



Prayer Marathon Relay

‘Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith’ (Hebrews 12:1—2) NIV

Experience the power of prayer as you join in a Prayer Marathon Relay for Pray Day 2015. Don't worry; you don't have to run a marathon alone! The idea is simple - choose a time when you can pray for 30 minutes, then hand the prayer baton over to the next person in the marathon team. You can pray anywhere: on your own, in a small group, at home, at work or at church.

Below are some suggestions for prayer focuses, themed around the image of running a race. You can use the suggestions as starting points and develop each theme. Do adapt the prayer points to your own context, by adding names of schools, staff, students and visitors that are known to you personally. Or you can use the blank template to create your own prayer relay.

However you decide to organise your Prayer Marathon Relay, pray in the strength of Christ's promise:

‘Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours’ (Mark 11:24). NIV





Hebrews 12 v1-14 (New Living Translation)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

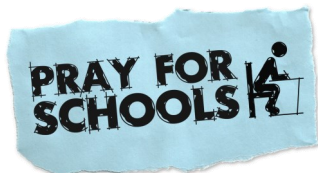
And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.



People praying	Prayer	Bible Verses
8.00 - 9.00am		
Persevere		
	<p>As many voices clamour in education, pray that our children will know that they are unique, loved and made in the image of God.</p> <p>Pray for all children and young people who are going against current trends because they want to honour God in their lives.</p> <p>Pray that the nurture of Christian virtues would be part of the government's consideration of character education programmes.</p> <p>Pray for the development of positive relationships between staff, parents and students in all our schools and colleges.</p>	<p>Ephesians 6 v 18</p> <p>Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,</p>
9.00—10.00 am		
Stay Focused		
	<p>Pray that pupils would be willing to commit to the challenge of learning and not be defeated by mistakes and failure.</p> <p>Pray for all school leaders: for wisdom, patience, courage, boldness and integrity. Pray, too, that they would be encouragers.</p> <p>Pray for governors to demonstrate partnership, critical friendship, skilled communication and relational living in their communities.</p> <p>Pray that doors will stay open to the many schools workers and visitors who share the love of God in their local schools.</p>	<p>Hebrews 12v 2</p> <p>Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.</p>
10.00—11.00 am		
Be Rooted in the Word		
	<p>Pray that, just as athletes train, our young people will get into training by rooting their lives in biblical truth.</p> <p>Pray that Christian teachers would explore ways to embed biblical principles in their teaching.</p> <p>Pray that Christian young people in Further and Higher Education would grow and mature in their faith.</p> <p>Pray for all Christians involved in learning communities to be living letters written on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3)</p>	<p>Hebrews 4v12</p> <p>For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart</p>

11.00—12.00 am		
Be Aware		
	<p>Pray about increasing numbers of children and young people who are showing signs of emotional distress and mental ill health.</p> <p>Pray that advocates for the Christian voice in education will be heard with the courtesy and respect which they themselves show.</p> <p>Pray for all young people in Further Education, that their chosen courses would offer fulfilment and open opportunities to life.</p> <p>More than 50 million children worldwide have no access to school. Pray for global initiatives to widen access.</p>	<p>Psalms 59:16-17</p> <p>But as for me, I will sing about your power.</p> <p>Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love.</p> <p>For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress.</p> <p>O my Strength, to you I sing praises, for you, O God, are my refuge, the God who shows me unfailing love.</p>
12.00-1.00 pm		
His Kingdom Come		
	<p>Pray for Christian teachers, that they will be able to open the windows on God's amazing world to their pupils.</p> <p>Pray for PSHE lessons to focus on loving relationships, family and enjoyment of our amazing, created world.</p> <p>Pray for the practice of humility, trust, truth, respect, forgiveness and servanthood in all learning communities.</p> <p>Pray for parents and all those who are training the next generation of our society in God's truth and wisdom.</p>	<p>Luke 11:2</p> <p>And he said to them, "When you pray, say:</p> <p>"Father, hallowed be thy name.</p> <p>Thy kingdom come."</p>
1.00 to 2.00pm		
Encourage others		
	<p>Pray for children who suffer pain in silence – from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Pray for their voices to be heard.</p> <p>Pray for young people thinking about the future to consider what God would have them do and who God would have them be.</p> <p>Pray for new entrants to teaching, that they would flourish and grow into caring, nurturing teachers and leaders.</p> <p>Pray for the millions 'who continue to cry out for help' (Luke 18:7) those displaced, without homes, schools or hope of a safe future.</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 5:11</p> <p>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.</p>

2.00 –3.00pm		
Trust God		
	<p>'my word ... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it' Isaiah 55:11</p> <p>Jesus is the 'pioneer and perfecter' of our faith: He ran the race ahead of us and now he walks alongside our children every step.</p> <p>God gives us 'hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure' (Hebrews 6:19). Pray for this anchor of hope to hold firm.</p> <p>Give a school, children or members of staff known to you into God's hands. Leave them there, entrusted to God.</p>	<p>Psalm 25:2</p> <p>O my God, in thee I trust, let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.</p>
3.00 to 4.00pm		
Be Thankful		
	<p>Thank God for the many Christian adults, children and young people who are salt and light in their communities.</p> <p>Give thanks for many thousands of pupils who are given the opportunity to learn about God each week from school visitors.</p> <p>For the excellence of our education service: for physical resources and the many people who work so hard on behalf of students.</p> <p>Thank God for holding in His heart the many prayers spoken and thought around the world during today's Pray Day.</p>	<p>Colossians 3:15</p> <p>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.</p> <p>And be thankful.</p>

All Bible verses unless stated are from NIV

Thanks to Gill Robins from Christians in Education for writing the prayers for our Prayer Marathon Relay
www.christiansineducation.co.uk

Further information can be found on our website www.prayforschools.org or <http://prayday.smd.org/prayday>



Time	Who	Prayer
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