

War brings the brokenness of our world into sharp focus. It causes immense suffering. Families are displaced, lives are lost, and countries are divided. Although Jesus cautioned us to expect war and conflict (Matthew 24:4-8), He also promised that when He returns there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. We serve the Prince of Peace.

Some of the root causes of war are a scarcity mindset—the belief that in order for one country to flourish, it must take from another—and the belief that some people's (or people groups') lives are more valuable than others. This belief has dire consequences—from land grabs to upheaval of social structures and loss of life. Although

Joshua 5:13-14 tells us that God will not favor one national interest over another, we can be sure from all of scripture that He stands on the side of the vulnerable, the suffering, the broken-hearted, and oppressed. And even when facing situations where we cannot see a human solution for peace and restoration, Romans 12:12 reminds us to "be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Nothing is beyond God's power to transform.

## Please pray with us...

- Pray for protection over people affected by war—that God would shield them from harm.
- Pray for those who have been hurt, traumatized, or grieving—that they would be comforted and healed. Pray through Psalms 34:18 that God would be close to the broken-hearted and they would feel His presence.
- Pray that refugees would find shelter and be treated fairly as they
  travel across countries. Pray through Psalms 121:7-8—that God will
  keep watch over His people as they seek safety.
- Pray for families being split up and for those staying behind to protect their country. Pray that they would find a safe place to rest and stay warm.
- Pray that Christians in these areas of conflict around the world would not have their hearts hardened. Pray through Psalms 91:14-15—that they would instead seek God and rest in Him.
- Pray for Christian organizations in these areas of turmoil that are reliant on international funding—that they would lean on God and find ways to continue their ministry.
- Pray for church leaders and Christian ministries across the world to understand how best to respond. Pray through Proverbs 2:6—that God would provide wisdom and discernment to these leaders.
- Pray for truth to be revealed throughout Russia and other places; pray that truth will win out.
- Pray for God to dethrone evil leaders. Pray through Proverbs 21:15 that justice will be done. Pray that corrupt and deceptive leaders will repent and turn away from their ways.
- Pray that governments around the world would respond in a productive way. That they would be able to apply the right amount of pressure to end conflicts without escalating the situations.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

-John 16:33



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