

**PRAYER FOR EVERYONE
24TH SEPTEMBER – 1ST OCTOBER
CHURCH RESOURCE PACK**



KEY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

If you have any questions about planning, resources and support to take part in the 'Prayer for Everyone', please contact:

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I. ABOUT 'PRAYER FOR EVERYONE'

WHAT IS PRAYER FOR EVERYONE?

Prayer for Everyone aims to engage Christian communities in a worldwide prayer action over seven days from 24th September to 1st October to pray for the Sustainable Development Goals as they are revealed.

Aligning with the efforts of [action/2015](#) and [Project Everyone](#), this concept aims to help all 7 billion on the planet know about the Goals in 7 days, as a first step to holding leaders to account for delivering on their promises.

Background

The new Sustainable Development Goals offer an extraordinary opportunity for the world – shaping the futures of people everywhere for the next 15 years. These Goals set targets for issues including health and well-being, justice and peace, and the environment. Essentially, it is the world's Action Plan to establish safety, equality, prosperity and dignity for all. Citizens must know about the new Goals if they are to hold their leaders to account for their delivery.

Achieving the *Global Goals* will require mobilising a broad network of committed stakeholders – and the diverse range of faith groups across the world, to which 6 billion people identify are a significant starting point. Faith communities and religious leaders can play a critical role in popularising the goals by reaching out to significant numbers of young people, women and men, and engaging them in action.

Through the Prayer for Everyone initiative, we at World Vision ask you as a church leader to call your members to prayer and action during the *Global Goals* week in September.

Religion, Faith and Sustainable Development

We have not only a Biblical mandate with moral and spiritual responsibility to work towards a better future for this earth and all forms of its life, but also enormous and transformative power in Christ to put towards the achievement of these *Global Goals*. Our Christian communities have long been at the forefront of dynamic and significant change, and change is needed now more than ever.

The issues addressed by the *Global Goals* are central to all faith/religious/spiritual traditions, which are the shared expressions of our humanity, namely:

- The right to live a life of dignity, free from hunger and disease
- The right of all people to live to their fullest human potential, in safety and well-being
- Recognition of the sacred and divine and its life-giving elements
- The shared responsibility to work together so that our expressions of faith contribute to more sustainable development for the whole planet

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT AND INSPIRING OTHERS

During this week we will devote ourselves in front of our God to seek his blessings and prayer for the entire world as we aspire to a more peaceful and sustainable future for the next generation. In the last decades, we have seen too many people suffer from hunger and undernutrition, disasters, violence against women and children, gender inequality and other unbearable plights. We now place ourselves in front of our God for his mighty hands to save our planet from all sorts of wrong doings, injustice and inequity. We also pray for our national and global leaders to guide every nation and the world towards a better future for our children.

Please include in your prayers your family, friends, community and state as the world's population faces problems of injustice and inequity in their daily lives. Please pray for sustainable growth and development of our nation, so that all children and their families can thrive in a safe and peaceful environment.



World Vision Staff taking part in a faith event in Bolivia. Credit: World Vision

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL GOALS WE ARE PRAYING FOR

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that will guide country agendas and political priorities over the next 15 years. The global goals will be formally announced in September 2015, just in time for the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals, which were agreed by governments in 2000. The goals are intended to tackle the most urgent issues of our time – poverty and inequality.

The 17 global goals are action-oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and priorities. They seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development.



- 1. NO POVERTY:** *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*
- 2. NO HUNGER:** *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*
- 3. GOOD HEALTH:** *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION:** *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY:** *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:** *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*
- 7. MODERN ENERGY:** *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*
- 8. GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:** *Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*
- 9. INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES: Reduce inequalities within and among countries

11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13. PROTECT THE PLANET: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14. LIFE BELOW WATER: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15. LIFE ABOVE WATER: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

16. PEACE AND JUSTICE: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Children in Sierra Leone pledge their support for a country with ZERO preventable deaths. Credit: World Vision

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

WHAT CAN WE DO AS COMMUNITIES AND CHURCH LEADERS?

Each community will know how to most effectively promote the *Global Goals* in their own way in their own context. This resource pack provides *Global Goals* branding that can be used in posters and worship materials as needed. Here are some ideas to get you started.

HOW WILL WE DO THAT? REFLECT – STUDY – WITNESS – COMMUNICATE - ACT

REFLECT

- Create space for reflection or meditation on the *Global Goals*, the issues they address and what it will take for them to be achieved.
- You as a Christian leader can include the relevant issues (e.g. water, food, poverty, peace and justice, etc.) in worship and special services to explore the *Global Goals*' significance in faith and development and encourage reflection or meditation on God's word.

STUDY

- Theologians and religious educators can use the Bible to explore the subjects of the *Global Goals* to promote deeper understanding of how faith calls individuals to work towards a better world.
- Your Christian communities can devote special attention to the issues in regular study groups, or create a special study group for the week. These could be organised and contextualised for all ages and members of the church family.

WITNESS

- How do the issues addressed in the *Global Goals* affect the members of your own faith community, and the surrounding communities? Make time during *Global Goals* week to seek out and bear witness to the impacts of poverty, inequality, injustice, poor health, harm to the environment, etc. For example:
 - Create opportunities to respectfully engage with those most impacted in your community, listen to their voices and share these voices with the larger community.
 - Document environmental degradation or pollution and give it a voice.

COMMUNICATE

- Christian media in all its forms has enormous coverage and deep penetration making it an excellent vehicle to promote the *Global Goals* and engage people in virtual global dialogue.
 - Dedicate programming on religious radio, television and social media for *Goals Week* to the issues and actions around the *Global Goals*.
 - Provide print or digital media with content to publish during the week.
- Radio and television have enormous potential in most of the world to convey information and engage communities in dialogue. For example:

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

- Adapt and use radio content that is being developed and made freely available by *Radio Everyone*. A range of content is being produced which is designed to draw attention to the themes of the goals and help make them famous
- Encourage local media to highlight the significance the *Global Goals* have on local communities; and how they can take action to work towards their achievement.
- Social media is particularly powerful in reaching and connecting youth around the world.
 - Use Twitter to start chain actions, such as a global ‘Tweet-a-prayer’
 - Create chat spaces, Facebook pages, hashtags or other opportunities for discussing issues, and sharing of ideas and actions for *Global Goals* week

ACT

- People of faith, faith leaders, and faith-based organisations can organise to draw attention to the goals and engage others within their community about the importance of the goals.
- Campaign materials for you as a Christian Leaders can be used to develop special worship services that bring to life the *Global Goals* in engaging and thoughtful ways, such as through music, theatre, art, and other relevant forms of creative and spiritual expression.
- Youth groups can organise social media campaigns, rallies, flash mobs or music festivals to share how their faith informs their commitment to achieving the *Global Goals*.
- Encourage leaders of different faiths to come together and have a meal together to dialogue around the SDGs and Global Goals. Each Global Goal can be outlined on an A4 paper placemat as a discussion starter.
 - As the *Global Goals* are an expression of common, shared ground between faith communities, the launch week affords a great opportunity to mobilise inter-faith/religious actions and events to forge alliances that can work towards the achievement of the goals through 2030.

ACTION TIMELINE

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread the word about ‘Prayer for Everyone’ within your Church, schools, children’s clubs, parents’ groups, associations, etc. • Plan your activities – meeting leaders, organising prayer sessions, etc. • Mobilise communities, congregations, government and religious leaders to join your actions – book into their diaries! Don’t forget to invite the religious media too.
September	Organise your prayer activities between 24 th September and 1 st October
2-8 October	Tell us what happened! Fill in the quick survey using this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7

2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

PRAYER IS A TOOL FOR ACTION. Here are some examples of how offices can mobilise and gather people to pray around the launch of the Global Goals.

WHAT CAN OFFICES DO? You can do one, two or all of these – it's up to you to choose what will work best in your office and the communities where you work. You are sure to have your own ideas too – tell us and we can share them with others!

- Develop an action plan about how you can share information among your Church family during the week
- Translate the Church Resource pack into your local languages so that communities can be easily involved
- Invite other Christian contacts in your fraternities to join in the 'Prayer for Everyone'
- Organise an orientation with leaders from other faiths during which they would be briefed around the Global Goals, and how they can contribute to support government and raise awareness at community level
- Make sure you invite government officials to join in the prayer too - they will be really important in making sure the new Global Goals happen in the community - so get them involved!
- Organise a dialogue at national level, e.g. on Sunday 27 September
- Organise a one hour orientation for schools and children's clubs/parliaments your church is connected to.
- Organise radio programmes and/or TV talk shows during which you can meet and discuss the importance and moral imperative to act on the SDGs and their role.
- Promote the 'Prayer for Everyone' on social media.
- Participate in an initial meeting with the leaders of different faith communities (Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc.) to brief them about the initiative at province, district, sub-district and national levels. Encourage the idea of a dinner with leaders of other faiths to come together around the Global Goals and deepen interfaith relationships

Meet as Christian church leaders early on, so that you can set aside time in your planned sermon series for Sunday, 27th September. Share the vision and inspire the impact of praying into the Global Goals and the 'Prayer for Everyone' concept

Present the 'Prayer for Everyone' initiative at different key events in your church calendar over the next two months.

In your role as a Christian leader, consider engaging the media by participating in an interview focused on the initiatives.

➤ **TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!**

Take a look at this quick survey before planning your activities

Fill it in by October 8th using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7>

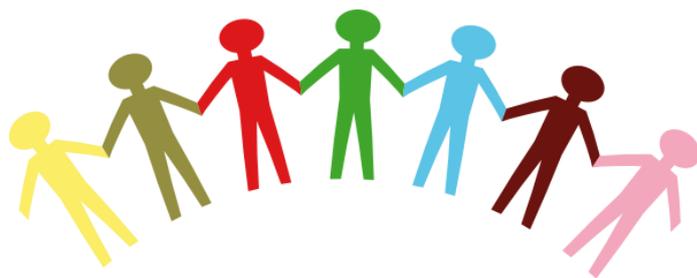
Please get all the office information together before completing the survey as only ONE answer per church will be recorded.

3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

For the 'Prayer for Everyone' we want to focus on the role of Christians praying and taking action to build a fair, peaceful and sustainable world for their children to live in. For this, we have provided guidance for three sermons that offices can use to engage church and Christian networks. This guidance can also be used for small groups or Bible studies.

SERMON FOCUS I – PRAYER FOR ALL

The Bible passage John 17: 20-23 illustrates the 'Prayer for Everyone' in all its simplicity. It conveys a message of prayer for all, regardless of faith, origin, gender or age. One strong unified voice behind a common goal will prompt world leaders to take bold actions.



Jesus Prays for All Believers

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,^[1] so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we

are one,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

In this passage, Jesus prays for his future followers – people he hadn't yet met, men, women and children across the ages. He prayed for their unity, not based simply on common beliefs or behaviours, but rather a unity found by participating in the very life of God. This prayer that "they may be one as we are one" is extended to those who will believe through the preaching of the apostles.

Christ's prayer for broken humanity is that we may continue to be one. The oneness that Jesus desires for us is the same oneness that binds together the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the sum of God's character; it is unifying love, merciful compassion. Jesus prays that we continue in the unity of love; that we be one.

As we advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of the world's children, we need to unite to vehicle a strong message to our global leaders.

Discussion/ Application topics:

1. How does this passage resonate with your work and daily life?
2. How do you feel this unity and togetherness can shape a better future for the world's children?
3. In what way does Jesus prayer for us and our prayers for everyone act as a tool for social action? When you pray what and who changes?
4. Share a personal or professional story of how you have worked with others to advocate for a common cause or to achieve a common goal.

3. PRAYERS AND SERMON TOPICS

SERMON FOCUS 2 – BUILDERS OF THE WALL

The Bible passage in Nehemiah 2: 1-20, is about a man approaching the King and working together with the community to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, conveys a strong message of courage and solidarity.

When Nehemiah heard the news about the deplorable conditions in the city of Jerusalem, he wept, mourned, fasted and prayed. He waited four months on God to lead, direct and provide. But he was also a strong leader with great courage, godliness and wisdom.



Nehemiah 2 has some helpful insights on the realities of serving God. Studying his life will help us, to not be overly idealistic and thus vulnerable to disillusionment; but also to be realistic while not giving in to cynicism and dropping out. Nehemiah faced real problems but he moved through them to great accomplishments.

The passage demonstrates that waiting on God, working with all sorts of people, and wrestling wisely with a steady stream of problems, are essential to finish the course that God has set before us. This scene also contains a beautiful example of spontaneous prayer. Before turning to answer the King, Nehemiah “prayed to the God of heaven.”

For our work, and through advocacy around personal or community causes, this is particularly relevant and reassures us that we too are invited to take action with other people of faith as well as community members, within God’s broader plans to make a difference.

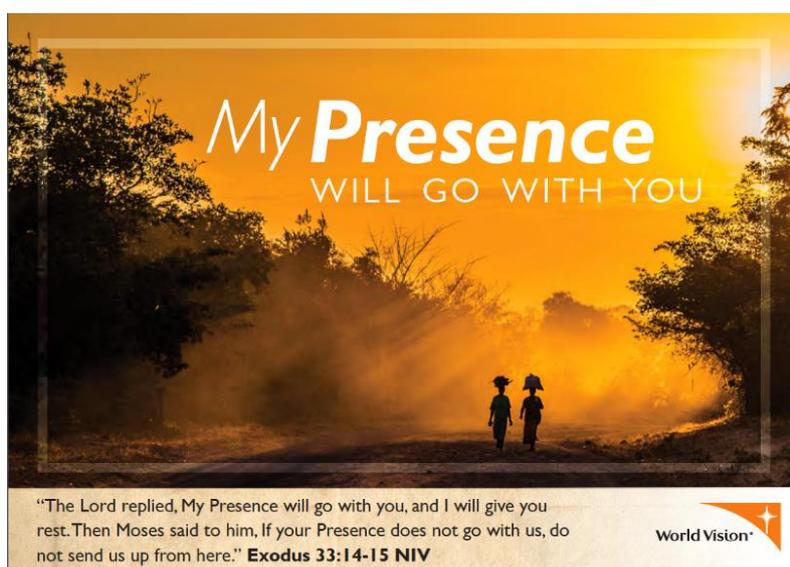
Discussion topics:

1. What can we learn about Nehemiah’s faith in God in the way he related to senior officials and government in order to gain resources for rebuilding the walls?
2. Reflect upon the results of Nehemiah’s advocacy and communication. Think about the role that he had as cupbearer to the King and how he used his access to exercise influence. How did Nehemiah influence both the King and the grassroots community?
3. What will help us to step out in faith in building relationships with influential members of our community? How does this relate to approaching national and global leaders on the promises made to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals?
4. You may want to share a personal story of someone who has influenced your life, or a life that you have influenced through personal actions.
5. Share stories about the impact that World Vision’s campaigning and advocacy has had with a particular focus on the global goals.

3. PRAYERS AND SERMON TOPICS

SERMON FOCUS 3 – YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Bible passage Matthew 5: 14-16 shines light on the kingdom that we, as Christians, want to build for the world's children. A world empty of poverty and injustice, and one in which decision-makers do what's right, find the light and will to deliver on their promises.



“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”

(Matthew 5:14-16)

Light is a very common metaphor in the Bible. Along with darkness, light is often used to contrast ignorance and knowledge. Here, it almost certainly stands for the world's opportunity to perceive the truth about Jesus. Light allows people to see. Being the light of the world, we actually carry out the same purpose that Jesus had in coming to earth.

In our advocacy work ahead of the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, this passage can be interpreted in two ways: it can either represent the symbolism (i) of shining light on the goals for the seven billion people to be aware of their government's commitment and to work towards their achievement; or (ii) of putting the spotlight on world leaders so that they fulfil their commitments (message of accountability). Consider discussing both interpretations of this light metaphor.

Discussion topics:

1. How can we interpret this passage in light of the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What role do you think global and national leaders play in shedding light on these goals? What role do faith leaders and communities play in getting these goals known and fulfilled by all?
3. What role can citizens play as torch-bearers to keep their government leaders accountable? Provide examples of how you can personally get involved through your personal and professional life.

3. PRAYERS AND SERMON TOPICS

PRAYER POINTS - Eight days of daily prayer

Day 1 – 24th September

Pray for our **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. Ask God to make us effective partners with other community groups to advocate the needs of our most vulnerable.

Day 2 – 25th September

Ask God to bring **POVERTY** down to **ZERO**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Pray for **GOOD JOBS AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**: Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Day 3 – 26th September

Pray God will raise up the food production, availability and fair distribution so that there is **ZERO HUNGER**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Pray for **WELL-BEING** and **GOOD HEALTH** for all

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Pray for **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Day 4 – 27th September

Pray we act as good stewards of God's creation and **PROTECT THE PLANET**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Pray for wise use of our water ways so that we have **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Pray for wisdom in how we treat **LIFE BELOW WATER**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Pray for wisdom in how we treat **LIFE ABOVE WATER**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



3. PRAYERS AND SERMON TOPICS

Day 5 – 28th September

Pray for teaching and learning that provides QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

that promotes GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and will **REDUCE INEQUALITIES**

Reduce inequalities within and among countries.

Day 6 – 29th September

Ask God to raise up communities that are SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Pray for the use of MODERN ENERGY: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Ask God to release gifts of creativity for INNOVATION

AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Day 7 – 30th September

Pray for a world at rest and filled with PEACE AND JUSTICE

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Day 8 – 1st October

Pray for World Vision as an organisation as we seek to serve God in full reliance on Jesus Christ to impact this world for the most vulnerable be it in the field or in the corridors of power. Pray with us and for us on our **Day of Prayer** as an organisation.

4. MONITORING RESULTS

➤ TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!

Take a look at this quick survey before planning your activities

Fill it in by October 8th using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7>

NOTE: the questions are copied below for your information only

Please get all the office information together before completing the survey as only **ONE** answer per office will be recorded.

YOUR NAME: _____ **POSITION:** _____ **CHURCH:** _____

1. **Who did you involved in 'Prayer for Everyone' Please specify number of people and type of groups involved, making an estimate to the best of your ability (eg. 50, 500 or 5000)**
 - **Children:** _____
 - **Adults:** _____
 - **Church leaders:** _____
 - **Journalists and media:** _____
 - **Government officials:** _____
 - **Community Health Workers:** _____
 - **Teachers:** _____
 - **Others (Please specify):** _____
2. **How did you mobilise people around 'Prayer for Everyone'? What type of activities did your Church carry out (before, during and/or after the week of prayer)? Please also specify if online or offline.**
3. **Where and when did you organize these activities? Please also specify if online or offline.**
4. **Did you coordinate or collaborate with other faith communities than the Christian community? If so, which?**
5. **How did your Church engage in the 'Prayer for Everyone'? How did they respond to the initiative?**
6. **How did Government officials engage in the 'Prayer for Everyone'? How did they respond to the initiative?**
7. **What are your follow-up plans with as Church leaders or government officials?**
8. **What type of support would you need from World Vision's Global Centre?**
9. **Would you like to add any information?**