

**Ridiculed.
Threatened.
Rejected.
But still
following
Jesus.**

Leaders guide

Prayer guide for Nepal

This guide is designed to help you lead your congregation in prayer for Christians in Nepal. It is intended for use in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation entitled Let's pray for Nepal, which includes a slide displaying three key prayer points and subsequent slides with a liturgy for Nepal.

Introduction

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount ring true for many Christians in Nepal, where following Jesus often leads to ridicule and persecution. Christians just like you and me are ostracised for their faith and sometimes even publicly shamed.

For example, a Christian leader called Oman came out of church one day to find 300 people waiting for him, ready to beat him and smear him with black ink, the ultimate mark of shame in his culture. Despite this, Nepal is one of the places in the world where the Church is growing the fastest.

Today, let's stand together in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Asia.

Encourage your congregation to engage in different forms of prayer as they feel led. You may wish to incorporate creative prayer activities (detailed in the accompanying Creative prayer for Nepal resource) or perhaps take an offering as part of your response.

Guided Prayer Points

(Display the Let's pray for Nepal slides as you lead these prayers)



For church leaders

Lord, we lift to you church leaders across Nepal, many of whom face intense pressure. We ask for your comfort for those whose families no longer accept



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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



them, your protection for those who face physical violence, your strength for all who find it costly to follow you. We ask for your boldness for church leaders across Nepal, so that they can continue to serve and guide other Jesus-followers around them.

► **For the church across Nepal**

Lord, we stand with Christians in Nepal and across Asia and ask that you help them grow strong in their faith. Let pressure from family and surrounding culture encourage them to draw closer to you. We pray that the growing community of Christians will truly be family, particularly for those who have been rejected by their families for choosing you. We pray that your strength will equip them to share the gospel and disciple others.

► **For new and future believers**

Finally, we pray for those who are new to faith, or have not yet chosen to follow you. For those you are calling who haven't yet made a commitment, we ask you to call them more intensely. As they count the cost of living for you, we ask you to surround them with your love and remind them of your promise that they will receive more than they have sacrificed in this age and in the age to come. Lord, draw them to you as they fellowship with other believers, read your Word and spend time in your presence.

A mark of solidarity - a simple corporate response

There are a number of creative prayer ideas featured in the church family prayer resource. This simple corporate response could be a powerful way to respond and is easy to incorporate into a service.

- Use the guided prayer points or invite your congregation into a time of silent prayer for the church in Nepal – especially for those like Oman who are courageously following Jesus despite opposition.
- As people pray, invite them to come forward one by one to receive a small mark of black paint or ash on the back of their hand (or forehead, if appropriate), given by a leader. This mark represents standing in solidarity with those facing persecution for their faith in Nepal.
- Encourage people to carry this mark until they get home even if it feels awkward or uncomfortable as a reminder of their prayers and commitment to stand alongside those facing persecution in Nepal.

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Offering as a Moment of Prayer

As part of your prayer time, you may want to take up an offering for Christians like Oman in Nepal and many others all around the world where followers of Jesus are in a minority. Invite the congregation into a moment of silent reflection and prayer as the offering is collected. You could consider taking the offering in darkness if you are at an evening service or combining the offering with one of the suggested creative prayer responses.

A liturgy for Christians in Nepal

As part of the body of Christ, we share in the suffering of Christians who are made to be outsiders, rejected by their loved ones and even attacked for choosing to follow Jesus.

Standing with brothers and sisters in Nepal, in Asia and around the world, we pray for the outsiders.

On those who are met with suspicion and discriminated against because of their faith in Jesus,

Lord, have mercy.

On those who are rejected by mother, father, sisters and brothers because they have said yes to Jesus,

Lord, have mercy.

On those whose lives are in danger because they follow you,

Lord, have mercy.

Though they may be hard pressed on every side, let them not be crushed.

Though they may be perplexed, let them not be in despair.

Though they may be persecuted, let them not be abandoned.

Though they may be struck down, let them not be destroyed.

Lord, have mercy.

We lift to you the body of Christ in Nepal,

Those who are cast out for their faith,

Those who face intense pressure,

Those whose faith puts them in danger.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us not forget our brothers and sisters who are persecuted, nor take for granted the freedom we have to practise our faith.

Jesus, unite us as one body, as we all follow you. Amen.

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Thank you **for praying**

Your prayers and support are a powerful way to stand in solidarity with Nepal's church leaders as they shine God's light in difficult places. Thank you for being part of God's mission to bring hope and transformation. If your church shares your prayer activities or reflections on social media, don't forget to tag CMS so we can join you in prayer.



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