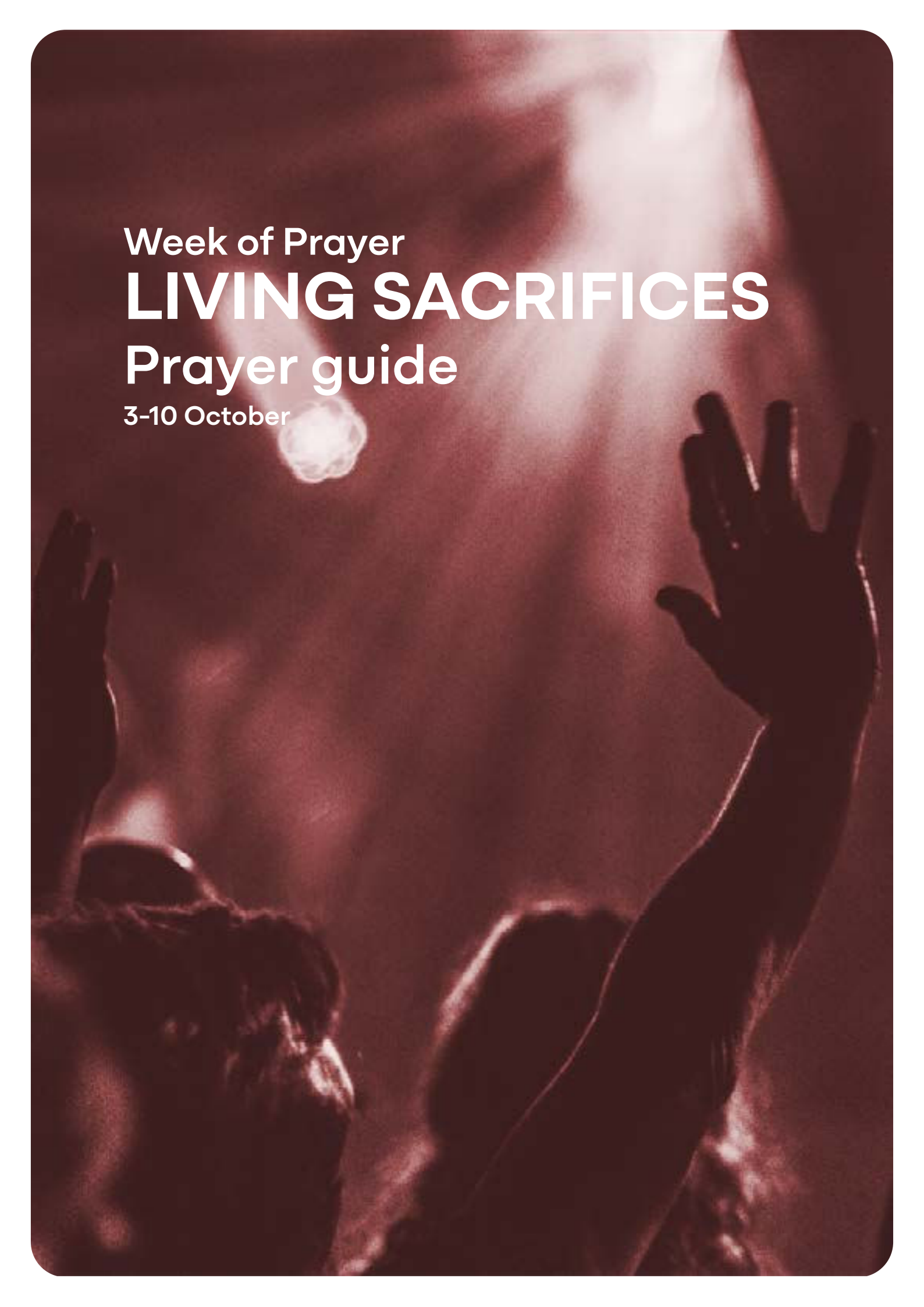


A dramatic, low-key photograph of a person's hands raised in prayer against a dark background with a bright light source.

Week of Prayer

# LIVING SACRIFICES

Prayer guide

3-10 October

# INTRODUCTION

**Bible reading:** 1 Kings 18; Romans 12:1

Revival always begins with a choice. On Mount Carmel, Elijah called a wavering nation to decide: "How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him." He rebuilt the altar of the LORD, placed the sacrifice upon it, and prayed. The fire of God fell, consuming the sacrifice. The false prophets were overthrown. Then Elijah bowed low in prayer until the heavens opened with abundant rain. What began with a sacrifice ended with a nation turning back to God.

In the New Testament, Paul calls us to the same posture: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice." Revival comes when the people of God surrender themselves fully to him. When we put our lives on his altar, he answers with fire. He consumes sin, empowers holiness, fills us with his Spirit, and turns our hearts back to him. Then, as we persist in prayer, he sends the rain of refreshing and renewal.

Our world is dry. Our nation is fractured. Our town is groaning under violence, despair, and lostness. Our church is standing on the edge of new promises and fresh challenges. This is not the time for casual faith. This is the time for wholehearted surrender. God is looking for living sacrifices, a people who will cry out until revival comes.

And when revival comes, everything changes. The lost are saved. The sick are healed. The bound are delivered. Signs and wonders break out. Holiness marks the people of God. A deep hunger and thirst for his presence fills the church. Families are restored. Towns and nations are shaken.

But we are not content with yesterday's blessings. We are crying out for the more that God has promised. Jesus said, "Greater works than these will you do, because I go to the Father." We long to see those greater works in our day. We long to see the vision God has given us fulfilled, that we would be a diverse church of thousands that surrounds and saturates High Wycombe with the love of Jesus.

This week, we come together to say with one voice: **The LORD, he is God.** We will lay down our lives as living sacrifices, seek his fire, cry for his rain, and run in his strength. Let us humble ourselves. Let us pray with faith. Let us believe for revival in our day.

For when the fire falls and the rain comes, our generation too will rise and declare:

**"The LORD, he is God!"**

Saturday 4 October

# CHOOSE THE LORD

**Bible reading:** 1 Kings 18:17-21; Matthew 6:24; James 4:7-10

The showdown on Mount Carmel begins not with fire or rain, but with a question. Elijah stands before a wavering nation and asks: "How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." In other words: stop wavering, stop halting, stop dividing your loyalty. Revival always starts with a decision to give God your full allegiance.

As we begin this week of prayer, God is confronting us with the same choice. He is searching for people who are fully his, whose hearts are undivided. The fire of God will not fall on an empty altar, nor on one cluttered with idols of comfort, wealth, fear, or sin. Today we choose to present ourselves wholly to him as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). No more divided loyalties. No more wavering. The LORD, he is God, and we are his, wholly.

## RESPONSE

- Repent of divided loyalties and confess where anything else has taken God's rightful place.
- Ask for grace for wholehearted devotion to Christ in every member of our church.
- Pray for strength for our church family to resist compromise, rejecting the pull of cultural idols such as comfort, materialism, immorality, and fear.
- Intercede for our nation, that hearts would turn from false securities and return to the LORD.

## Prayer Points | God's promises

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO: PRAY GOD'S PROMISES BACK TO HIM

Here are some of the key prophetic words we've received over the years. Read them aloud, see what stirs you, and ask the Father to make them a reality.

"You are to be lights on the hills – a torch from which lights will be lit on all the hills around High Wycombe, bringing men and women to salvation and deliverance and the fullness of the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ."

– A recurring word given to the church around 1980

In Acts 18, God says to Paul, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you... I have many people in this city." The Lord is saying to you, "I have many people in this place."

– Given to Neil Bartlett, January 2009

"God is going to bring a convergence of rich and poor in order to experience the truth and life of God. He is going to cause a breakthrough in evangelistic potency and fruitfulness, and there will be an influx of people coming in from two different sides of society and encountering God as a result. God is going to begin to use this church as a resource financially to finance mission, to finance what God is going to do."

– Julian Adams, July 2013

"God is giving you the keys to the city. King's is coming into a season of favour in the town where you will be invited to the table of influence; a church that will not be on the margins, but in the centre... a stakeholder of authority in the town. And this will particularly be in the area of social action, in how you care for the poor and the most vulnerable."

– Phil Wiltew, September 2018

Sunday 5 October

# REBUILD THE ALTAR

**Bible reading:** 1 Kings 18:30-32; Nehemiah 1:8-9; Romans 12:1

Before the fire could fall, the altar of the LORD had to be repaired. The altar was the place of covenant and worship, the meeting point between God and his people. Israel had let it crumble, and with it their devotion to the LORD. Revival could not come until the place of encounter was restored.

So it is with us today. Broken altars cannot carry the fire, but rebuilt ones can. For us, the altar is not made of stones but of surrendered lives. To rebuild the altar is to restore prayer in our homes, devotion in our hearts, unity in our church, and covenant faithfulness in our community. As we yield ourselves afresh to God, we prepare a place for his fire to fall and for his presence to dwell among us again.

## RESPONSE

- Repent where prayer, worship, or devotion has broken down in your life.
- Ask God to restore family altars of prayer and reconciliation in homes.
- Pray for our church to be rebuilt as a true house of prayer, marked by unity.
- Intercede for renewal of worship and devotion across our town.

## Prayer Points | Our church family

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Today, we'd love you to pray for our church family – that we'd be committed to Jesus and committed to one another.

#### Please pray:

- For a fresh outpouring of the Spirit on the church, equipping us and empowering us to love one another and to reach out to the lost.
- That our church family would be marked by unity, that where the enemy seeks to bring disunity and disruption, we'd pursue love and togetherness.
- That we'd be a church family where everyone plays their part, using the diversity of gifts God has given us.
- For the spaces where we meet together outside of Sunday mornings, like our small groups – that these would be places of love and encouragement, where disciples are made and trained.
- That we'd devote ourselves to Jesus, to the word, to prayer and to reaching out – and that we'd be known for our counter-cultural, gospel-centred generosity.

Monday 6 October

# CONSUMED BY FIRE

**Bible reading:** 1 Kings 18:36-38; Acts 2:1-4; Hebrews 12:28-29

When Elijah prayed, the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even the water in the trench. God's consuming fire was not destructive to his people, but it was purifying and decisive — showing that he alone is God. Fire confirmed his covenant, cleansed the altar, and turned hearts back to him.

In the New Testament, the same holy fire fell at Pentecost. The Spirit came as tongues of fire, igniting a people who had laid themselves on the altar of obedience. God's fire today still consumes what we yield to him: our lives, our worship, our weaknesses. Where there is surrender, there will be fire.

## RESPONSE

- Ask God to consume every area of compromise and sin in our lives.
- Pray for fresh fire of the Spirit to purify our hearts and empower our witness.
- Intercede for our church to be marked by the manifest presence of God.
- Cry out for the fire of God to awaken our town and our nation.

## Prayer Points | Our outreach & social action

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTION

Today, we'd love you to focus on the ways we're reaching out to those in our own lives, and on the works we've planted to serve those in our town.

#### Please pray:

- For those on your BLESS list: friends, family, neighbours, colleagues who don't yet know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to listen to them, eat with them, serve them, and share your story and the gospel with them. (Find out about BLESS at [kchw.co.uk/bless](http://kchw.co.uk/bless))

- For the wonderful gospel-centred ministries that have been planted here intentionally to serve those in our town. In each area, pray for protection and wisdom for the leaders and teams, for the presence of God, for good relationships to be built, and for freedom and salvation:
- **King's Table**, serving those caught in life-controlling addictions and homelessness.
- **Chosen**, seeking to love and serve women caught in sexual exploitation.
- **Christians Against Poverty**, serving and supporting those caught in unmanageable cycles of debt.
- **Learning English**, providing English language skills and community to women for whom English isn't their first language, and seeds for the kingdom of God.
- **Little Stars**, serving young children and parents and carers in our town.
- **Bridge Court Outreach**, seeking to love and serve those housed in Bridge Court, next to the church building.

Tuesday 7 October

# CAST DOWN THE FALSE

**Bible passages:** 1 Kings 18:39-40; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Acts 19:18-20

When the fire fell, the people confessed, "The LORD, he is God." But confession was not the end of the story. The prophets of Baal had to be removed, or Israel would quickly return to their old ways. Revival is not only about turning back to God. It is also about cutting off what competes with him.

The same is true today. Revival is not just about restoring what belongs to God but also removing what does not. Idols and strongholds cannot remain if God's reign is to be established. These may not be statues on a hillside, but they are real: addictions, false ideologies, destructive habits, misplaced loves. Revival requires not only restored devotion but also decisive renunciation. Only then can freedom last and God's kingdom advance.

## RESPONSE

- Repent of idols or false loves that have taken root in your life.
- Ask God to expose and break strongholds in our church that hinder his Spirit.
- Pray for freedom from addictions and destructive cycles in our people.
- Intercede for our town and nation, that false ideologies would be dismantled.

## Prayer Points | Our leaders & teams

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS AND TEAMS

Today, we'd love you to pray for those who serve in the church, whether it's in full-time ministry, or leading or serving voluntarily in teams.

**Please pray:**

- For our elders, trustees and staff team (you can see who they are at [kchw.co.uk/leadership](http://kchw.co.uk/leadership)). Please pray for them:
  - to be filled with the Spirit
  - for encouragement, unity and godly wisdom
  - for the joy and peace of the Lord
  - for protection for them and their families

- Ask the Lord to highlight individuals in the team, and listen to God for them – let them know what you feel he is saying to you for them.
- For our leaders across the church – small group leaders, ministry leaders, worship leaders, meeting leaders...: for a revelation of sonship – that leading would be a joy not a burden, and that they'd lead from a place of knowing they are beloved sons and daughters.
- For all our serving teams – that we'd see togetherness and joy in our teams – that we'd radiate the grace, humility and joy of Jesus Christ as we serve.
- For mobilisation of new leaders and new people joining serving teams, every person playing their part (Eph 4:16).

Wednesday 8 October

# PRAY UNTIL IT RAINS

**Bible passage:** 1 Kings 18:41-44; James 5:17-18; Luke 18:1-8

After the false prophets were dealt with, Elijah turned to prayer. Though God had promised rain, the sky was still empty. Elijah bowed low, face between his knees, and sent his servant again and again to look toward the sea. Seven times there was nothing. Then finally, a small cloud appeared, the size of a man's hand. That was enough. Elijah prayed until the rain came.

This is the posture of revival prayer. God has spoken promises, but they must be travailed into reality. Breakthrough often comes slowly, with no visible sign at first. Yet persistent prayer refuses to quit until heaven responds. Like Elijah, we are called to bend low, persevere in intercession, and keep looking to the horizon. Even a small cloud is a sign that God is moving, and the downpour will follow.

## RESPONSE

- Ask God to give us perseverance in prayer when answers seem delayed.
- Pray for the release of God's promises over our church, our building, and our people.
- Intercede for healing, provision, and breakthrough for those in need.
- Cry out for revival rain to fall on our town and our nation.

## Prayer Points | The generations

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR THE GENERATIONS

We're blessed to be a church of all different ages. Today, pray for the different generations in our big church family, lifting them to God.

#### Please pray:

- For **King's Kids**: that the youngest members of our family would have life-changing encounters with Jesus, and that out of it, they'd grow in their gifting and live with daily expectation of what's possible with God.

- For **King's Youth**: that the spiritual temperature would be raised further still among our young people. That they'd love Jesus, love the Bible and love prayer – and that they'd be so full of the Spirit that they can't stop talking about Jesus!
- For our **Young Adults & Students**: that they'd continue to hunger for more of Jesus and put following him above everything else at a time when life starts to get very busy, and that the 'quiet revival' happening in this generation would continue, spread and that many would come to know Jesus.
- For **PowerHouse and those in the retired generations**: that God would ignite and fuel a fresh passion for Jesus, unlock spiritual gifts, and release new joy in serving, praying and reaching out.
- For **everyone in between** – whatever their background, whatever they're facing, that God would fill them and equip them with his Spirit today.

Thursday 9 October

# THE SOUND OF ABUNDANT RAIN

**Bible passages:** 1 Kings 18:41, 44-45; Joel 2:23-29; Acts 2:16-18

Elijah announced, "There is the sound of abundance of rain," before a single cloud was visible. He spoke with confidence because he trusted the word of the LORD. At first there was nothing, then a small cloud appeared, no bigger than a man's hand. Soon the sky was filled with dark clouds, the wind rose, and heavy rain poured down. What had been parched for years was suddenly drenched and alive again.

Through Joel, God uses this same picture of rain to describe the outpouring of his Spirit. The early and latter rains point to both the restoration of the land and the renewal of his people. What Elijah glimpsed in part, Joel declared in fullness, and Peter confirmed at Pentecost: God will pour out his Spirit on all flesh until sons and daughters prophesy, the young see visions, the old dream dreams, and everyone who calls on the name of the LORD is saved.

When the Spirit is poured out, barren hearts are revived and desolate places become fruitful. Times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord. We are not asking for a sprinkle but for an abundance. As Elijah's generation saw the land restored, we long for our generation to see the Spirit poured out with power, bringing salvation, healing, and renewal to our church, our town, and our nation.

## RESPONSE

- Thank God for his promise of abundant rain and declare faith in his word.
- Ask for an outpouring of the Spirit that revives dry hearts and restores joy.
- Pray for salvation, healing, and renewal to break open across our town.
- Intercede for our nation to be saturated with the Spirit of God.

## Prayer Points | Signs & wonders

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR SIGNS AND WONDERS

Jesus has authority over sickness, over storms, over demons and death. Today, pray for kingdom breakthrough to come in our church and beyond.

#### Please pray:

- For a **fresh outpouring of the Spirit** on the church, equipping all of us to extend the kingdom rule of God into every environment.
- For **miraculous healing**: Think of people you know and love who have any kind of physical, psychological or emotional pain and sickness. Pray they'd know the presence and comfort of God, and pray with authority for their healing. (See prophetic word on page 3.)
- For **salvation**: Every salvation story is a death-to-life story. So lift people to God today, and pray for salvation to come, knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and that the Spirit can soften the hardest heart.
- That we'd be **naturally supernatural** people: Think of all the places you'll go today, and the people you'll interact with. Ask God for opportunities to bring a touch of the kingdom into those places – peace where there's anxiety, freedom where there's captivity, truth where there's confusion, love where there's apathy and hate.

Friday 10 October

# RUN IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD

**Bible passage:** 1 Kings 18:46; Isaiah 40:29-31; Ephesians 3:16-20; Hebrews 12:1-2

After the fire fell and the rain came, Elijah did not collapse in exhaustion. Instead, the hand of the LORD came upon him, and he outran Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel. This was supernatural strength for a divine assignment. The same prophet who had bent low in prayer now rose up to run in God's power.

Revival does not end with encounters on the mountain. It propels us into the race set before us. The God who answers by fire is also the God who strengthens by his Spirit. He gives power to the faint and increases strength to those who have no might. As we finish this week of prayer, we look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, asking him to clothe us with power so we can run into our callings, our city, and our future without growing weary.

## RESPONSE

- Ask God for fresh strength to endure and overcome in your personal walk.
- Pray for our church family to be empowered by the Spirit for the work ahead.
- Intercede for supernatural grace in our building journey, ministries, and mission.
- Cry out for a Spirit-filled church in our town and nation, running with perseverance into God's purposes.

## Prayer Points | Our nation & the nations

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND THE NATIONS

Today is an opportunity to lift up our nation and the nations, asking God to see his kingdom come.

- **Pick a nation** – it could be the UK, your birth nation, or a nation that's close to your heart – **and pray big prayers:** for the gospel to be preached and received, for many to be saved; for signs and wonders to break out that draw people to glorify Jesus; for a courageous Church to rise up; and for righteous government in that nation, inspired by the love, grace and wisdom of the Lord.

### • **Pray for the places where we're at work overseas:**

- For our work in **Nepal**, where we partner with King's Church Kathmandu and support two amazing children's homes – pray for Amos and Jen Lhomi and the rest of the KCK leadership team.
  - For **the Arab Gulf region**, where we support two amazing church members who minister in local churches and equip Christian workers.
  - For Jackie Marshall-Ringer and her husband, Wes, as they adjust to life back in the UK after many years in the field. Pray for continued fruitfulness for the Bible translation and community work they were involved in in South Sudan.
  - For **Catalyst**, the apostolic movement of churches we're a part of, as they start and strengthen churches that multiply disciples to see God's kingdom fill the Earth.
- **Pray for God to lead us into new and emerging overseas mission opportunities to support and bless as a church** – that God would raise up church planters at King's who will go on to plant churches in the UK and overseas.

