

How to Pray for the Global Food Crisis

Join Compassion as we pray for those affected by the global food crisis worldwide. We pray for awareness and compassionate hearts, we pray for God's assistance and intervention and we pray for direction in the actions we take. This three-day prayer plan can be repeated, or you may choose to spend several days in prayer on one theme before moving onto the next.

[compassionuk.org](https://www.compassionuk.org)

DAY 1 | PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS

- Galatians 6:2
- 1 Peter 3:8
- 1 John 3:16-17

DEVOTIONAL:

Praying for a problem in our world begins with being aware. Today we will pray awareness prayers. Being a person of prayer requires us to open our eyes and hearts to bitter realities, keep our hearts soft and responsive, and intercede on behalf of those suffering. We do so with the knowledge that our loving Father hears us! God invites us to 'ask, seek, knock'. Today, we make ourselves aware so that we know what to ask of God.

As you enter into this uncomfortable reality, you are beginning to bear the burdens of people made in the image of God all over the world (Galatians 6:2).

1. The Reality

Pray through the following facts slowly, considering the gravity of each situation. Imagine God's heart for the people these numbers represent. Do so by asking God to give you His heart, too.

- **As many as 828 million people will go to bed hungry tonight (FAO).**
- **50 million people in 45 countries are on the edge of famine right now (WFP).**
- **345 million people are facing acute food insecurity in 82 countries (WFP).**
- **Nearly half of all deaths in children under five are attributable to undernutrition (UNICEF).**
- **Around 149 million children - one in five worldwide - are chronically malnourished (UNICEF).**
- **193 million people experienced acute food insecurity at crisis levels or worse in 2021, up nearly 40 million people from already-record numbers in 2020 (Global Network Against Food Crisis).**



2. The Reasons

The global food crisis gets worse each year. Reflect on each of the varied causes listed here and ask God to give you a compassionate heart.

- **War and conflict:** Unrest puts a strain on resources and limits access to what is needed.
- **Rising cost of living:** Families in emerging economy nations spend an average of 25% of their household budget on basic food, as high as 60% in some places.
- **Weather:** Extreme storms and droughts increase global hunger by shrinking harvests and inflating food prices.
- **The effects of the pandemic:** Lockdowns devastated family livelihoods, economy and supply chains and continue to complicate access to food.

3. Prayers for Awareness

Pray through the following verses. Ask God where you need to grow in your compassion.

1 Peter 3:8

“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

1 John 3:17

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”

God, give us a compassionate heart like Yours. We know that every person affected is made in Your image and is precious to You. Cause me to be empathetic when it is easier to forget, love when it is more comfortable to be indifferent, to be compassionate even to strangers and to be humble when I judge those who are suffering. Let me be aware of what is happening to the people You love. Cause churches worldwide to become aware and ready to act in Your name. Amen.

DAY 2 | PRAYERS FOR ASSISTANCE

- 1 John 5:14
- Leviticus 26:6
- Matthew 25:35-40

DEVOTIONAL:

Praying for the global food crisis requires us to ask God to do what we are not able to. Much of the suffering in this world is a result of sin—selfishness, hate, failure to steward resources well. We know God is the one who can change hearts and set us free from sin. God can also miraculously intervene and is unlimited in His power! Let us pray with hope, confidence and out of deep love for our neighbours.

1 John 5:14

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”



1. Pray for divine provision for those who hunger

- That God would provide what they need and sustain them from day to day; that He would give them each day their daily bread (Matthew 6:11).
- That as God has promised, the ground will yield its crops in season and there will be a great harvest and abundance in nations across the world (Leviticus 19:9-10).
- That the Lord will give His people rest and bring them into a good land without scarcity and lack (Deuteronomy 8:9).

2. Pray for the protection of children and families

- For children and families who are hungry and weary; that they would be reminded that neither distress nor famine would be able to separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35).
- For children who are now even more vulnerable to the ills of poverty, such as child labour, gang violence, child marriage and drug use; that the Lord will save and preserve them from evil (Isaiah 49:25).
- That even through this hardship, God would send His people to children and families to proclaim the good news and that countless of them will be saved and taught of the Lord (Isaiah 54:13).

3. Pray for wisdom and direction for leaders and authorities

- For leaders and people in authority in these nations; that just as the Lord filled Joseph with wisdom on how to handle the food crisis in Egypt, may He fill them with His wisdom and direction (Genesis 41:48-49).
- That as God did with Daniel, He would give people and nations the skills, gifts and discipline to manage and distribute resources wisely (Daniel 1:17).

4. Pray for the Body of Christ

- That the love of God would burn in the hearts of His people to help those in a time of food shortage (1 John 3:17).
- That, as Jesus charged His disciples to respond to the hunger of the 5,000, we may also rise and become His Hands and feet, providing for as many as we can (Matthew 14:16).
- That we would link arms as the Body of Christ and intercede in prayer for our world. That God would have mercy where there's ignorance and division. That we would be a people of godliness, dignity and unity (1 Timothy 2:2).



5. Pray for restoration and peace

- That love, righteousness, justice and compassion will reign in nations and that the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the fresh oil (Hosea 2:18-22).
- That there will be peace in war-torn lands where there is food insecurity, and that God would enable His people to rest securely (Leviticus 26:6).

God, we pray that You would act where we cannot act. We pray that You would heal the suffering experienced by those who hunger, the injustice experienced by the powerless, the chaos brought on by the presence of war and the futility of working land that won't produce food. Give wisdom to authorities, give creativity and courage to those exploring solutions and ultimately, protect families and children through this. As your people turn to You and pray, God, hear us and bring peace. Amen.



DAY 3 | PRAYERS FOR ACTION

- James 2:15-17
- Isaiah 1:17
- Isaiah 58:6-10



DEVOTIONAL:

While we pray for God to act, we should be prepared that He may choose to act through His people, including us! God's desire is for abundance in the world, but so often, our personal sin and selfishness contributes to an unjust distribution of the world's resources. As difficult as it is, we must pray about how God wants us to respond. Remember what you have prayed through on previous days as you bring these prayers before God.

1. Pray for decision-makers

- Pray for those in power over nations, businesses and industries to make courageously compassionate decisions that value human life (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Pray that leaders will make righteous judgements (Zechariah 7:9-10).
- Pray that leaders will not turn a blind eye to suffering but take action (Amos 5:24).



2. Pray for those delivering resources

- Pray for organisations like Compassion who are working with churches on the frontlines to fight hunger and food insecurity (Colossians 1:11-12).
- Pray for efforts to educate families in new farming and income generation methods or new practices that are resilient to changes in weather, economy and crisis (Ecclesiastes 7:12).
- Pray that financial support would allow organisations in relief and development to continue the work they are doing in these times.

3. Pray for yourself

- Ask God to keep your heart soft to the suffering of others and to show you one way your faith can come alive through action (James 2:15-17).
- Ask God how He wants you to respond to this crisis out of what He has given you today. Consider what resources, connections, opportunities and abilities you have (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).
- Ask God to give you what you need to do good and seek justice and health for people who are suffering today (Isaiah 1:17).
- Pray that God would show you direction for your path and give you opportunities to share what you are learning with others (Psalm 32:8).

God, it is difficult to not be distracted by my own needs and comforts. Please keep my heart soft to the suffering of people both near me and far away. Show me what you have given me that I can share with others, be it ability to raise awareness and mobilise others, ability to give financially, ability to work towards solutions or ability to continue to pray. Keep this cause in my mind, Lord God, and have mercy on us, Your people. Amen.



**Learn more about Compassion's
Food Crisis Appeal**

**Visit compassionuk.org/food-crisis
to donate and stand with our
church partners as they take action.**



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Registered charity in England and Wales
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