

Starting a Prayer Group for the Persecuted Church

A Practical Guide to Prayer, Compassion, and Action

Introduction

Praying for persecuted Christians connects us with believers around the world who suffer for their faith in Jesus. Whether you're gathering a few friends or leading a church-wide initiative, this guide provides practical steps to begin and sustain a meaningful, Spirit-led prayer group.

“Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison...” —Hebrews 13:3

1. Prepare and Plan

- Clarify Your Focus

Will your prayer group focus on:

- A specific region or country?
- A theme (e.g., imprisoned pastors, displaced families, Christian converts)?
- A global overview of persecution?

- Identify a Leader

Choose someone who can:

- Facilitate prayer time
- Keep the group focused
- Encourage participation and compassion

- Choose a Location

Consider:

- Homes, church rooms, outdoor spaces, or online platforms
- Quiet places with minimal distractions and enough seating

- Set a Time and Rhythm

Decide:

- Is this a one-time prayer gathering, weekly, monthly, or seasonal?
- Will you align with global events (e.g., IDOP in November)?

- Gather Prayer Materials

Find reliable, updated prayer information from trusted ministries.

- Invite Participants

Start by:

- Personally inviting friends
- Promoting through church bulletins, newsletters, small groups, or social media

- Prepare a Welcome and Opening Statement

Set the tone:

- Share the purpose of your gathering
- Welcome all levels of prayer comfort
- Remind everyone of God's nearness and care

- Set Guidelines

- Praying silently is welcome
- Keep prayers focused, respectful, and Spirit-led
- Encourage listening and unity

- Make Final Preparations

- Print or share prayer points
- Bring Bibles, pens, and handouts
- Send event reminders

2. Structure the Prayer Gathering

- Begin with Scripture and Worship

Start with a short Scripture and devotional reflection. Suggested Scriptures:

- Romans 8:35–39
- 1 Peter 4:12–14
- 2 Corinthians 4:8–10
- Matthew 5:10–12
- Hebrews 13:3
- Psalm 10

- Information Sharing (Optional)

Share a short story or background on the country/region you're praying for. Highlight names, circumstances, or headlines to personalize your prayer time.

- Prayer Formats

- Small Groups
- Conversational Prayer
- Sentence Prayers

- Simultaneous Prayer (Korean Style)
- Prayer Walking
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Acrostics:
 - ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
 - PRAY: Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield
- Closing Prayer and Commission
- End with a time of unified prayer
- Remind the group to continue praying during the week
- Share one request each person can commit to praying for

3. Sustain and Grow

- Continue Engagement
 - Share weekly or monthly prayer emails or texts
 - Use WhatsApp, Signal, or Facebook groups to stay connected
- Create a Prayer Wall or Journal

Maintain a record of requests and answered prayers. Post updates in a church hallway or digital board.

- Raise Awareness

Host special events, share updates in services, or offer mission-focused Bible studies.

- Partner with Global Ministries

Use their news updates and prayer tools. Consider inviting speakers or hosting virtual events.

- Pray Holistically
 - For the Persecuted
 - For the Persecutors
 - For the Church

Suggested Scriptures for Prayer

Theme	Scriptures
God's Presence in Suffering	Romans 8:35–39, Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 43:1–3
Courage and Endurance	2 Corinthians 4:7–10, Philippians 1:29–30
Blessed are the Persecuted	Matthew 5:10–12, 1 Peter 3:14–17
Praying for Enemies	Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27–28
God's Justice and Deliverance	Psalm 10, Isaiah 61:1–3, Revelation 6:9–11
Hope and Eternal Perspective	Hebrews 11:35–40, Revelation 7:13–17

Closing Encouragement

Starting a prayer group may feel small, but it has eternal impact. As you pray, God strengthens the persecuted, changes hearts, and unites the global church in hope and perseverance.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” —James 5:16