

# BSCC Prayer Guide for June 12 - 13, 2020

Seeking to Align our Hearts with God's Perspective, Justice, and Peace

## **PAUSE**

"The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love." *Psalm 33:5 (NIV)*

As we enter a time of prayer, take a few moments to quiet your heart and mind. Focus on God's loving presence with you right now. Thank God for his character – that He loves whatever is just and good.

*(Consider lighting a candle as a visual reminder of God's Holy Spirit who is promised to live within all who believe in Christ.)*

## **REFLECT**

Read the following Scriptures slowly, allowing God's Word to speak to you. If you are praying with others, have someone read each passage out loud, giving several moments of silence after each one is read.

*Psalm 130 (NLT)*

### **A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.**

<sup>1</sup>From the depths of despair, O Lord, I call for your help.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer.

<sup>3</sup>Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive?

<sup>4</sup>But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

<sup>5</sup>I am counting on the Lord; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word.

<sup>6</sup>I long for the Lord more than sentries long for the dawn, yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

<sup>8</sup>He himself will redeem Israel from every kind of sin."

*Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT)*

"One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them.

### **The Beatitudes**

<sup>3</sup>"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup>God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup>God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup>God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

## **ASK**

“I am exhausted from crying for help; my throat is parched. My eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to help me.” *Psalm 69:3 (NLT)*

Rather than ignoring pain and suffering, or pushing it down so that it remains unexpressed, the Bible gives us countless examples of crying out to God. Spend time praying for the things on your heart in this season. Here are some prompts for which you might specifically pray:

- **People afflicted** – We ask God to comfort those who find their lives torn apart by grief, loss, fear, racial injustice, and trauma. We ask God to be near the brokenhearted, the lonely, the sick, and the poor.
- **The church and church leaders** – We ask God to give courage to church leaders seeking to bring Christ’s presence and hope amid trauma, unrest, and profound questions of pain. We ask for the Church around the world to be witnesses of the Good News of Jesus to EVERYONE and that we would display the unity Jesus prayed for us to experience.
- **Peacemakers** – We ask God to give clarity and wisdom to community leaders, government agencies and workers, blessing and supporting their efforts to bring justice, reconciliation, and aid.
- **For the Kansas City metro community** – We ask for God’s kingdom to come in our own community. We ask for God to show us how we should act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with him in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, in our schools, and in every corner of our city.
- **For an end to attitudes and systems of racial discrimination** – We ask God to let our lives testify to the worth of every life, especially those often overlooked and oppressed. We ask God to search our hearts and attitudes, to show us any offensive way in us, and to lead us on his path of everlasting life.

## **YIELD**

“I want your will to be done, not mine.” *Matthew 26:39b (NLT)*

Spend several moments in silence, with a posture of surrender to God’s will. Let Jesus’ example of humility and openness be your guide.

Close your time of prayer by reading this blessing:

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” *Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)*

### **Additional Prayer Ideas for This Week:**

- Spend time reading through Psalm 139. As you read, allow God to look within your heart and soul. Ask him to show you anything in your life that needs to be confessed. Ask God to reveal if there is something you need to make right. Is there a new direction God is directing you to move toward?
- Take a prayer walk or prayer drive around our community. Pause as you notice places and people for which you want to pray (examples: schools, offices, businesses, community services, etc.). Ask God to show you how you can encourage God's will to be done throughout our community. Pray, "Holy Spirit, come and fill this place. Turn every heart toward you. Bring your healing, your justice, your peace. God, may Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- Use the words and emotions from some of the Psalms and scriptures of lament as part of your prayers. For example: see Psalm 13, 69, 88.

Use this guided prayer time on RightNow Media, led by Latasha Morrison -

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/281763?episode=9>

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