. The HopeCoach lavished God’s love on this boy and asked if she could pray for him over the phone. He allowed it, and when the prayer was over, the young man said through his sobs, “No one has EVER prayed for me before.” It was the first time he had been brought before the throne of God and he was overwhelmed.

Once again – let us consider...WHO is standing in the GAP?

Prayer Focus

- May our hearts to be broken over what breaks the heart of God. May we love this generation as the Lord does and may it move us to unceasing intercessory prayer.
- Pray that more and more people stand in the gap for this generation. May Christians everywhere not plead ignorance, but take the time to understand the issues teens and young adults are facing and fall to their knees on their behalf.
- May the church become attractive to teens and young adults through genuine love and acceptance.
- Let us acknowledge our total dependence on God to effect any change in people’s hearts and lives and ask for a moving of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that God moves to make His name GREAT!

Additional Scripture

2 Chronicles 7:14-15 *Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

Luke 18:1-8: *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"



Week 2 ~ Harassed and Helpless

Introductory Questions

What does it feel like to be harassed or helpless?

What do you think are some of the biggest challenges that young people face on a daily basis?

If you are a teenager or young adult, share some of the things that you've struggled with, or that you know that others have struggled with.

If you are an adult, what level of involvement do you have with this younger generation?

How well do you know them?

Scripture

Matthew 9:35-37 – *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

If you had to choose one word to describe this current generation of teens and young adults, what would it be? It might be hard to pick just one, but it might be similar to what Jesus saw when he looked out on the crowds that he ministered to. Many are harassed, helpless, lost.

The sight of this crowd caused compassion to well up inside of Jesus. He doesn't just pity them; he is compassionate towards them, and there's a big difference. Pity is easy. It is feeling emotion but keeping yourself detached. But compassion is different because it has a purpose. It not only looks and feels, but it desires to connect itself to the problem and to be a part of the solution.

Jesus' compassion doesn't come out of nowhere. We are told at the beginning of this passage that he is going throughout all of the cities, proclaiming the gospel and healing every disease and affliction. He looks at the crowds because he is walking among them. We should ask ourselves if we are really looking at teenagers and young adults, walking among them, and seeing the challenges they face.

And what does Jesus ask his disciples to do in this passage? *Pray earnestly!* It is clear Jesus desires our hearts to be spurred to pray for the lost. If we are really *looking* at this generation, if we are spending time with them, and developing relationships with them, there is no doubt we will feel real compassion and be moved to pray.

Discussion and Reflection

- How should Christ's compassion for the crowds shape my own?
- Jesus says that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Are you actively looking at the world around you as a spiritual harvest?
- What role are you playing as a laborer?
- Does Jesus' call to prayer challenge the way you view prayer?

Snapshot of a Generation

This younger generation is harassed by:

Bullying

- 160,000 students stay home from school each day from fear of being bullied.
- 3.2 million students are victims of bullying each year.
- 43% of kids have been bullied online.

Abuse

- One out of every four females and one of every five males is sexually abused by the time he or she reaches 18.

Pornography

- The average age of a child's first Internet exposure to pornography is eleven years old.
- 90% of 8-to-16 year olds have seen porn online, most while doing their homework.

Pregnancy

- On average, American girls are losing their virginity at age 15
- 40.7% of babies born in the U.S. are born to unmarried mothers. For women under 30, 53% of the babies are born to single moms.
- 340,000 teenagers have an abortion each year.

Addictions

- 1 in 9 high school seniors has tried synthetic marijuana
- 60% of teens say drugs are sold at their school.
- 72% of teens consumed alcohol by the end of high school.
- 37% consumed alcohol by the end of 8th grade.

Story

Morgan* sent TheHopeLine her story and thanked us for helping her. As you will read, Morgan has been dealing with far more than one harassment, and, sadly, that is the case for many teens and young adults. They are fighting against *multiple* issues. Here is her story:

Well I am only 19, I don't think that there is much out there that I haven't already dealt with. It all started out with getting raped and abused when I was younger and it didn't stop until I was 18. During this time I ran away about 9 times and I also found out that I was pregnant with the guy's baby who had raped me and abused me, I ended up having an abortion because I couldn't stand the knowing that the baby I would have been carrying was my rapists.

My family has a lot of problems. I didn't speak to my mom for 5 and a half years after her and my father got divorced. It felt like she abandoned me. I have not spoken to my father for 2 years now either. My mom used to be on hard drugs using meth, crack and heroin and drinking daily, she is now out of it. My dad is addicted to pills to this day.

I've also been using for 4 and 1/2 years now...doing meth, cocaine, heroin and weed and drinking daily. I just got out of detox and I still feel like I need drugs to make it through my days, but I found out I am pregnant and I want to stay off them to have a healthy baby.

I have also just stopped my cutting and my arms and wrists are starting to heal. But I can say that it has been a rough go for me. I am just trying to make it one day at a time. I have really messed up, and I am trying to get my life back on track. If it wasn't for the help of TheHopeLine I wouldn't have made it this far.

Prayer Focus

- Pray for teens and young adults struggling with:
 - Addictions
 - Abuse
 - Bullying
 - Pornography
 - Eating Disorders
 - Self-harm, such as cutting
- Pray for teens and young adults you personally know.
- Pray for opportunities to develop personal relationships with teens who are harassed and helpless.
- Pray that believers would gain compassion for the struggles and hurts that this generation is dealing with.

Additional Scripture

Psalm 34:17-18 *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

2 Corinthians 2:3-4a *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles:*



Week 3 ~ Worthy of Praise

Introductory Questions

- What role does worship and adoration have in your prayer life?
- How often do you praise God for who He is and what He has done?
- When you think of the younger generation, do you remember to praise God for them?

Scripture

Revelation 7:9-12 – After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.’

When you read this text, do worship and adoration well up inside of you? Is your heart moved to praise God and marvel at His works? How could it not, when you’re brought to the very throne of God? When you look at the throne and you see a multitude too great to count, from every tribe and tongue, and they are all worshiping God, how can our response be any different?

They praise God because of who He is: look at Him on His throne, mighty and majestic!

They praise Him for what He has done. “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And evidence of this salvation is present in a crowd numbering too great to count; each person is a different story of grace, each pointing to the greatness of the Lamb who was slain.

This image is something to look forward to, but it should also remind us of what is happening even now: that God is changing lives and bringing people to a knowledge of His Son from every tribe and tongue, even now.

God is currently gathering this multitude, a multitude that includes this upcoming generation. Yet because the needs of teenagers and young adults can be great, it’s easy for us to fill our prayers with these concerns. But we need to be sure that our prayers are also brimming with praise for the work God is doing among us. Let us be confident in the knowledge that God is working in the lives of today’s teens and young adults, and, despite the darkness, there is much light. This generation is a blessing, and we must continue to praise God for them!

Discussion and Reflection

- Does this picture of God in this passage move your affections?
- Take time to think about the growing multitude before the throne of God. Are there people you want to see join the multitude?
- In what ways are you currently seeing God move among your neighbors, in the schools in your community, in the youth organizations near you, in your own youth group?
- How can praise become a regular part of our prayers for this generation?

Story

Sophie* came to TheHopeLine struggling with cutting and thoughts of suicide. She lives in Indonesia and found TheHopeLine website while searching for an online therapist. After talking via instant message chat for some time, the HopeCoach asked if she had any spiritual beliefs. Sophie said, "I'm Muslim because of my mother but I feel like I'm a Christian. I pray like a Christian." The HopeCoach asked her if she knew much about Jesus, and Sophie said, "Not really but I am trying to." After talking about the good news of the gospel, Sophie said, "You're so lucky, I want to be like you." Sophie decided to follow Christ. Here is her prayer:

"Dear God, thank for giving me a brother in Christ, who helps me to be close to you, to help receive your love, forgiveness, and peace. I thank you because you never leave me alone in this rough world. God I want you to help me to keep my promises for not cutting or think on suicide. Also, I want you to give me a way that I can go back with my family and friends. You're all I need right now and I accept you as my savior who always gives me your peace. In Jesus' name, amen."

What a beautiful picture of God at work. God connected Sophie to a Christian website at just the right time in her life, and it is evident the Spirit was moving in Sophie's heart pulling her toward a relationship with Jesus. Praise Him!

Prayer Focus

- Praise God for who He is. Look to our God, seated on His throne. Praise Him for His power, His might, His love, His grace, His mercy.
- Praise God for the work He has done in your life. Praise Him for the salvation He brought to you, the grace He has shown you in Jesus Christ.
- Praise God for ways that you have recently witnessed God at work among the youth in your church and community.
- Praise Him for the work He is yet to do.
- Praise Him for his faithfulness through all the generations.

Additional Scripture

Deuteronomy 7:9 *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

Psalms 127:3 *Behold, Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*



Week 4 ~ Strength for Christian Teens and Young Adults

Introductory Questions

Do you personally know teens and young adults on fire for God?

What are some ways adults can encourage on-fire young people to keep fighting the good fight? (Any teens participating in this will have valuable insight!)

What are some ways to encourage them to share their faith?

Do you believe that through the power of prayer, this generation of students and young adults could impact the world with the love of Christ and pursue God with a greater urgency and passion than the generations before them?

Scripture

Colossians 1:9-13 – So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

What beautiful words from Paul to the church in Colossae: the promise of unceasing prayer and his heartfelt desires for their walk with Christ. As Paul sat in prison, he was a true Prayer Champion before God on behalf of the early church everywhere, pleading with God for their protection and spiritual growth.

Let us follow Paul's example and be Prayer Champions for the future of the church today, for this generation of Christian young people. Consider what a great impact this generation of Christians could have in the world if an army of Prayer Champions rose up to pray for them as Paul prayed for the Colossian church. Let us echo Paul's prayers and ask God on their behalf for:

- Spiritual wisdom & understanding
- Lives that honor and please the Lord by bearing good fruit
- Growth as they learn to know God better
- Strength, endurance, patience through the power of God.
- Joy and thanksgiving

Discussion and Reflection

- Notice that Paul begins the passage saying, “So we have not stopped praying.” Paul doesn’t see praying for spiritual strength as something that has a stopping point but an ongoing process. Do you find it hard to pray consistently? Why?
- Are there people in your life that you once prayed for consistently, but now you have stopped?
- Think through each of the things Paul listed in his prayer. Are those things that you pray for others on a regular basis?
- How valuable do you feel your prayers for young Christians could be?
- Besides those things mentioned above, what other ways could we commit to pray for Christian teenagers and young adults? What unique challenges do they face?

Snapshot of a Generation

A faithful group remains:

- One-quarter of 18-29 year olds are practicing Christians – meaning they attend church at least once a month and affirm that their faith is very important in life.
- One-quarter of 18-29 year olds have read the Bible or attended a small group Bible study in the last week.
- 1 in 7 have volunteered at a church in the last week.
- Over 1,000 teens and young adults joined Dawson McAllister’s Tribe in the first 6 months taking a stand and saying “I want to do the next right thing and help my friends do the same.”

Story

Jill*, a Tribe Member, recently e-mailed the following:

“The Lord laid a burden on my heart for teenage girls who may need a home for some reason...abuse, drugs, pregnancy, or whatever it may be, but they need a place to go.

I am 18 in a few weeks, so it will be a little while before I am able to do anything I would like to do, but I’m apprenticing as a midwife, and I want to open a home someday to provide a place for a few girls at a time, and offer free pre & post natal care along with the birth, and just a home for some girls who have no place to go.

Do you think there’s a place for this? If I could help just one girl not to abort, it will be worthwhile.”

Another Tribe Member, Jordan*, requested our prayers for a calling God laid on her heart.

“I am a student at a Christian university and we are surrounded by various public universities that I feel are often times overlooked and forgotten. These campus’ are filled with lost individuals who are searching for a truth that will set them free. I have a passion and a vision for reaching these fellow college students but need more clarity for what college specifically God is calling me to.”

A while later she requested prayers again after she received clarity on which campus to visit:

“Please pray for myself and a small group of others who will be headed to a college campus this week. We’re planning on spending time in prayer on the campus and perhaps just meet a few students. We’re using this time as a means of dedicating the campus to God and our efforts.”

May we pray for strength and endurance for all those, like Lizzie and Bethany, who have a passion that God has laid on their hearts. May God use them to change the world!

Prayer Focus

- May Christian young people be on their guard and stand firm in the faith.
- May they be courageous.
- May they be filled with love.
- May they be given divine opportunities to share the love of Christ with others.
- May they receive an anointing of the Holy Spirit to be great witnesses.
- May they be equipped and protected with the full Armor of God.

Additional Scripture to Pray over Christian Young People

1 Corinthians 16:13-14: *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*

2 Timothy 1:7: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

1 Peter 3:15: *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

Ephesians 6:10-17: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*



Week 5 ~ In Him was Life

Introduction

Do you know anyone who is currently struggling with suicidal thoughts or has in the past? Why do you think many teens and young adults turn to suicide today?

Scripture

John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

When we think about how to pray for the needs of this generation, it is hard to know where to start. The cold truth is that far too many of those who are hurting, depressed, bullied, love-deprived, abused, neglected, addicted, etc., are *running* towards suicide. They believe that dying would be easier than living with the pain they are feeling. Suicide rates are flat-out alarming!

We must pray that this generation chooses LIFE, both physical life and eternal life. We must pray that this generation will not embrace death as a solution any longer. But the question remains, where do we begin to pray toward this end?

The Apostle John would bring us back to the beginning, the very beginning in fact. He would bring us here to find a person: the Word, Jesus Christ. And he wants us to see something very important about the Word: John wants to show us that the Word is *life*.

John shows us that Jesus is the very source of life. Nothing was created without him, but everything finds its place, its purpose, its being in Jesus. *In him is life*.

Jesus is the *only* answer for finding life! In John 14:6 Jesus himself says, “I am the way, the truth and *the life*.”

So when thinking about how to pray for this generation, a generation becoming more and more comfortable with death, we pray *life* for them; specifically, we pray Jesus Christ for them. May God direct them to a single person, a single hope, a single light that shines in the darkness.

Discussion and Reflection

- John says that in Jesus was (and is) life. And the life was the light of men. What does this mean for those around you who don't know Christ? In what ways are you currently sharing this life with others?
- John also tells us that the darkness does not overcome the light. This should give us confidence. Does your life reflect this confidence?
- Have you ever focused your prayers specifically on LIFE for this younger generation?
- Do you feel this is an important area to specifically focus? Why?
- As you've been spending time in prayer for this generation, what other specific areas have you felt called to focus your prayers on?

Snapshot of a Generation

- 13 out of every 100 people who die in this country take their own lives.
- 15.8% of high school students admit to serious suicidal thoughts.
- Nearly 13% of students have made a suicide plan.
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds.
- There is an attempted suicide every 3 seconds.
- One person successfully commits suicide every 16.2 minutes

Story

Alyssa* chatted back to TheHopeLine one night to say thanks for saving her life.

"I was suicidal and was going to commit suicide the very next day and then I found this site and decided to check it out as the very last of last resorts and instead of still continuing on with my suicide plan, I received God into my life."

She then shared that as a new Christian she has written a prayer that she goes to when things are hard:

"One of the things I keep on reading and rereading is something I wrote a few days ago...maybe God had me write it to prepare me for today and all the days in the future I feel bad: When you are stressed, lonely, tired, mad, depressed, angry, broken, unhappy, and feeling like the whole world is crashing down on you, do you still trust God? Do you know that God is on your side, and he did not make you feel this way? Do you know it's from the devil, and that the voice of the devil is trying to creep in and tell you that God is making you feel this way so that he can get you to turn away from God and join his side? God does not want you to suffer; He took that on the cross for us. God does however, want us to grow stronger so that we may build perseverance, and character, and hope, and love so that when something even harder is thrown at us, we will not fall, but instead stand in firm in Christ and His love. Romans 5:3-5 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

May we pray her words for the many people who need to understand Jesus, His love and the value of their own life!

Prayer Focus

- Pray that Christ would look more glorious and soul-satisfying than the prospect of ending life.
- Pray for those who are suicidal because they have lost their sense of worth. May they discover their value in the incredible love of the Father, who saw them as something precious and worth dying for.
- Pray for the suicidal because they are depressed, weak, and broken. May they hear Jesus saying to them, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
- Pray that the suicidal may find Jesus as the source of eternal life.
- Pray that Jesus, the light, will shine in their darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.
- And maybe as we pray, we will see that we have more to give, and that there are ways that we can practically be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are called to pray, and may our prayers move us to action as well.

Additional Scripture

John 10:10: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

John 14:6: *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*



Week 6 ~ Wake Up

Introductory Questions

What have you seen God do that was truly amazing?

Do you pray for things that are impossible to accomplish apart from the power of God?

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-3 – *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”*

Can these bones live? That’s the question that God asks Ezekiel when the Spirit of God brought him out into the middle of a valley, not a lush, green valley teeming with life, but a valley full of dead, dry bones.

And so Ezekiel finds himself faced with this question as he stands in a valley filled with death: can these dry bones live? Or the real question: can God do the impossible?

So God commands Ezekiel to prophesy, to speak the words of God over the bones: “Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:4-6)

And the words become reality: the bones become an exceedingly great army before Ezekiel. What you and I are faced with when we read this story is the same question posed to Ezekiel: can these bones live? When we feel that all hope is lost, do we really believe that God can change the course of history? Do we really believe He can turn millions of lost teens and young adults back to hope in His Son, Jesus? We read about these things in the pages of Scripture, but is that where we should leave them?

What is so encouraging about this story is that God has a word for dry, dead bones. Though they lay in a valley forgotten and alone, they are not unknown to God, and though they are dry and devoid of life, the breath of God will infuse them with vibrant life.

Let us approach God boldly on behalf of this generation, believing fully that He can accomplish a great work among them. May the breath of God cause them to *wake up* to a vibrant life in Christ. May there be an awakening of this generation!

Discussion and Reflection

- Do you believe that God can make dead bones come alive? Take this time to think through your faith. Have you seen God do the impossible?
- Do you really believe your prayers could result in moving an entire generation to turn back to God?
- If you sometimes doubt the power of prayer, what are some things that can be done to grow our faith?

Snapshot of a Generation

- 60% of churched 18-29 year olds leave the church before they turn 30.
- 48% of 18-28 year olds classify themselves as post-Christian, or highly post-Christian.
 - To be post-Christian they must have met 9 or more of the factors below, or if they are highly post-Christian they have met 12 factors:
 1. Do not believe in God
 2. Identify as atheist or agnostic
 3. Disagree that faith is important in their lives
 4. Have not prayed to God (in the last year)
 5. Have never made a commitment to Jesus
 6. Disagree the Bible is accurate
 7. Have not donated money to a church (in the last year)
 8. Have not attended a Christian church (in the last year)
 9. Agree that Jesus committed sins
 10. Do not feel a responsibility to “share their faith”
 11. Have not read the Bible (in the last week)
 12. Have not volunteered at church (in the last week)
 13. Have not attended Sunday school (in the last week)
 14. Have not attended religious small group (in the last week)
 15. Do not participate in a house church (in the last year)

Story

The following is a prayer that Mary* typed out as she was chatting with TheHopeLine. Through her chat with a HopeCoach, God spoke to her and she “woke up” and saw the truth. May more and more young people find this same truth.

“Jesus. I’m so sorry for a lot of things I’ve done in my life. There are so many things. But the worst was cursing your name. Saying many times that you were not real. Saying many times that you hated me...that you did not love me...that you like hurting me. I’m sorry for turning my back on you. For thinking I was smart enough, good enough, strong enough to do this on my own. I need you. There seems to be nothing for me here but you. Maybe this was all for a reason. Maybe I needed pain in my life to finally see you. I think you know me well enough that if life had been easy, I would have never seen you. Never looked for you and never accepted you. I am stubborn and self-righteous and look where it has gotten me... nowhere. because I can’t do this on my own. I believe that you can save me. I now believe you’re the only thing that can save me and I want to be saved, I need to be saved. Save me, love me, look out for me. I believe you will. I will go to sleep today knowing I have asked. And in the morning you will be there. You will be there every day for the rest of my life and I will see you. I will feel you. And I will not turn my back or look away again.”

Prayer Focus

- Pray that God would increase our faith: that we would truly believe that He is the God who raises the dead. Remember that faith the size of mustard seeds moves mountains!
- Pray that we would not simply believe that God has the ability to cause dry bones to live, but that we would see it happen in this generation. Pray that our faith would become sight!
- Pray for the 48% who classify themselves as post-Christian. May God move in their lives.
- Pray for opportunities for you to speak the Word of God to those people in your life who do not know Christ.
- Pray big prayers. Pray for God to move in incredible and impossible ways.
- Pray for an **awakening** among this entire generation.

Additional Scripture

Matthew 17:20 *He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” And I will not turn my back or look away again.”*

Mark 9:23-24 *Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

John 14:13-14 *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus **throughout all generations**, for ever and ever! Amen.*



One of the beautiful things about prayer is that as we witness God responding and answering our prayers our faith grows and we are spurred to deeper prayer. Sometimes the answers to our prayers may come years later, but we faithfully continue on, trusting God.

We hope that as you pray, you are able to see God at work in the lives of teenagers and young adults in your community. So while we ask that you PRAY BIG, pleading with God for a revival among an entire generation, we also hope that you will pray specifically for needs of teens and young adults in your local community and pray for individuals on a personal level.

Ways to continue on in prayer for the next generation.

- Commit to pray for a specific Tribe Member with the Dawson McAllister Association. There are over 1,000 Tribe Members who have signed up and said they want to help their friends. We would love to see each and every one of them prayed over. You will not have personal contact with the Tribe Member you are praying for, but we know your prayers will make a difference in their lives and the lives of their friends. If you can commit to praying for a Tribe Member for 8 weeks, please e-mail dawson@thehopeline.com . We will send you the name of a Tribe Member to pray for.
- Become a Prayer Champion on ThePrayerZone website. This site was designed to give teens and young adults a place to request prayers on-line and then have their requests prayed over by a Prayer Champion. It is an interactive site where there can be on-going dialogue and prayers posted back and forth. To become a prayer champion on ThePrayerZone go to <http://pray.dm/champion1> and fill out the on-line form.
- Partner with your church's youth group.
 - Ask to receive specific prayer requests from your youth leader.
 - Ask your youth leader if there is one student that you can become a prayer champion for.
 - Perhaps meet with that student on a regular basis and pray together.
 - Volunteer with your church's youth group.
- Partner with a local youth ministry in your community (FCA, Young Life, First Priority, Acquire the Fire, Teen Challenge, etc.)
 - Connect with the ministry leaders and see if they can begin forwarding specific prayer requests to you.
 - Volunteer at this youth organization and begin to build relationships with the kids they serve and pray for them.
- Think of a place where teens and young adults go to hang out in your community, and plan a time for your small group to go and pray over that place on a consistent basis.

Resources

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention
2. The Barna Group
3. American Religious Identification Survey
4. National Institute on Drug Abuse
5. www.thehopeline.com

*Denotes a name has been changed.

To Download Additional Prayer Guides visit:

<http://info.thehopeline.com/prayerguide>