

PRAY FOR SAFETY AND PROTECTION FOR THOSE BEING PERSECUTED

Teacher's Note:

More than 70% of the world's population face legal restrictions or social hostilities because of their religious convictions. Christians are the most widely persecuted group and face discrimination in more than 100 countries. Each year, there are Christians who face hunger, family exclusion, homelessness, imprisonment, violence, and sometimes even death. Help the children in your group connect to this reality by (1) describing these realities, (2) asking children to either look up in their Bible or read from this guide key Scripture verses that touch on these realities, (3) lead a time of intentional prayer using the suggested prayer points on this guide and (4) encourage children to take this guide home and pray through it with their family. Additional activities could be to provide a coloring sheet of a Bible character who was imprisoned (Daniel, Paul, etc.; free copies can be found with an online search) or to have students first act out one of the Bible passages and draw the connection to individuals today who face these same challenges.



Pray for safety from enemies. Pray for women to be safe from violence. Pray for children to be safe from violence. Pray that terrorists will not recruit them.

Let the one the Lord loves rest safely in him. The Lord guards him all day long. The one the Lord loves rests in his arms.

- Deuteronomy 33:12

I love you, Lord. You give me strength. The Lord is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me. My God is my rock. I go to him for safety. He is like a shield to me. He's the power that saves me. He's my place of safety. I called out to the Lord. He is worthy of praise. He saved me from my enemies.

- Psalm 18:1-3

He reached down from heaven. He took hold of me. He lifted me out of deep waters. He saved me from my powerful enemies. He set me free from those who were too strong for me. They opposed me when I was in trouble. But the Lord helped me. He brought me out into a wide and safe place. He saved me because he was pleased with me.

- Psalm 18:16-19



Psalm 91 is good prayer for people in danger. You might pray it one part at a time.

Whoever rests in the shadow of the Most High God will be kept safe by the Mighty One.

I will say about the Lord,

"He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me.

He is my God. I trust in him."

He will certainly save you from hidden traps and from deadly sickness.

He will cover you with his wings.

Under the feathers of his wings you will find safety.

He is faithful. He will keep you safe like a shield or a tower.

You won't have to be afraid of the terrors that come during the night.

You won't have to fear the arrows that come at you during the day.

You won't have to be afraid of the sickness that attacks in the darkness.

You won't have to fear the plague that destroys at noon.

A thousand may fall dead at your side.

Ten thousand may fall near your right hand.

But no harm will come to you.

You will see with your own eyes how God punishes sinful people.

Suppose you say, "The Lord is the one who keeps me safe."

Suppose you let the Most High God be like a home to you.

Then no harm will come to you.

No terrible plague will come near your tent.

The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.

They will lift you up in their hands.

Then you won't trip over a stone.

You will walk on lions and cobras.

You will crush mighty lions and poisonous snakes.

The Lord says, "I will save the one who loves me.

I will keep him safe, because he trusts in me.

He will call out to me, and I will answer him.

I will be with him in times of trouble.

I will save him and honor him.

I will give him a long and full life.

I will save him."

- Psalm 91