

Flourish

A Day of Prayer for Christ-Centered Education

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

#SchoolsThatPray

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." —Jeremiah 17:7-8



ACSI
Association of Christian Schools International
ADVANCING • ACCESS • ADVOCACY

2021 Prayer Guide

HORDERLESS JON

What is the ACSI Day of Prayer?



The ACSI Day of Prayer is an annual event that advances Christ-centered education by advocating through prayer. There's no doubt that this school year has been unique and often challenging, but God desires for His people to flourish despite the surrounding circumstances.

Therefore, we encourage you to join ACSI as we unite globally to pray for Christ-centered education on February 23, 2021.

James 3:4 reminds us that even though a ship is large and driven by strong winds, it's truly steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. At ACSI, we believe a biblically based philosophy of education is the rudder to disciple the hearts and minds of the next generation. A foundational component to discipleship is the spiritual discipline of prayer. Help us train up the next generation to be prayer warriors, depending on Jesus Christ for every aspect of their lives.

We can't wait to see what God does through this time together!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Larry Taylor
ACSI President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2021 Day of Prayer Theme	Page 3
Ways to Make This Day Special	Page 4
Theme-Related Bible Verses	Page 5
Prayer Points	Page 7
Prayer Station Ideas	Page 8
Additional Resources	Page 10
Maintaining Momentum	Page 10

2021 Theme: Flourish

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Several times throughout the Bible, the concept of "flourish" predominantly refers to those who seek God in all His ways. Since ACSI desires to point students to Jesus Christ, we took a few years to explore what helps Christian schools to flourish. After building the Flourishing Schools Research, ACSI developed the Flourishing School Culture Model, which determined five domains in which a Christian school can flourish? We will utilize these domains as our prayer guide this year.

Despite the challenges that faced the first church, we are reminded in Acts 12 that "the word of God continued to spread and flourish." Today, we may be facing different obstacles, but the same God that helped generations of believers is the same God that will help you, your students and your school community today.

We pray this prayer guide will be a blessing to you and your school as you seek God's ways.

It's easy to get involved with these simple steps:

PARTICIPATE. PLAN. PROMOTE. PRAY.

PARTICIPATE

Let us know that you are a part of this global day of prayer at <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer>. You'll have access to additional resources, ideas and support.

PLAN

You can make this day as simple or as elaborate as you want by praying personally or creating an experience for you and others.

PROMOTE

Whether you are planning a Day of Prayer event or praying on your own, help us promote this day through social media or through your community.

PRAY

Pray on February 23, 2021, using these five areas:

- Purpose
- Relationships
- Teaching & Learning
- Expertise & Resources
- Well-Being

Ways to Make This Day Special for Christian Educators & Schools

Plan the Day of Prayer

Consider appointing a prayer coordinator or forming a team to plan a larger event or emphasis. Use the following to spark ideas for planning the day:

- Create a special chapel or assembly to bring your school together to pray.
- Print and distribute the 2021 Day of Prayer Guide.
- Determine a specific time to pray no matter where you are.
- Create a prayer room or walk with prayer stations.
- Develop a sign-up for different classrooms or grades to pray each hour to cover the day.
- Consider fasting in order to focus on prayer time.
- Create a prayer and/or blessing wall.

As You Begin

- Pray for what you should do.
- Review and download event materials.
- Plan your day's event experience.
- Delegate responsibilities and assign task deadlines.

January – February

- Work on event details as needed.
- Promote the Day of Prayer.

February 23, 2021—Day of Prayer

- Watch God work and move as you pray.

Promote Day of Prayer Activities

Once you have a plan, consider the following ways to let your school community know about the day:

As You Begin

- Seek support and approval for any activities from your administration.
- Gain support from your teaching team by letting them know in advance about the day. Encourage teachers to weave the concept of prayer throughout the day's academic activities.
- Consider how to include local churches, parents or alumni in promotion and involvement of this day.
- Be prayerful as you plan details.

January – February

- Download and print promotional and event materials as needed to help you promote and prepare for this day within your school community. Resources include posters, bulletin inserts, social media graphics, a bookmark, videos and PowerPoint slides.
- Gather local prayer requests.

Day-of

- Show school unity by dressing in school colors.
- Document the day through social media using the hashtag [#schoolsthatpray](https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer/).
- Collect testimonials on what the day meant to each person. Post those with permission at <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer/> or in Spanish <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer-spanish/>.



February 23, 2021 Day of Prayer Bible Verses

THEME VERSE: *"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." —Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Here are additional Bible verses to consider as you plan activities for the Day of Prayer:

PURPOSE

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Psalm 33:11

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Job 42:2

I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

James 1:19-20

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.



February 23, 2021 Day of Prayer Bible Verses

TEACHING & LEARNING

Proverbs 9:9

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

EXPERTISE & RESOURCES

1 Chronicles 29:12

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Proverbs 24:5

The wise prevail through great power, and those who have knowledge muster their strength.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Proverbs 22:7

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.

WELL-BEING

Philippians 4:7

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

Romans 8:6

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Psalms 82:3

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

February 23, 2021 Day of Prayer Points

Theme Verse: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Here are some ways to pray specifically in these areas:

PURPOSE

- Pray that Christian schools will provide Christ-centered education that encompasses holistic teaching, integrated worldview, spiritual formation, discipleship and family-school partnership.
- Pray that every Christian school board, leadership, support/coaching staff, volunteers, alumni, community leaders, church, parents and students understands their amazing worth and God-given purpose
- Pray that God's Word would permeate every thought, conversation and action in Christian schools

RELATIONSHIPS

- Pray that Christian schools will provide trust-filled, supportive and authentic relationships in their community between leadership, educators, students, parents and other key influencers.
- Pray for every Christian school community to develop an attitude and heart of service.
- Pray for local churches and community leaders to become involved with Christian schools in a positive way.

TEACHING & LEARNING

- Pray that Christian schools will create a learning environment that develops their students spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially.

- Pray that students will be eager to learn, attentive to responsibility, and determined to fulfill God's call on their lives.
- Pray that teachers will be lifelong learners that infuse the joy of learning into their students.

EXPERTISE & RESOURCES

- Pray for Christian schools to maintain excellence in educational and school management practices by hiring and retaining qualified staff, responding to students with special needs and operating with wise and godly stewardship.
- Pray for finances and godly stewardship of resources.
- Pray for Christian schools to have the necessary resources to reach students with special needs.

WELL-BEING

- Pray for leaders, teachers and students to develop resilience and foster healthy habits and environments that reduce stress and promotes biblical health and wellness.
- Pray for teachers to have unique outlets of creativity or fun that decrease stress-levels each day.
- Pray for administrators, parents and teachers to know how to gauge student well-being and address it positively and proactively.

February 23, 2021 Day of Prayer Station Ideas

Prayer stations provide a hands-on approach to communicating with God. It helps deepen rote prayers. Prayer stations can simply be places where a prayer item is posted as a sign to pray about. Prayer stations can also be interactive with things to do as you pray. The ideas below will require preparation. Make each station as elaborate or simple as you like. Consider interweaving Scripture verses into the stations as you feel led. You can choose one or more ideas to create your station flow or create your own. Consider the music and lighting for each station to create a full, interactive sensory experience.

PURPOSE

Purchase a 1,000 piece puzzle. You can have it completed or just put pieces randomly on a table. Have people write their name on the back of one of the pieces and take the piece with them to remind them that they are part of a bigger community and ultimately God's purpose and grand design. Have people at this station pray for every person in your school community.

RELATIONSHIPS

Using cinder blocks, bulletin board paper that looks like blocks/bricks or another form of block with Sharpies, encourage participants to write an encouraging word to leave behind for someone to read. Have them pray that you can be an encouragement to others.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Place plants around the table/area. Supply small Dixie cups with dirt and grass seed. Have the student plant grass seeds inside the Dixie cup. As they add dirt, have them pray that God's Word would be the foundation of their learning. As they add grass seed, have them pray for seeds of knowledge would grow on good soil and that students will grow in wisdom and stature. As they cover the seed with additional dirt, have them pray that they will not be "choked" by the worries of this life and that Satan will not steal good seed away. If you wish, you might consider leaving a Bible opened to The Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13 as a reference.

EXPERTISE & RESOURCES

Put bubble wrap on the floor in long strips or cut in short strips for your table area. Have participants think about things your school may need or refer to signs you create surrounding this prayer station. Ideas may include money, a special program or more teachers. Knowing that God will meet all their needs because He cares for them (Philippians 4:19), have them pray for these items and then pop a bubble remembering not to worry about the situation. God will provide.

WELL-BEING

Using Band-Aids and Sharpies, have participants write down things that maybe troubling them or causing stress. Place the Band-Aid on the cross and pray for God to remove this stress from their life or help them deal with the circumstance. This may be a good spot to have your school counselor, pastoral staff or prayer team standing by in case someone needs to talk.

February 23, 2021 Day of Prayer Station Ideas Continued

ADVANCING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

IDEA ONE: Create a space using maps or a globe. Print the prayer cards from the ACSI event resource file. Have students pray for the needs listed for each region of the world. When they have prayed for a region, have them set a colored stone or some type of marker on the map.

IDEA TWO: Use the online prayer globe wall, and ask students to pray for prayer requests listed there.

IDEA THREE: Hang pictures of Christian educators and leaders in your area to pray for. Have a card prepared that participants can sign their name to that says “We prayed for you today” on it. Send the card to the educator/leader after the Day of Prayer.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

IDEA ONE: Have a bowl of grain with pouches to scoop some in with a plastic spoon. In John 6:35, Jesus reminds us that “I am the Bread of Life.” Have participants consider children around the world who are not only physically hungry, but spiritually hungry to know more about Jesus. Ask them to pray for opportunities for Christian schools to reach out to these children in tangible ways.

IDEA TWO: Display beautiful green plants. Have participants pray for Christian education to flourish.

IDEA THREE: Form a small wall of cinder blocks and provide markers. Encourage participants to write one word or small phrase that is a barrier right now to growing (i.e. finances, leaders, strategy, etc.). Have them pray that God will remove those barriers and break down walls to advance access to Christian education.

IDEA FOUR: Have various lights turned on or lightbulbs displayed. Ask participants to pray for innovative ideas and creativity for Christian education to grow and flourish.

ADVOCATING FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

IDEA ONE: Pass out snack size packages of M&Ms or Skittles with a color guide. As participants enjoy the yummy snack, they should pray for the following, for example: Orange—teacher in their life; Blue—protecting freedom of education; Yellow—pray for your school to be a light in your community; Green—pray for school administration to lead with a God-given, mission-minded mission; Brown—pray for your family to be a strong voice for Jesus Christ.

IDEA TWO: Display global flags, the American flag, your state flag and the Christian flag. Encourage participants to pray for global, national and state government leaders, local schools and Christians everywhere.

IDEA THREE: Create construction paper hearts or have die-cut hearts or stickers. Pray for yourself to have a heart for Christian education. Pray for school leaders/teachers to have a continued passion for Christian education. Pray for government/community leaders to have a heart for Christian education. As a commitment to continue praying for Christian education, have participants write their name on a heart and display it on the wall in a way you choose.

Additional Resources

- Day of Prayer Webpage with Map <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer/> or in Spanish <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer-spanish/>.
- Bible App. Join me in reading School Days <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/1733>.
- Moms in Prayer (Prayer for schools across the world) <https://www.momsinprayer.org>.



Maintaining Momentum

It's exciting to build anticipation and participation for a single day of prayer. Our desire at ACSI is that this would be a catalyst for ongoing commitment of prayer. Here are some ways to continue maintaining momentum:

- Develop prayer partners within your school.
- Sign up to participate in the ACSI School Prayer Connection. We will connect you with another school to pray for in the next year.
- Set a particular day of the week or time each day to pray for Christian education.
- Share your stories, ideas and testimonies on the ACSI Facebook page.

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