

**PRAYER FOR EVERYONE  
24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
OFFICE RESOURCE PACK**



## **KEY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about planning, resources and support to take part in the 'Prayer for Everyone', please contact:

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# I. ABOUT 'PRAYER FOR EVERYONE'

## WHAT IS PRAYER FOR EVERYONE?

**Prayer for Everyone aims to engage Christian communities in a worldwide prayer action over seven days from 24<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October to pray for the Sustainable Development Goals as they are revealed.**

Aligning with the efforts of [action/2015](#) and [Project Everyone](#), this concept aims to help all 7 billion on the planet know about the Goals in 7 days, as a first step to holding leaders to account for delivering on their promises.

## Background

The new Sustainable Development Goals offer an extraordinary opportunity for the world – shaping the futures of people everywhere for the next 15 years. These Goals set targets for issues including health and well-being, justice and peace, and the environment. Essentially, it is the world's Action Plan to establish safety, equality, prosperity and dignity for all. Citizens must know about the new Goals if they are to hold their leaders to account for their delivery.

Achieving the *Global Goals* will require mobilising a broad network of committed stakeholders – and the diverse range of faith groups across the world, to which 6 billion people identify are a significant starting point. Faith communities and religious leaders can play a critical role in popularising the goals by reaching out to significant numbers of young people, women and men, and engaging them in action.

Through the *Prayer for Everyone* initiative, the 6 billion members of faith/religious communities will be called to prayer and action during the *Global Goals* week in September.

Through the Prayer for Everyone, we at World Vision will engage our Christian communities with a call to pray and action during the Global week in September.

## Religion, Faith and Sustainable Development

We have not only a Biblical mandate with moral and spiritual responsibility to work towards a better future for this earth and all forms of its life, but also enormous and transformative power in Christ to put towards the achievement of these *Global Goals*. Our Christian communities have long been at the forefront of dynamic and significant change, and change is needed now more than ever.

The issues addressed by the *Global Goals* are central to all faith/religious/spiritual traditions, which are the shared expressions of our humanity, namely:

- The right to live a life of dignity, free from hunger and disease
- The right of all people to live to their fullest human potential, in safety and well-being
- Recognition of the sacred and divine and its life-giving elements
- The shared responsibility to work together so that our expressions of faith contribute to more sustainable development for the whole planet

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

### GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT AND INSPIRING OTHERS

During this week we will devote ourselves in front of our God to seek his blessings and prayer for the entire world as we aspire to a more peaceful and sustainable future for the next generation. In the last decades, we have seen too many people suffer from hunger and undernutrition, disasters, violence against women and children, gender inequality and other unbearable plights. We now place ourselves in front of our God for his mighty hands to save our Planet from all sorts of wrong doings, injustice and inequity. We also pray for our national and global leaders to guide every nation and the world towards a better future for our children.

Please include in your prayers your family, friends, community and State as the world's population faces problems of injustice and inequity in their daily lives. Please pray for sustainable growth and development of our nation, so that all children and their families can thrive in a safe and peaceful environment.



Staff taking part in a faith event in Bolivia. Credit: World Vision

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

### INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL GOALS WE ARE PRAYING FOR

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that will guide country agendas and political priorities over the next 15 years. The global goals will be formally announced in September 2015, just in time for the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals, which were agreed by governments in 2000. The goals are intended to tackle the most urgent issues of our time – poverty and inequality.

The 17 global goals are action-oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and priorities. They seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development.



- 1. NO POVERTY:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2. NO HUNGER:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3. GOOD HEALTH:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

**7. MODERN ENERGY:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**8. GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**9. INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES:** Reduce inequalities within and among countries

**11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**13. PROTECT THE PLANET:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**14. LIFE BELOW WATER:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**15. LIFE ABOVE WATER:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**16. PEACE AND JUSTICE:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

**17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Children in Sierra Leone pledge their support for a country with ZERO preventable deaths. Credit: World Vision

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

### WHAT CAN WE DO AS COMMUNITIES AND LEADERS?

*Each community will know how to most effectively promote the Global Goals in their own way in their own context. This resource pack provides Global Goals branding that can be used in posters and worship materials as needed. Here are some ideas to get you started.*

### HOW WILL WE DO THAT? REFLECT – STUDY – WITNESS – COMMUNICATE - ACT

#### REFLECT

- Create space for reflection or meditation on the *Global Goals*, the issues they address and what it will take for them to be achieved.
- Christian leaders can include the relevant issues (e.g. water, food, poverty, peace and justice, etc.) in worship and special services to explore the *Global Goals*' significance in faith and development and encourage reflection or meditation on God's word.

#### STUDY

- Theologians and religious educators can use the Bible to explore the subjects of the *Global Goals* to promote deeper understanding of how faith calls individuals to work towards a better world.
- Christian communities can devote special attention to the issues in regular study groups, or create a special study group for the week. These could be organised and contextualised for all ages and members of a church community.

#### WITNESS

- How do the issues addressed in the *Global Goals* affect the members of your own faith community, and the surrounding communities? Make time during *Global Goals* week to seek out and bear witness to the impacts of poverty, inequality, injustice, poor health, harm to the environment, etc. For example:
  - Create opportunities to respectfully engage with those most impacted in your community, listen to their voices and share these voices with the larger community.
  - Document environmental degradation or pollution and give it a voice.

#### COMMUNICATE

- Religious media in all its forms has enormous coverage and deep penetration making it an excellent vehicle to promote the *Global Goals* and engage people in virtual global dialogue.
  - Dedicate programming on religious radio, television and social media for *Goals Week* to the issues and actions around the *Global Goals*.
  - Provide print or digital media with content to publish during the week.

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

- Radio and television have enormous potential in most of the world to convey information and engage communities in dialogue. For example:
  - Adapt and use radio content that is being developed and made freely available by *Radio Everyone*. A range of content is being produced which is designed to draw attention to the themes of the goals and help make them famous
  - Encourage local media to highlight the significance the *Global Goals* have on local communities; and how they can take action to work towards their achievement.
- Social media is particularly powerful in reaching and connecting youth around the world.
  - Use Twitter to start chain actions, such as a global 'Tweet-a-prayer'
  - Create chat spaces, Facebook pages, hashtags or other opportunities for discussing issues, and sharing of ideas and actions for *Global Goals* week

### ACT

- People of faith, faith leaders, and faith-based organisations can organise to draw attention to the goals and engage others within their community about the importance of the goals.
- Campaign materials targeting Christian Leaders can be used to develop special worship services that bring to life the *Global Goals* in engaging and thoughtful ways, such as through music, theatre, art, and other relevant forms of creative and spiritual expression.
- Youth groups can organise social media campaigns, rallies, flash mobs or music festivals to share how their faith informs their commitment to achieving the *Global Goals*.
- Encourage leaders of different faiths to come together and have a meal together to dialogue around the SDGs and Global Goals. Each Global Goal can be outlined on an A4 paper placemat as a discussion starter.
  - As the *Global Goals* are an expression of common, shared ground between faith communities, the launch week affords a great opportunity to mobilise inter-faith/religious actions and events to forge alliances that can work towards the achievement of the goals through 2030.

### ACTION TIMELINE

<b>July - August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spread the word about 'Prayer for Everyone' within your office, Church and faith communities, schools, children's clubs, parents' groups, associations, etc.</li><li>• Plan your activities – meeting leaders, organising prayer sessions, etc.</li><li>• Mobilise communities, congregations, religious and government leaders to join your actions – book into their diaries! Don't forget to invite the religious media too.</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	Organise your prayer activities between 24 <sup>th</sup> September and 1 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>2-8 October</b>	<b>Tell us what happened! Fill in the quick survey using this link</b> <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7</a>

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES

**PRAYER IS A TOOL FOR ACTION.** Here are some examples of how offices can mobilise and gather people to pray around the launch of the Global Goals.

**WHAT CAN OFFICES DO?** You can do one, two or all of these – it's up to you to choose what will work best in your office and the communities where you work. You are sure to have your own ideas too – tell us and we can share them with others!

- Develop an action plan about how the participants can share information among their Christian Communities during the week
- Translate the guidance note into your local languages so that communities can be easily involved
- Invite Christian contacts in ADPs and NOs to join in the 'Prayer for Everyone'
- Organise an orientation with participants from each Faith during which they would be briefed around the Global Goals, and how they can contribute to support government and raise awareness at community level
- Make sure you invite government officials to join in the Prayer too - they will be really important in making sure the new Global Goals happen in the community - so get them involved!
- Organise a dialogue at national level, e.g. on Sunday 27 September
- Organise a one hour orientation for schools and children's clubs/parliaments
- Organise radio programmes and/or TV talk shows during which religious leaders can meet and discuss the importance and moral imperative to act on the SDGs and their role.
- Promote the 'Prayer for Everyone' on social media.
- Organise an initial meeting with the leaders of different Faith communities (Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc.) to brief them about the initiative at province, district, sub-district and national levels, encourage the idea of a dinner with leaders of other faiths to come together around the Global Goals and deepen Interfaith Relationships

Meet with Christian Church Leaders early on, so that they can set aside time in their planned sermon series for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Share the vision and inspire the impact of praying into the Global Goals and the 'Prayer for Everyone' concept

Present the 'Prayer for Everyone' initiative at different key moments, such as the Day of Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Weekly Chapel Service, the Corporate Prayer, etc.

Invite media to cover the initiative by interviewing Christian Church leaders. Specialist religious media may be especially interested

### ➤ **TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!**

**Take a look at this quick survey before planning your activities**

**Fill it in by October 8<sup>th</sup> using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7>**

**Please get all the office information together before completing the survey as only ONE answer per office will be recorded.**

### 3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

For the 'Prayer for Everyone' we want to focus on the role of Christians praying and taking action to build a fair, peaceful and sustainable world for their children to live in. For this, we have provided guidance for three sermons that offices can use to engage church and Christian networks. This guidance can also be used for small groups or Bible studies.

#### SERMON FOCUS I – PRAYER FOR ALL

The Bible passage John 17: 20-23 illustrates the 'Prayer for Everyone' in all its simplicity: it conveys a message of prayer for all, regardless of faith, origin, gender or age. One strong unified voice behind a common goal will prompt world leaders to take bold actions.



#### Jesus Prays for All Believers

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave

me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”.

In this passage, Jesus prays for his future followers – people he hadn't yet met, men, women and children across the ages. He prayed for their unity, not based simply on common beliefs or behaviours, but rather a unity found by participating in the very life of God. This prayer that "they may be one as we are one" is extended to those who will believe through the preaching of the apostles.

Christ's prayer for broken humanity is that we may continue to be one. The oneness that Jesus desires for us is the same oneness that binds together the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the sum of God's character; it is unifying love, merciful compassion. Jesus prays that we continue in the unity of love; that we be one.

As we advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of the world's children, we need to unite to vehicle a strong message to our global leaders.

#### Discussion/ Application topics:

1. How does this passage resonate with your work and daily life?
2. How do you feel this unity and togetherness can shape a better future for the world's children?
3. In what way does Jesus prayer for us and our prayers for everyone act as a tool for social action? When you pray what and who changes?
4. Share a personal or professional story of how you have worked with others to advocate for a common cause or to achieve a common goal.

# 3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

## SERMON FOCUS 2 – BUILDERS OF THE WALL

The Bible passage Nehemiah 2: 1-20, about him approaching the King and working together with the community to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, conveys a strong message of courage and solidarity.



When Nehemiah heard the news about the deplorable conditions in the city of Jerusalem, he wept, mourned, fasted and prayed. He waited four months on God to lead, direct and provide. But he was also a strong leader with great courage, godliness and wisdom.

Nehemiah 2 has some helpful insights on the realities of serving God. Studying his life will help us, on the one hand, not to be overly idealistic and thus vulnerable to disillusionment; and, on the other hand, to be realistic while not giving in to cynicism and dropping out. Nehemiah faced real problems but he moved through them to great accomplishments.

The passage demonstrates that waiting on God, working with all sorts of people, and wrestling wisely with a steady stream of problems are essentials of finishing the course that God has set before us. This scene also contains a beautiful example of spontaneous prayer. Before turning to answer the King, Nehemiah “prayed to the God of heaven.”

For our work, and through advocacy around personal or community causes, this is particularly relevant and reassures us that we too are invited to take action with other people of faith as well as community members, within God’s broader plans, to make a difference.

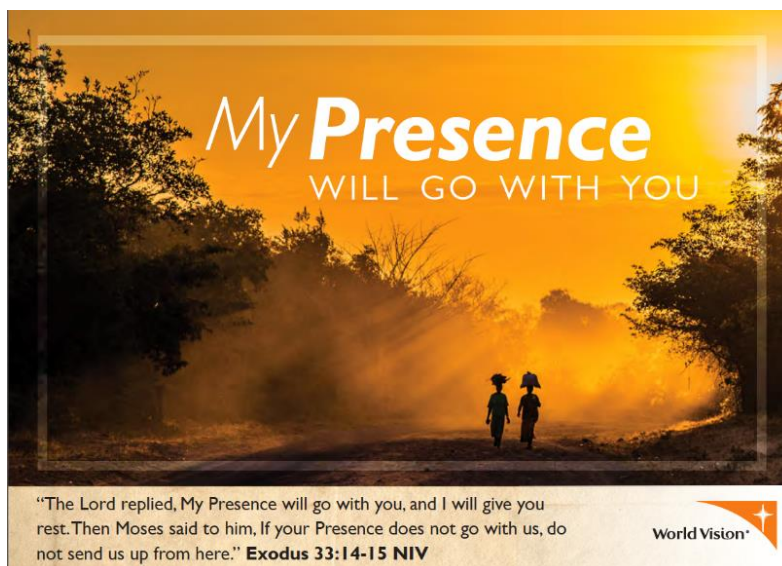
### Discussion topics:

1. What can we learn about Nehemiah’s faith in God in the way he related to senior officials and government in order to gain resources for rebuilding the walls?
2. Reflect upon the results of Nehemiah’s advocacy and communication. Think about the role that he had as cupbearer to the King and how he used his access to exercise influence. How did Nehemiah influence both the King and the grassroots community?
3. What will help us to step out in faith in building relationships with influential members of our community? How does this relate to approaching national and global leaders on the promises made to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals?
4. You may want to share a personal story of someone who has influenced your life, or a life that you have influenced through personal actions.
5. Share stories about the impact that World Vision’s campaigning and advocacy has had, with a particular focus on the Global Goals.

### 3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

#### SERMON FOCUS 3 – YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Bible passage Matthew 5: 14-16 shines light on the kingdom that we, as Christians, want to build for the world's children. A world deprived of poverty and injustice, and one in which decision-makers find the light and will to deliver on their promises.



***"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"***

**(Matthew 5:14-16)**

Light is a very common metaphor in the Bible. Along with darkness, light is often used to contrast ignorance and knowledge. Here, it almost certainly stands for the world's opportunity to perceive the truth about Jesus. Light allows people to see. Being the light of the world, we actually carry out the same purpose that Jesus had in coming to earth.

In our advocacy work ahead of the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, this passage can be interpreted in two ways: it can either represent the symbolism (i) of shining light on the Goals for the 7 billion people to be aware of their governments' commitments and to work towards their achievement; or (ii) of putting the spotlight on world leaders so that they fulfil their commitments (message of accountability). Consider discussing both interpretations of this light metaphor.

#### **Discussion topics:**

1. How can we interpret this passage in light of the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What role do you think global and national leaders play in shedding light on these Goals? What role do faith leaders and communities play in getting these goals known and fulfilled by all?
3. What role can citizens play as torch-bearers to keep their government leaders accountable? Provide examples of how you can personally get involved through your personal and professional life.

### 3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

#### PRAYER POINTS - 8 suggested daily prayers

##### Day 1 – 24<sup>th</sup> September

##### **Pray for our PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. Ask God to make us effective partners with other community groups to advocate the needs of our most vulnerable.

##### Day 2 – 25<sup>th</sup> September

##### **Ask God to bring POVERTY down to ZERO**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Pray for **GOOD JOBS AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**: Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

##### Day 3 – 26<sup>th</sup> September

##### **Pray God will raise up the food production, availability and fair distribution so that there is ZERO HUNGER**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

##### **Pray for WELL-BEING and GOOD HEALTH for all**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

##### **Pray for RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

##### Day 4 – 27<sup>th</sup> September

##### **Pray we act as good stewards of God's creation and PROTECT THE PLANET**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

##### **Pray for wise use of our water ways so that we have CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

##### **Pray for wisdom in how we treat LIFE BELOW WATER**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

##### **Pray for wisdom in how we treat LIFE ABOVE WATER**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



### 3. PRAYERS & SERMON TOPICS

#### Day 5 – 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Pray for teaching and learning that gives QUALITY EDUCATION**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**that promotes GENDER EQUALITY**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and will **REDUCE INEQUALITIES**

Reduce inequalities within and among countries.

#### Day 6 – 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Ask God to raise up communities that are SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:** Make cities and human

settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Pray for the use of MODERN ENERGY:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Ask God to release gifts of creativity for INNOVATION**

**AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

#### Day 7 – 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Pray for a world at rest and filled with PEACE AND JUSTICE**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

#### Day 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> October

**Pray for World Vision as an organisation** as we seek to serve God in full reliance on Jesus Christ to impact this world for the most vulnerable be it in the field or in the corridors of power. Pray with us and for us on our **Day of Prayer** as an organisation.

## 4. MONITORING RESULTS

### ➤ TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!

Take a look at this quick survey before planning your activities

Fill it in by October 8<sup>th</sup> using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccwqzq7>

**NOTE:** the questions are copied below for your information only

Please get all the office information together before completing the survey as only **ONE** answer per office will be recorded.

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OFFICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Who did you involved in 'Prayer for Everyone' Please specify number of people and type of groups involved, making an estimate to the best of your ability (eg. 50, 500 or 5000)*
  - *Children:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Adults:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Church leaders:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Journalists and media:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Government officials:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Community Health Workers:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Teachers:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Others (Please specify):* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *How did you mobilise people around 'Prayer for Everyone'? What type of activities did your office carry out (before, during and/or after the week of prayer)? Please also specify if online or offline.*
3. *Where and when did you organize these activities? Please also specify if online or offline.*
4. *Did you coordinate or collaborate with other faith communities than the Christian community? If so, which?*
5. *How did Church leaders engage in the 'Prayer for Everyone'? How did they respond to the initiative?*
6. *How did Government officials engage in the 'Prayer for Everyone'? How did they respond to the initiative?*
7. *What are your follow-up plans with either Church leaders or government officials?*
8. *What type of support would you need from the Global Centre?*
9. *Would you like to add any information?*