

“Pray for your three”

Prayer & Action Guide





Pray for your three.

You may be asking a couple of questions, like—“Why just three people?” Or, “Why even pray at all? Doesn’t God know my thoughts anyways (Psalm 94v11)?” These are good questions, and the answers are simple.

We all have various spaces in which we live, and different people with whom we interact with. People you work with, go to school with, do hobbies with together, or live next to. Why settle praying for just one person when you can be praying for a person in each of these spaces?

Sure, the Bible won’t tell you to specifically pray for three people, but it does provide us with a vision for praying for those that you desperately want to come to know Jesus.

Check out John 14v12-14:

12“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

*Those who believe in Jesus will become more and more like Him and will do the things He did. He met people where they were at and built relationships with those who did not know God. **We ought to pray for those who do not know Jesus — that they would come to know Him!***

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What if I don't have three?

That's OK. You might have zero, one, or maybe even more than three. Either way, we all start somewhere. Consider these spaces in which we live:

Personal spaces.

Like in our homes or where we spend time with our immediate family.

Is there someone in your immediate family, like a brother or cousin who you want to commit to praying for?

Public spaces.

School, work, or places more professional in their settings.

At your work or school, is there a classmate or co-worker you interact with on a regular basis that you can begin praying for?

Social spaces.

Coffee shops or gyms, where people go to socialize and connect with others over activities or food and drink.

Is there someone that you have been crossing paths with at the gym or coffee shop that you can start praying for?

If you're not in some kind of social space...

Consider getting into one intentionally for these purposes. People are increasingly not wandering into or interested in going to a church building. Even if the culture was different, God has always moved His people to go out and reach others, to BE the church and not just go to church.

If you can't choose just three to pray for...

Don't feel like you have to limit yourself! However, for some it might be difficult to go outside of our comfort zone, to meet and interact with someone we don't know well, especially someone who may disagree with our beliefs and lifestyle. Try simply praying for God to show you someone in your life and in those spaces.



Begin praying for your three.

So... what should you be praying for? One of the challenges here is that every person you will be praying for comes from a different worldview, mindset, stage of life and background. Here are some helpful tips to get you started:

Relationships.

Pray that God would help you build authentic relationships with your three. As Jesus invited us to “come and see” what a relationship with God looks like, do the same for others.

Opportunities.

Ask for opportunities to love and serve your three. One of the most compelling ways of modeling Jesus for others is meeting a need and showing love that only God can provide. (Matthew 5v16)

Persistence.

It’s easy to be discouraged with relationships and conversations (or lack thereof) about Jesus and praying without seeing any “results.” It’s OK. It’s God’s timing, and we just need to be faithful. (Colossians 4v2)

Boldness.

Ask for the boldness to confidently and lovingly present the Gospel in various ways to others. (Ephesians 6v19)

Conviction.

Pray that your three would understand the person, message, and story of Jesus without guilt or shame but in conviction that Jesus did come to us, die for us, and raise again, inviting us into a relationship with Him. (Hebrews 11v1)

Repentance.

Pray for repentance — not to reach some kind of moral standard, but to receive the gift of a right relationship with Jesus. (Acts 2v38)

Enemy.

We should pray against the work of the enemy in the lives of those for whom we are praying. (Ephesians 6v12)



From prayer to action.

Praying for our three should motivate us toward action in sharing the Gospel. What could those actions be? Before we provide some practical tips for you, let's observe Jesus and how He took action in **Luke 15v1-7**:

¹“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’

³So he told them this parable: ⁴‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.’”

Jesus shows the importance of connecting with those who do not have a relationship with God. ***Even if just one of your three come to know Jesus, all of your prayers, your relationship-building, and your frustrations and efforts are all worth it.*** You get to see God work and heaven will rejoice.

Here are some helpful tips to get you started:

Ask good questions.

Especially in the beginning of friendship-building, you want to ask really good questions, and a lot of them. Be more interested in them. Get to know them and what they believe through good questions.

Be present and available.

This is a big deal. With social media, we are more connected than ever, yet at the same time, more disconnected than ever. People need others that they can rely on to be there when life happens. They may not agree with all of your “theology” or way of life, but if you're available, they will look to you.



Make gospel connections.

Often called, “no-brainer” moments. These are those moments when you see how the Gospel (maybe it's a story of verse from the Bible) really intersects with someone's life and current situation. Be on the look out for these moments, and ask if you can share how you see the message and story of Jesus speaking to that person's life.

Don't be a jerk.

The Gospel is offensive enough, we don't have to be. There will probably be times when your opinions and views clash. Stay focused on how you can lovingly, with grace and truth, steer people to healthy conversation.

Eat food.

Jesus so often did ministry around a meal. Seriously, check out the gospels and you'll see that Jesus is reclining at a table or visiting someone's house for a meal. So much conversation and life can happen in these settings — eat food with your three!

Invite others.

Who are others that you can invite into that relationship? Maybe from your church or Life Group? Someone might even connect better with one of your three than you do — and that's OK!

Don't wait for the church.

Be the church. You don't need to wait for an event hosted by the church to invite your friends to (although at times this could be helpful). Create your own spaces and invite them in — or join them in theirs!

Keep praying.

It all circles back to prayer and reliance on Jesus. So often we can forget to pray. Allow prayer to be part of your daily or weekly rhythm of life. We even have reminders available for you!



Now what?

All right... You've been praying for your three. And not just praying but also taking action, sharing the Gospel with your three. But now what? What if someone completely rejects your efforts? What if someone comes to know Jesus? These things will happen, and, as you may have guessed, we have some tips for you:

Baptism.

When one of your three comes to know Jesus, invite them into proclaiming that relationship publicly through baptism! This is a great and biblical next step in anyone's faith in Jesus. Check out more information here:

<https://medinaeast.gracechurches.org/adultbaptism/>

Disciple-Making.

As some of your three become more interested in Jesus or in putting their faith in Him for the first time, be part of their spiritual growth. We call this disciple-making. It's saying to someone else, "follow me as I follow Jesus" (1 Corinthians 11v1). Check this out:

<https://medinaeast.gracechurches.org/disciple-making/>

Life Group.

So much real-life interaction and community-building can happen here. This might just be the next step that one of your three needs. Check it out:

<https://medinaeast.gracechurches.org/liveit/lifegroups/>

Keep it going.

Don't be discouraged. If someone completely rejects you, keep them in your prayers. You may be praying for the same person for an entire lifetime, and that's OK. On the other hand, if you've run out of people to pray for because they now all following Jesus, then congratulations! You have the spiritual gift of evangelism! Well, I'm half joking. This is all God's doing and timing, not our own. Simply add more people to your three — and let us know so we can continue praying alongside you!



“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6v9-13
(Jesus modeling prayer and action)