



PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT

A 60-MINUTE PRAYER MEETING PLAN

SETTING UP

Pin up the four sets of information you have collected on the four walls of your prayer space, or lay them out in the four corners of the room.

Encourage people to look at them as they come in and drink their tea and coffee!

You will need:

- A bible.
- Basic information about:
 1. your local MP;
 2. current political issues;
 3. local Councillors;
 4. Christians involved in politics.(See the 'information resources' section at the back of this prayer guide, or cut out articles from local and national newspapers).
- A neutral greetings card and envelope (without a printed message inside).



INTRODUCTION (10 MINS)

Read out Psalm 99, as a declaration of God's sovereignty over all.

Spend some time in prayer acknowledging Jesus as the supreme king, the ruler above every earthly political system. Try to remain focussed on worship and adoration rather than starting to pray for specific issues. You may also wish to spend some time in 'sung' worship if this is something that you would normally do.

Read out 1 Timothy 2: 1-4 as a 'mandate' for the rest of your prayer time.

PRAYER FOR YOUR LOCAL MP (10 MINS)

Briefly share some information about your local MP (who they are, their personal and family situation if you know it, their party, their particular issues of interest). Pray positively for them, focussing on two areas:

- Their personal life, health, family life, and workload (MPs frequently identify work and stress and their top personal prayer need);
- Their work as a politician, for wisdom, and that they would be a Godly influence.

If your MP is known to be a Christian, pray for boldness as a witness in parliament. If not, pray that they will come to know Christ for themselves! If they have a record of opposing Christian values, use Luke 6: 27-36 to guide your prayers.

PRAYER FOR CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES (10 MINS)

Briefly share about one or two political issues for which you have found newspaper articles or information from the internet (see the 'information resources' section).

Now spend time praying into these issues, praying that God's will would prevail and for the individuals whose lives are affected.

Remember that you are here to pray for the issues, not debate them! Be aware that not all Christians share the same political views. Don't allow individuals with a strong opinion to 'take over', as this can destroy unity in prayer (Matt 18: 19-20).

PRAYER FOR YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS (10 MINS)

Councillors represent you on local issues like roads, planning, education, and public services.

Each area ('ward') typically has up to 3 Councillors. Most of them are unpaid apart from small expenses.

Share the names of your Councillors, and any information that you have been able to find out about them. Thank God for the service that they perform, and pray for each of them individually (along similar lines to those described for your MP above).

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN POLITICS (10 MINS)

Christians can and do get involved in politics in lots of different ways: through campaigning organisations, as churches seeking to have a positive influence at local level, and as individual politicians and public servants. Please pray for:

- The work of one Christian campaigning organisation you have identified;
- Your local churches and church leaders, that their words and actions would be visible and effective (Matt 5: 13-16);
- For Christians working in politics or public service, especially those known to you personally.

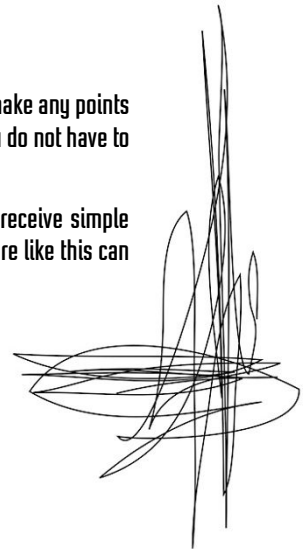
FINAL ACTIVITY: WRITE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR MP (10 MINS)

Send a greeting card to your local MP. In the message you should:

- Thank them for the work that they do representing your local area;
- Let them know that you have been praying for them.

Try and keep it simple, and don't use 'Christian jargon' that the recipient may not understand. Avoid the temptation to make any points about current political issues. It is best to do this separately by letter or email. Get everyone in the group to sign it. You do not have to give a contact address, but if you do you will probably get a reply.

You could also do the same for your local Councillors if you have time. It is unusual for elected representatives to receive simple thanks and encouragement (and sadly, Christians have sometimes been the worst offenders in this regard), so a gesture like this can really make an impact on them!



Want more of these prayer ideas or help on how to organise your prayer event? Email uk@24-7prayer.com.