

## DAY 1 - PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

### DEVOTION

*Luke 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.*

“Forgive us as we forgive them” transform prayer into a bridge to reconciliation, not a weapon of division. The heart and posture of our prayers must therefore reflect the nature of God—the One who does not take sides but seeks unity and restoration. To pray for one party only is to overlook the truth of His desire—that **all** be saved, whether Jew, Muslim, Israeli, or Palestinian.

*1Timothy 2:3-4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants **ALL PEOPLE** (including Israeli and Palestinian) to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

Regardless of our stance or allegiance, our Christian calling is to pray for all—on both sides of the divide. It is not merely a duty but a sacred privilege, especially when lifting up those we perceive as being at fault or even as adversaries.

*Matthew 5:43-45: You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven*

Albert Einstein once stated, "*No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.*" This underscores that neither Israel nor Palestine, not Mr. Trump nor Mr. Netanyahu, neither Judaism nor Islam, not even politicians or economists can offer lasting solutions to the current conflict in Gaza. True resolution can only emerge from a conscience that transcends the conflict—a conscience rooted in peace, reconciliation, and redemption. There is but one answer: the Church of Jesus Christ.

It is therefor imperative that our prayers should always start by praying for the Church – In Israel, in Gaza and in the West Bank. The Church on both sides of the wall holds the keys to peace and our prayers should provide the spiritual foundation for followers of Christ to set the example



Prayer is aligning  
ourselves with the  
purposes of God.

E. Stanley Jones

BrainyQuote



# Dia-LOGOS

<https://dialogos.co.za/project-hope-gaza/>

## DAY 1 - PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

### THE CHURCH IN GAZA

#### GAZA DEMOGRAPHICS

The Gaza Strip is a Palestinian territory of about 365 square kilometers and a pre-war population of 2.1 million inhabitants, making it one of the world's most densely populated regions in the world.

Since 7 October 2023

- Killed: at least 61,709 people, including 17,492 children
- Injured: more than 111,588 people

#### RELIGIONS

99% Sunni Islam (official)

<1% Christianity - Of the **1,070** Christians who were living in Gaza when the war started, only some **600** are still trying to survive there.

#### CHRISTIANITY

Gaza's Christian community has a long history, with the Church of Saint Porphyrius, dating back to the 5th century, being the oldest church in the enclave. In October 2023, an Israeli air strike destroyed one of the buildings in the compound of the Church of Saint Porphyrius, killing at least 17 people. About 400 Palestinians, both Christians and Muslims, had taken refuge there, in the hope that the church would be spared the devastating bombing. The church was among a number that had opened their doors to Palestinians fleeing the air strikes, which began on October 7, 2023

The Christian population in Gaza is primarily comprised of Greek Orthodox, with smaller numbers of Roman Catholics, and Protestants.

Mitri Raheb, an Evangelical Lutheran pastor and founder of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, said it was conceivable that the current conflict would spell the end of Christianity in its long history in this strip of land. *"This community is under threat of extinction,"* Raheb said. *"I'm not sure if it will survive the Israeli bombing, and even if it survives, I think many will want to emigrate."* ***"We know that within this generation, Christianity will cease to exist in Gaza,"*** he added.

<https://thethirdway.org/christianity-in-gaza-for-gods-sake-church-stand-out-and-speak-up/>



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## DAY 1 - PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

### THE CHURCH IN ISRAEL

#### ISRAEL DEMOGRAPHICS

**Population:** Israel has a population of **9,4 million** people, ethnically divided as follows:

- Jewish 73.5% (of which Israel-born 79.7%)
- Arab 21.1%,
- other 5.4% (2022 est.)

#### RELIGIONS

The four major religions in Israel are Judaism, Islam, Christianity and Druze but **65%** of Israelis declared in a recent poll that they are either **not religious or convinced atheists**. Israel is **NOT** a nation of faith but one of the world's least religious nations in the world.

- By faith, there are more committed Muslims in Israel than Jews
- Judaism: even though 73.5% would declare to be Jewish in culture, only 12% would profess to be Jewish in faith.
- Muslim 18.1%,
- Christian 1.9%,
- Druze 1.6%,

#### CHRISTIANITY

- Christianity is the third largest religion in Israel, after Judaism and Islam. At the end of 2022, Christians made up **1.9%** of the Israeli population, numbering approximately **185,000**.
- **Three out of four (75.8%)** of the Christians in Israel are **Arab Christians**.

#### MESSIANIC JEWS

*Israel Today* reported on how many Messianic Jews there are in Israel.

- 15,323 members in 273 churches (They were unable to contact seven groups);
- **8,125 of the adults are Messianic Jews**

#### PERSECUTION

Since Netanyahu's far-right government came into power there has been an **increase** in anti-Christian incidents



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## DAY 1 - PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

### Pray for safety

- Pray for all civilians – that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.
- Pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- Pray for the safe distribution of food, water, sanitary items, and medical supplies.
- Pray for people forced to flee their homes, pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

### Pray for strength

- Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty.
- Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding.

### Pray for hope

- Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that lasting peace is possible.
- Pray for the families of hostages from Israel and beyond who are desperately awaiting the release of their loved ones.
- Pray for the millions of people in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon who have had to leave their homes under horrific circumstances and are dealing with the trauma of the conflict.

### Pray for healing

- Pray for people who have been traumatised or injured. Ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured.

• <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/10/how-to-pray-for-gaza-and-israel>



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# Dia-LOGOS

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## DAY 2 - PRAY FOR PEACE

### DEVOTION

To pursue peace, we first need to define peace. The peace we pray for is not merely the absence of external conflict but the presence of deep, internal harmony. Jesus did not come to offer appeasement, built on compromise or conformity. Instead, He brought a deep spiritual peace—one that takes root in the hearts of those who are reconciled with God, at peace within themselves, and in unity with their neighbours.

*Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

This scripture was not written from a place of peace, nor was it addressed to an audience living in safety. It came from the heart of Paul, a man under house arrest, enduring the weight of a brutal dictatorship. In a modern context, it was shared by a Gazan believer with the Church in Gaza—a message that resonates deeply.

The Philippians, too, lived under the oppressive grip of the Roman Empire. They experienced what was called the *Pax Romana*—the Roman Peace—enforced not through harmony, but through military dominance. Compliance was mandatory. Rebellion was met with crucifixion or execution. Peace had to be maintained, no matter the cost, and no one was permitted to disrupt it. For many in Gaza today, the challenge remains—how to seek true peace in the midst of a *Pax Israeli*.

Paul, in his exhortation to the Church in Philippi, says that God's peace is conceived by guarding our hearts and minds. The world doesn't give peace, for it doesn't have any peace to give. It fights for peace, it negotiates for peace, it maneuvers for peace, but there is no ultimate peace in the world. Jesus offers true peace to those who place their trust in Him. And when you receive His peace, you naturally step into the role of an ambassador—reflected in how you speak about your enemies, engage in discussions about conflict, and carry yourself in both attitude and words toward those who oppose you. Being a peacemaker is an active pursuit. It means striving for reconciliation, resolving conflicts, fostering understanding, and promoting harmony. It requires listening with an open heart, embracing different perspectives, and seeking common ground—even in the face of disagreement or injustice. Peacemakers serve as mediators, guiding others toward peaceful solutions and addressing the deeper roots of conflict.



Never forget the three  
powerful resources you  
always have available to  
you: love, prayer, and  
forgiveness.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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# Dia-LOGOS

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## DAY 2 - PRAYING FOR PEACE

### A COMMUNAL PRAYER

Pray together – more than once

#### **God of justice and compassion,**

We cry out to you for the people of Gaza, particularly for the children. We pray for an unequivocal ceasefire and the resumption of aid and food deliveries.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas. We pray that those released may find healing and the restoration of hope in the months ahead.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We continue to pray for a safe and prosperous tomorrow for Palestinians and Israelis, a future of equal rights for all and an end to the occupation.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We lift all humanitarian, medical and rescue workers and their staff before you. We ask that they remain safe and know your peace and protection.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for ourselves, that we may resist hatred, stand for justice, and open ourselves to be channels of your peace.

**We ask all of this in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

<https://embraceme.org/our-prayers/israel-palestine-urgent-prayer-for-peace>



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## DAY 3 - PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

### DEVOTION

God is revealed both in His greatness and His love toward the vulnerable.

*For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:14-19).*

The gods that the ancient world worshipped were concerned with great people — the mighty and cunning, the swift and the gorgeous. The rest of humanity served as a backdrop — bit players, foils, and inconsequential fodder for the grand plans of kings, generals, and deities.

Not so with the God of the Bible. We see God’s strange interest in the people on the margins carved upon every page of Scripture. What a contrast. We see God, the most potent and self-sufficient Power imaginable, continually expressing profound concern for the least potent and self-sufficient — the orphan in distress.

The Law describes, “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow ...” (Deuteronomy 10:18 NIV).

As we grasp this outlandish, beautiful reality, we encounter the truth of God’s father heart. It pulses for the broken hearted in Gaza, the hopeless in Rafah, the desperate in the West Bank and the longing in Israel. And, of course, we must not miss the fact that God calls his people to do the same. We are to live out “pure and faultless religion” by caring for the orphan and widow in their distress (James 1:27).

As we do this, we reveal God’s heart to the world. **This is our God**

<https://thinkpoint.wordpress.com/2014/10/08/the-god-of-the-vulnerable/>





# Dia-LOGOS

<https://dialogos.co.za/project-hope-gaza/>

## DAY 3 - PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

### INFORMATION

#### GAZA

- Killed: at least 61,709 people, including 17,492 children
- Injured: more than 111,588 people
- Missing and presumed dead: more than 14,222

#### OCCUPIED WEST BANK

- Killed: at least 905 people, including at least 181 children
- Injured: more than 7,370 people

#### ISRAEL

- Killed: 1,139 people
- Injured: at least 8,730

#### BUILDINGS

Israeli attacks have damaged:

- Almost all of Gaza's homes (damaged or destroyed)
- 80 percent of commercial facilities
- 88 percent of school buildings
- Healthcare facilities - 50 percent of hospitals are partially functional
- 68 percent of road networks
- 68 percent of cropland

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>



**PROJECT HOPE**  
**GAZA**



## DAY 3 - PRAYING FOR THE VULNERABLE

### A PRAYER

Pray in small groups

*Dear God,*

*We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.*

*We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring lasting peace.*

*We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.*

*We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.*

**Amen.**

### WAYS TO PRAY...

- Use scriptures on peace to centre your thoughts on God and his promises in the Bible.
- Pray with a map of Gaza and Israel to guide your prayers.
- Light candles to help you meditate on Jesus as the light of the world.
- Set up prayer stations in your church/ group.

<https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/10/how-to-pray-for-gaza-and-israel>

