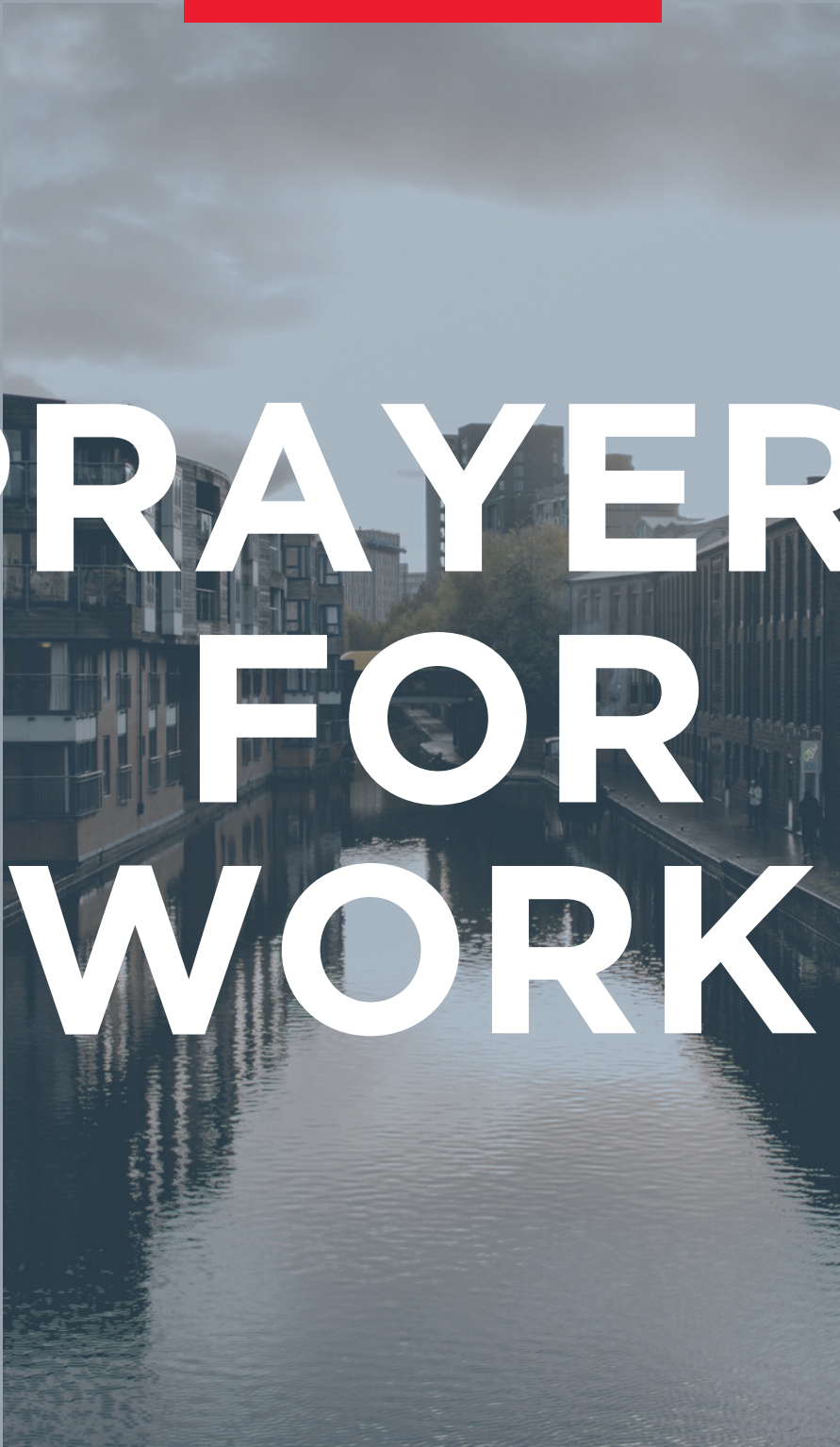




GLOBAL
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CITY to CITY



PRAYERS FOR WORK

Industry Prayers for the Church and its People

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This book of prayers was adapted from Faith, Work & the City created by City to City Latin America, Praying for the City by the Center for Faith & Work, and submissions from the Nashville Institute of Faith & Work, Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth, TX and Surge Ministries in Phoenix, AZ.

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INTRODUCTION

What would happen if every worker sitting in our churches understood their vocation to be a mission for the glory of God? What if each one truly felt their work played a role in God's unfolding story? Would it change how they approached their Monday mornings?

Every Christian who is part of the church gathered on a Sunday morning is part of the church scattered throughout the workweek. In their jobs, relationships, and communities outside the four walls of a church meeting, they are Christ's witnesses—cultivators of creation and renewal in various occupations, industries, and organizations. They are pushing against darkness in the broken areas of politics, manufacturing, art, finance, education, and all of the fields in which they engage.

What would it mean for the church to pray for renewal in each of these fields? How might our cities be impacted by Christians working for God's glory every single day of the week? These prayers are for churches and individuals who want to pray for the flourishing of their communities through the very work of their people day to day. For as Matthew Kaemingk and Cory B. Wilson write in *Work and Worship: Reconnecting our Labor to Liturgy*,

The city will be renewed not by five church planters and five nonprofit leaders; it will be renewed by the complex callings and careers of the five hundred other people sitting in the pews... The mission of the local church is not limited to a single outreach program. It is not limited to a single missionary. It is pluriform, complex, and all-inclusive. The church's mission is embodied in the diverse work of all the people all over the city.

We present to you a book of industry prayers written by Christians serving in the industries shared. Our hope is that these prayers will help pastors and congregants:

- See this work as part of God's unfolding plan for the world
- Understand the innate goodness and brokenness in their industries and work
- See the opportunity as the priesthood of all believers to shine light on darkness
- Find ways for their industries to represent God's goodness

Feel free to use these prayers in the following ways:

- Personal devotion
- Corporate prayer and worship in church or other settings
- Small group study
- Conference openings
- Encouragement of others

We hope the prayers that follow will help your church activate those in your pews to bring faith to the work on which they spend most of their time. Although these prayers can be used in church services, we recommend they serve as inspiration for those in your congregation to write prayers for their own industries, which you might in turn share with the church. In the appendix, we share a guide for how to write an industry prayer.

If you write prayers you would like to add to our next volume, please submit to faithandwork@redeemercitytocity.com.

If we truly believe the Gospel changes everything, then that means our work. May these prayers serve as a reminder of God's work and our opportunity to join him in his great redemptive story.

—The Global Faith & Work Initiative, Redeemer City to City

A PRAYER FOR HOSPITALITY WORKERS

Father, Giver of every good gift,

Thank you for welcoming us with your extraordinary hospitality. In the beginning, you created a space for humanity to dwell—brimming with beauty, order and diversity, providing for our every need. You fashioned our hearts to find great joy in what you made. You formed our hands to cultivate and extend hospitality to others. And then, when we turned our backs on you, you came close, taking on flesh and serving us in the most intimate of ways.

Would you help us see how sacred this work is that we've been called into? Dispel the idolatrous lies that our work is somehow "lesser than." Instead, help us see the way we bear your image as we welcome strangers and serve them in a way that puts your goodness and love on display. People are desperate for connection, to be seen and genuinely cared for. We thank you that we get to participate in that work with you!

Jesus, when guests treat us poorly, meet us with your humility. Remind us that you lavish grace upon us, even when we are among your mockers. Also, redeem us from the evil spirit of the age that values people according to their wealth and extends hospitality with partiality. We confess that this is not the way of your Kingdom.

Protect those who work in the "shadows" of the hospitality industry. Bring fair wages and provide for their every need, Lord. May our whole industry, and especially those of us who follow you, love these vulnerable workers well. May we all value their work as you do.

Our work is centered around the table; may it always be sustained by coming back to your table. As we partake of the bread and wine of the new covenant, feasting on your unfathomable grace, we also look ahead to our future destiny...for blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

May the joy and creativity of our daily service offer our guests a small taste of your coming Kingdom, inviting them to know the good and gracious King.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES WORKERS

Lord, you are the supplier of all of the resources that we have. You have made us stewards, cultivators, and administrators of your creation. We pray for all the professionals in the financial services industry. May they use their capacities and gifts to faithfully administer the resources they are given to serve their community through economic activity.

May those in the industry be honest, truthful, and transparent in their business interactions and have wisdom in all of their deals and decisions. May they reflect your image as Creator and Sustainer of all things as they work to contribute towards the sustenance of your creation. Help them avoid the temptation to engage in dishonest practices or selfish tendencies which would exploit instead of serve others. We pray love would guide their relationships with their coworkers, clients, and customers.

We pray that in their work they would see their calling to be responsible fiduciaries. Help them to see that their work contributes to the economic stability of families, the generosity of the saints, the education of children, the retirement accounts of the elderly, and so much more. That people are behind these numbers, and you are using them to love and serve those people well. God, we pray you will strengthen their sense of vision in their vocation to see how their work contributes to the economic sustainability of this community and blesses the lives of its people.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Lord, we thank you that all knowledge comes from you. We ask you for guidance for the teachers and educators in our city. May those who have the privilege of teaching children understand the great responsibility you have given teachers to shepherd them through a particular year in their students' lives.

We pray for our children to be loved well through these men and women who are teaching them. We ask that you grant these teachers patience, wisdom, and grace as they model for their students what it means to be a learner, but also what it means to be a friend to others and a member of a community. We pray the minds of these students would be developed as well as their character and spirituality. May they grow in their intellect and in their emotional intelligence to be compassionate and empathetic children and young adults with noble, responsible, and generous hearts. May the arts, sports, and technology be an important part of their education so they will become well-rounded adults. And above all, Lord, may these children come to know and love you.

We pray for each educator to understand the transcendence of their work. May they see each child's beautiful possibility and work to cultivate that for their futures. May you sustain them through long, tiring days and help them to pour their hearts into their students.

We pray the educational standards for our cities will be crafted in a way that forms children into adults dedicated to influence their societies for good.

We pray for the influence these educators have on others and pray you will be the first influence on their lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Dear Father, the Giver of the Law:

We pray for those who are part of our judicial system. We pray for earthly judges and lawyers, reminded that you are the giver of the original law and mindful of the role that judges have played in your redemption story from Moses onward. We are reminded that the law exists to show us our sin and our need for a savior. None are righteous, but through the blood of Christ, we are redeemed.

God, we acknowledge that those who are given the task of applying the law will be tainted by their own fallenness and sin, and so we pray that you will give them wisdom. We pray that they would view every party who comes before them as created in your image and that you would give them discernment for the decisions they make that impact these lives. We pray they would treat all parties with the respect that is due to children of God.

God, let those who are part of the justice system behave justly in all they do, love mercy in the way you love mercy, and walk humbly with you as they go about their daily roles. Let their demeanor point others to you. Let them be instruments of your peace and justice. As long as there is sin, we know that we need earthly judges. But we eagerly await a time when judging between parties will no longer be required upon your return.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR JOURNALISTS

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for our journalists and those who are in the media industry. You are a God of truth and justice, and we know you desire to bring all things from darkness into light. Please help reporters, journalists, and those in the media industry to seek out the truth and pursue justice by prioritizing fairness and integrity in their reporting. We pray their primary goal would be to inform their readers accurately and well. We pray through this industry to bring accountability to governments, businesses, and those in positions of power.

We pray you give those in journalism an awareness of their own biases and allow them to work against bias in their stories or reports. We pray they would listen well and explore all sides of a story before making assumptions based on past experiences or personal beliefs.

Father God, we pray that governments around the world would appreciate the importance of a free and open press and that world leaders would protect the journalists and media organizations in their countries. We pray for journalists reporting in war-torn regions and ask as they report from the frontlines that you would please protect them. We pray against the killing of journalists and ask that you would keep them safe as they report on important and dangerous stories. We also pray for the immediate release of any journalists that are currently being held hostage by oppressive organizations or governments.

Father God, you are a God of truth and justice. Please help journalists and the news industry reflect these aspects of your character more fully with each passing day.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Father God, we pray for those who work in the healthcare industry. We pray for those who work in hospitals, in private practices, our EMS workers, or chemists, pharmacists, doctors, nurses, administrators, mental health workers, and specialists. We pray for them now.

We ask you, God, to provide them with wisdom as they serve you and their communities with their service. May they always treat patients with respect and dignity, always remembering the call to love our neighbors as ourselves. May you give them discernment and clarity when they are diagnosing and treating their patients. May the love that you have shown these healthcare workers be reflected in them to their patients.

We pray, God, that you would sustain them through the secondary trauma that can come with seeing others suffer and carrying those burdens. We pray that they would feel supported and cared for as they process this grief. Provide them with peace and space to care for themselves in order to maintain a healthy frame of mind to care for others.

Help our healthcare workers be transformative agents in this city. May they bring healing to their patients and reflect the love of Christ to those entrusted to their care.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR ARTISTS



Father, we come before you to pray for the artists in our city.

You are the original Creator. All truth, all beauty, comes from you. You brought forth the heavens and the earth as your medium to serve mankind.

Father, you first poured out your Spirit of creativity for the sake of honoring beauty and truth—for the sake of worship. For the sake of celebrating all that is good and just.

We thank you for those who take part in this sacred dance of creativity, a process of surrendering and creating. The Spirit is revealing your true nature through their work. May their hearts and hands always be aligned with authenticity and honesty. We pray that these artists can be the cultivators and storytellers of the richness of this life, drawing inspiration from the joys and the sorrows of our communities, to create an honest reflection of truth and beauty.

Let them continually awaken to your greater calling and continually shed the weight of selfish ambition and pride which the world tries to demand from them. Help them to surrender, for the sake of what is good and just, to the stories you want them to tell.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ARCHITECTS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Dear Father, Maker of heaven and earth,

We praise you for the gift of beauty and order here on earth. Thank you, Lord, for all forms of material expressions you've inspired in our architects and our construction workers. We praise you for glimpses of heaven in our midst, which inspire visions of flourishing for our built environment. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Christ and the Holy Spirit that helps us to understand and imagine light and hope in our broken world.

Father, we ask for your grace and blessing for all those involved with refining our built environment here on earth. We pray for elected government officials, policy makers, developers, and investors who determine the needs of our cities. We pray that they would have vision that is greater than return on investment. We pray that their hearts would be for the powerless and the marginalized.

Lord, we pray for the architects and engineers who address the needs of our cities. We pray that they would use the gift of imagination to design a built environment where people can rest, heal, learn, praise, and find inspiration. We pray that their desire will not only be for the favor of developers and clients, but also for provision of dignity and equality, where class barriers are broken and not reinforced. We boldly pray for ideas that can help democratize our cities.

We pray for safety on construction sites across our city and that builders would work with integrity and pride in their work.

Lord, we remember how you blessed Nehemiah and Israelites from every background to unite and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. We pray for boldness, joy, creativity, and vision to glorify you in collaborations between developers, investors, architects, engineers, contractors, tradesmen, and elected officials. Father, inspire and equip all those who are tasked with building our cities. Give us reverence for all of your creation so that we would serve those in need and use resources rightly.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR TECHNOLOGY WORKERS

Lord, we recognize you as the Creator of all things.

We thank you for the ways technology, software, and the internet have brought new opportunities and resources to many. We thank you for those who work in this field and ask that they would use their gifts and successes for the greater flourishing of society.

We pray those in technology would act with humility, compassion, and servanthood. We pray that technology would be used to enhance our humanity in accordance with your design and image, not detract from it. We pray that, more and more, holistic technology solutions would be developed, improving economic opportunity, resources, support, and hope for all people. We pray that these technologies would be used to build communities, societies, and the world.

God, we pray that those in this industry would be good stewards of your gifts, knowing how and when to use them. Grant them the wisdom to see the opportunities to advance the greater good, the restoration of creation, and the furthering of your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Father God, we pray for those in our city and our church who are entrepreneurs. We pray for them to understand the new roles you are calling them to play in their community. We pray you would bless these ventures, allowing them to create new jobs and ask that you would protect the investments made by those who are starting new businesses. May you be at the center of these new ventures, directing their motivation and allowing the fruits of their work to be reinvested for your glory and honor.

We pray for those who feel a sense of loneliness or despair in the early stages of their new ventures. We pray you would surround them with loving community and support that offers them wisdom, guidance, and discernment to their new endeavors. We pray for those whose new businesses are in need of funding--fill their leaders with a reliance on you and comfort as they come to you to sustain them.

We pray as new businesses are being formed that you would provide a solid foundation for them. We pray the values of these organizations would be shaped by you as the cornerstone for the goals, vision, and objectives of the enterprise. May each new venture be a service to the community reflecting your love and your justice.

We pray you will give our entrepreneurs strength and humility as they face the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Father God, we recognize there is no authority on earth that has not been provided by you, our local authorities among them. We want to pray for those who work in our local government. We know you have entrusted them with great responsibility and pray that you will help us honor and respect them. We pray you give them guidance and wisdom to lead our city into flourishing that is more reflective of your kingdom.

We pray these leaders will look to you and that you would protect them from the temptation to engage in behavior that may be dishonoring of the responsibility you have given them. May every decision they make contribute to the well-being of our citizens and our city.

We pray you would protect those in government from falling into fear. Our authorities need you, please make them aware that they are in your service for the good of society. We pray you would protect those in government from danger and animosity. That they would be open to listening to perspectives that are different from their own and that you would grant them wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of those they serve. We pray you will use every government official for your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS

Father God, we thank you for those who work in the manufacturing industry. We thank you for those who work to create the products we need for our city, our country, and our world. We pray for those in this field, that they would be light where they are and that the labor of their hands would be the source of livelihood and sustenance for their families.

We pray for protection for the workers in this field. Sustain them through the physical demands of their jobs and protect them from injury. We pray that they would be supported by their employers with safe work environments and feel they are treated with dignity and respect.

We pray these workers would find joy in what they do. That the reality of you allowing them to create with their hands the way you were a Creator of our world would inspire them as people made in your image. We pray that they would see the value that comes from the work they do as their products serve so many around them. We pray they will see the work of their hands as an invaluable contribution to our community and our city.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR FREELANCERS

Dear Lord, we take this opportunity to honor vocation as a way to serve you in the world. We are aware that the workforce is evolving as more people make their living through short-term engagements rather than careers with employers. We pray specifically for freelancers and independent workers, that they can reflect God's quality of faithfulness, his desire for dependence, his creativity, and his diligence.

Lord, your imprint is on each and every person contributing to the gig economy. Whether it is driving an Uber, drafting a creative brief, making a logo, posting social media images, selling cosmetics, freelancing law opinions, or writing a reprise for a song, your people have opportunities to show your love to their clients. Lord, we ask your blessing and provision for all those working independently as they face each day without assurance of steady pay. We pray that your Spirit would allow them to be present to the role you have prepared for them in the way they love people, places, and things to life. We ask that you remind them that you are enough.

Lord, may we be aware that the Fall impacts all work. We ask for your forgiveness in the many ways freelancers may exhibit their personal brokenness:

- Overworking and maintaining an unhealthy obsession with productivity,
- Giving in to slothfulness and underworking,
- Jealousy of other people and other life situations,
- Seeing relationships as transactional, or
- Isolating themselves from community.

We also pray for those who hire freelancers. May these employers strive to love these workers well, understanding their need for sustenance and recognizing their own human propensity to make independent goods and services transactional only.

Lord, we ask that freelancers would understand their unique role in your unfolding story. You were the ultimate Creator of all that is and all that is true. We praise you for the way you have lovingly and wonderfully placed those in the gig economy in their roles as part of your plan to redeem all of creation. May we remember that, no matter our work environment, our role is to point to truth and, ultimately, to point to you. May we know that the work before us is to be done in partnership with you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR BUSINESS WORKERS

Father,

We thank you that you are always present, always moving, and always faithful to your children. We praise you that the sun shines on the righteous and unrighteous alike and that you will be glorified across all nations, all people, and all industries. We pray now for those who work in business. Holy Spirit, move in powerful ways in this industry to create transformed hearts that are zealous to see your Kingdom come and your glory reign over all the earth.

We pray you will raise up leaders who worship you, love you, and desire to see your name be exalted above everything else. We pray these leaders would see both the people within their organizations as well as those who are served by the business as image-bearers of God.

We pray that a business's first objective would be to seek the common good. We pray for the many entrepreneurs across the world who are driven by passion to fill voids within an economy and create value for the people around them. Plant beautiful ideas in their minds that will benefit your world. Use business as a means to bring about peace in situations where goods and services are so interconnected that hoarding resources by some comes as a detriment to all.

Create equity within the economies of the world; for those to whom you have given much, create hearts to share and do good towards those who have little. For the leaders whom you will raise up, allow them to see the world of business as an opportunity to use the resources of the earth in such a way that is sustainable and equitable towards all.

Thank you, Father, that you are intimately involved with your creation. We lift up these prayers to you, knowing that you hear them.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR NON-PROFIT WORKERS

Father, we pray for our city. You know the needs of the city, and you use our non-profit organizations to meet many of the needs of our people. We pray you will help those who are in our non-profit fields to have a genuine desire to assist those who are in need in our community. Help each of them in the roles they are called to fill.

We pray you will provide in each area of need through these organizations. May the leaders of these institutions act with wisdom, patience, faith, and good stewardship. Bring our non-profit workers innovative ideas and solutions for the problems they encounter in their work.

We pray in moments of frustration in their day-to-day tasks, you give these workers a vision of the heavenly kingdom you have them working to create. May their hearts be moved with compassion, and may you sustain them through difficult work experiences, conflicts that arise, and discouraging days.

We pray these non-profit organizations would work in harmony with their state and local governments and be seen as contributing to the benefit of the broader society through their work. We pray you would use these organizations to bring your mercy and justice to this city.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS

Lord, you are the Creator of all beauty and all things. All the beauty we see around us and all our capabilities are part of being made in your image. You have gifted those in the entertainment industry with special talents to capture stories and create music that feeds the human soul.

We pray for all artists, musicians, singers, and actors to have a genuine curiosity towards what is beautiful and truthful. May they be able to balance the varying points of view in their work with humility and discernment, moving us towards a better understanding of your creation.

We pray for those in the entertainment industry to produce art which is rich and meaningful. May each artist seek excellence in their work so that it reflects the gifts you have given them. May each person in this industry work to create entertainment out of love for others and not to serve their own pride or ego.

We pray our city would be a place filled with art and culture that enriches the perspectives and lives of each member of our community and that you would use these individuals to accomplish that mission.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PARENTS

Heavenly Father,

We come before you and we lift up our earthly mothers and fathers. We lift up the work of parenting and raising children to you, Lord. The depth and complexity of this work often goes unseen in our communities, but you see it Lord. You witness every moment of feeding, of changing diapers and clothes, of cleaning up after our children, of discipline, of waiting up for a missed curfew, of stressing over school performance, of teaching, of nurturing and of letting go. You see all of these moments, and you know that they are a form of worship--of a parent trying to bring order out of the chaos of a child's life in the same way you brought order out of chaos in your creation. You know that every moment a parent invests in a child is an act of worship towards our Creator and an act of stewardship to shape the dignity and spirit of our children as being made in your image.

Father God, this work requires so much, and we ask that you sustain our parents and grant them what they need. We pray you give our parents patience through the struggles and monotony of parenting. We pray you give them wisdom when they are making small decisions that will impact a child's day and when they are making large decisions that will impact the trajectory of a child's life. We pray that parents do not make their children, their accomplishments and their happiness into their gods or be tempted to turn the gift of children into an ultimate idol replacing an identity in Christ. May they rest in your sovereignty and grace as they discern the best ways to love their child.

God, we pray you will bring our parents a deep soul rest that can come only from you, even in moments when they are physically or emotionally strained by what the job of parenting requires. And finally, God, we pray that parents will have a deep and abiding sense of your grace. May every parent know that their identity does not rest in their child nor in their status as a mother or father, as you, Father God, are the only perfect parent to ever exist.

May the foundation of every parent in our midst rest in the saving grace of Christ and the love and sustenance he offers even on our most difficult parenting days.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHERS

Our Father in heaven, you are humanity's great teacher. You taught Adam in the Garden of Eden to take care of creation. You taught Moses your commandments. Through your son Jesus, you showed us how to live, how to respond to injustice, and how to find salvation.

You are our greatest teacher. Even when we have not learned our lessons well, patiently you have taught us the truth. Bless those dedicated to teaching and research.

May they study and learn about your creation in all its splendor and apply that knowledge to the improvement of our communities through the arts, sciences, and humanities. May they develop knowledge which uplifts the human spirit and allows people to live healthy and fulfilled lives in service of neighbors, cities, nations, and the world.

Help them to follow your example by finding new and creative ways to teach and inspire students to want to learn and develop their minds. May their students be filled with passion and love to dedicate their lives to the service of others in the glory of your name.

We pray that college communities would be open to listening and learning. That different ideas would be treated with respect and dignity and that people would be eager to look outside of themselves for wisdom. We pray that those with differing ideas would not be antagonistic towards each other but love and respect one another. And we pray that our students would be able to learn new ideas and then hold them up to the light of truth in Christ to examine them.

We pray for their professors, that you would help them see the broken places in their students' lives and shine light into those areas to love their students well.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

APPENDIX

Writing a prayer for your industry or field helps you identify and articulate the areas of brokenness that need prayer and consideration. You can then ask God to enter into these fractured areas and bring a full flourishing of your work for its intended purposes.

The Purpose of the “Prayers of the People”

This practice is derived from a particular aspect of worship, historically called the “pastoral prayer” or “prayers of the people.” It is where we have the privilege of interceding for the needs of the church and the world. This particular adaptation is to introduce awareness of the needs of particular industries into the lives and worship services of churches. Such prayers affirm individuals’ work and are meant to remind us that we are sent as the “priesthood of all believers” into our places of work.

Preparing Your Prayer

Biblical prayers and the prayers of great Christians through the centuries are poetic and heartfelt. They are richly textured with God’s truth and promises, bathed in humility, and grounded in confidence that they will be answered. Let your prayer flow out of your private communion with God. Your industry, personality, and passion for God should show in your prayer. You have been called as part of the body of Christ, bringing a unique distinctiveness in the calling you’ve received.

Celebrate the richness of the names and metaphors God has given us by which we may know and address him. Use “we” rather than “I” as you are praying on behalf of the church.

What to Pray For

As you think about praying for your industry, consider the following:

- Pray using language familiar to those in your industry, and try to be specific without being dated or restrictive.
- Pray against specific areas of brokenness you've seen (injustice, discrimination, inequity).
- Pray for those who work in your industry, that they (both Christian and non-Christian) might be used by God to bring about his glory on earth as it is in heaven.
- Pray for those affected by your area of work, that the work might bring about greater human flourishing.
- Affirm where you sense God's Spirit at work bringing hope and a desire to change.

You need not pray for all of these concerns or all that come to mind for your field. Choose a few, and pray for them specifically. Pray as the Spirit leads you.



