

WHO TO PRAY FOR

Suggestion: Each day, pick one category and pray for one or two individuals in that category.

President _____

Cabinet members _____

Senators _____

Congressional representatives _____

Supreme Court _____

Military leaders _____

Governor _____

State legislators _____

Mayor _____

Police chief, sheriff _____

Others _____

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HOW TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

*“It is a great privilege, as well as our responsibility,
to pray for our government leaders.”*

— Billy Graham

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“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.” —1 TIMOTHY 2:1–3, NKJV

- **Petition** means to ask. God urges us to ask, and He is pleased when we do.
- **Prayer** is talking to God, anywhere, anytime, in any way.
- **Intercession** is praying for someone else. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us (see Romans 8:34), so it pleases God when we intercede for someone else—including heads of state and others in authority—because we are doing what Christ does.
- **Thanksgiving** always pleases God, and the Bible specifically tells us to include thanksgiving when talking to God about those in authority.

We are to pray respectfully for leaders. *“Honor all people. ... Fear God. Honor the king”* (1 Peter 2:17). We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God. *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God”* (Romans 13:1). We also pray knowing that God’s Word says, *“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes”* (Proverbs 21:1).

You can pray using words and thoughts from Scripture.

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- Open the heart of our president [or any leader at any level] to hear and respond to the Gospel message if they do not know you. *Acts 16:14*
 - Help [name] to accept wise counsel. *Proverbs 11:14; 15:22*
 - Teach [name] to trust in You. *Psalms 21:7*
 - Protect [name] from the influence of the evil one. *2 Thessalonians 3:3*
 - Give [name] discretion, foresight, and understanding in making decisions. *1 Chronicles 22:12*
 - Deliver [name] from opinions contrary to Your Word. *Psalms 119:105*
 - Protect [name] from harm, and bless and protect his/her family. *Psalms 21:11; Ezra 6:10*
 - Enable [name] to carry out his/her duties with humility toward You and toward others. *1 Peter 5:5*
 - Give [name] the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing. *Proverbs 2:11–15*
 - Give [name] a tender heart of compassion toward those he/she leads and serves. *Colossians 3:12*