

Intercession

be an agent of change

Start Here

When have you seen a need and been able to make a difference?
When have you seen a need and not been able to help?

Discuss

There are so many needs in our immediate communities and in our world. What need has come to your attention and touched your heart this week?

Explore the Word

Pain, heartache, and trouble are all around us. There are physical needs, emotional turmoil, financial troubles, political upheaval, and the list continues. Sometimes the needs are so great, we feel we can do nothing.

But as God's children, we are not helpless in the face of challenges. We have been given a powerful tool that makes a difference: prayer of intercession.

Read the verses below.

In these verses, what do we learn about prayer? What kind of needs can we pray for?

- 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- Jeremiah 29:7
- Philippians 1:19-20
- Colossians 4:2-3
- James 5:15-16
- Philippians 1:9-11

Main Idea

Our prayers can make a difference in our world.

Through prayer, we are invited to ask not only for our personal requests. We are also called to prayers of intercession – this is the opportunity to come before God and make requests on behalf of others, even for those we have never met. When we pray, the God of heaven and earth listens to us and responds. Regardless of whether or not you have been a believer for a long time, you can still impact the world around you through prayer.

Sometimes we see the answers to our prayers quickly. Other times we are called to faithfully continue to pray when we cannot perceive any movement or change at all. When we intercede, God himself hears our prayer and responds. How he answers will not always be on our time-table or according to our preferences, but he will always respond according to his goodness. Often our prayers are at work in ways we cannot see, so our job is to pray, and then keep on praying as we are all encouraged in Ephesians 6:18-20.

Practice Together Now

Write down one need you are aware of in each category.

- Your family
- Friends
- Your local church
- The city you are living in
- Your nation and its leaders
- The world

You can use the Lord's prayer as your pattern to intercede. Begin by acknowledging God is good and able. Ask for his kingdom and his good and perfect will to come into these situations. Ask that God would provide for specific needs, whether emotional, physical, financial, or spiritual. Ask that God would protect and deliver from evil. Return to worship.

Spend two minutes praying together over each need you noted. Ask God if there are any practical steps you can take to help meet that need.

You are an agent of change when you pray. Be faithful in prayer and watch God work.

Review your Practice Daily

- Create a prayer journal. Write down each item for which you are praying. Some you will want to pray for daily, others you might pray for on a rotation throughout the week. Pray, and then keep on praying!
- Write down the answers to prayer! As you recognize God moving, note beside the request how you've seen God answer. Then share this encouragement with someone.
- Ask your church leaders what they would like prayer for this week and include those requests in your daily prayer.