

2018 Prayer Guide

Pray Alabama

21 Days of Prayer for Alabama Schools

WEEK 1: STUDENT LIFE - Finding purpose, hope, healing, and freedom
(Monday, August 13 – Sunday, August 19)

Day 1 – Blessing, Refreshing and New Identity 2018

*For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;
And they will spring up among the grass, like poplars by streams of water.
This one will say, 'I am the Lord's'; and that one will call on the name of Jacob;
And another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord.'* (Isa 44:3)

Prayer: Father, we thank you for this incredible promise that You will bring refreshing to the driest places! Where it has been spiritually dry, **we ask for streams of the Holy Spirit**, the Water of Life, to now pour through our schools and that this would **cause our children to thrive and flourish**, like poplar trees by the riverside.

We ask for an **unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our schools**, that You would literally flood the atmosphere of the classrooms of Alabama with Your Holy presence! We pray that Christian students would be **greatly empowered and emboldened to share the gospel**, and courageous in their witness despite any opposition. May they see a demonstration of God's power on their campuses and may Christians there truly be light and salt, in Jesus' name.

We pray for all campus ministries, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and Christian clubs, and for those who speak regularly at assemblies. We ask that You would refresh these ministries, bring them gifted staff, give favor and dramatic financial breakthroughs, and open doors to schools for them, like never before!

Thank you for **Your promise to bless our children** and that because of Your blessing they will **find their true identity in belonging to You**, their Father and Creator. We ask that You would touch them so powerfully that they would acknowledge publicly that they belong to You, **"and another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord.'**" (Isa 44:3)

Please would You silence the negative voices telling these students they are worthless or unwanted. May each one **encounter Your love in a supernatural way** this year!

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Thank you for Your heart of love and Your special concern for our youngest children! We pray for every preschooler and kindergartener in Alabama and their teachers and aides. May the Kingdom of God belong to them, even as Your Word says.

We ask that these tender young hearts and minds would keep their innocence and purity. We pray that You would raise up an army of godly Christian teachers who are divinely gifted and called to teach and mold this impressionable age group.

Pour out Your Spirit on these young ones, we pray! May the 2018 - 2019 be a year of great spiritual harvest from our preschools to institutions of higher learning in Alabama.

Day 2 – Hope Restored and Supernatural Help 2018

*O Lord, **you alone are my hope.** I've trusted you, O Lord, **from childhood.** (Ps 71:5)*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that **you may overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)*

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.** (Jer 29:11)*

School principals and administrators have told us that the greatest problem in schools is that students have no hope! The cycle of shattered families, poverty, bullying, gangs, rampant drug use, and lack of job opportunities cause many to believe there is no future for them.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we pray for every child and teen in Alabama who feels hopeless, even suicidal. May the spirit of heaviness that weighs them down be dispelled now!

In Jesus, Name, we declare all thoughts of suicide, depression, hopelessness and despair are broken off of the lives of our children and the students of Alabama. Lord, please break the power of the spirit of death and suicide and bring Life to them.

Lord, send someone to encourage them today and let them know how much You love them. **Show Yourself as the God of HOPE** and may each student **overflow with hope** by the Holy Spirit, according to the authority of Your Word.

We even ask that You would send heavenly angels to the desperate and the hopeless, to comfort them and bring them Your answers, even as You did for Hagar, Elijah, and Gideon in their time of crises. Man's solutions are not enough – help our students put their trust in You.

We thank you for the miraculous and measurable answers to prayer that have already occurred in our Alabama schools: financial breakthroughs, test scores that suddenly improved and a reduction in suicides and drug use –because You responded to the cry of Your people.

In this season, please would You **once again do undeniable miracles and restore life-giving hope to staff, students, and families,** especially for those in desperate circumstances.

In the face of troubling trends in our schools and uncertainty in our economy, we boldly declare that there is hope in a faithful God Who does above what we can think or ask!

We affirm Your Word and agree with thousands of others praying today as we declare that **You have a future and a hope – and a plan to prosper every Alabama young person!**

We declare that the plans of the enemy for every student are CANCELLED and that **Your plans and purposes are established in their lives,** that Your Kingdom would come, in Jesus' name.

Day 3 – Healing for the Broken-Hearted and Rejected 2018

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. **He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners** (Isa 61:1)*

For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in. (Ps 27:10)

*For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have **called you an outcast** (Jer 20:17)*

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Ps 147:3)

Prayer: Father, we come to You on behalf of the broken-hearted; those young people and children who have been rejected, neglected, emotionally wounded, or physically or sexually abused.

So many young people in our schools are **crushed by depression, tormented by suicidal thoughts, facing poverty and broken homes.** We bring all these before You knowing that You are close to them in a special way and that Your Father's heart grieves for them.

We pray in particular for **those who feel like outcasts**, those who have been rejected by their family or friends, or who are **mocked or bullied at school.**

Thank you that You will never leave them or forsake them and we ask that the **comfort of the Holy Spirit would be so real to them**, that You would break through the dark clouds and dispel the demonic powers that oppress them!

We pray for the **thousands of teens and even children suffering** extreme mental anguish that drives them to **intentionally harm themselves** by cutting with blades, swallowing harmful substances or even burning themselves. Lord, we cry out to You for deliverance and deep healing for them.

We break the power of rejection and self-hatred and the demonic lie that makes these young people believe You hate them or are angry with them and have rejected them too.

Let the orphan mentality and the belief that they are abandoned and alone in this world be dramatically changed by an encounter with someone who will love them unconditionally.

We declare this truth over them: that Your love is everlasting and that they are accepted in the Beloved. May they experience this reality and **may the hearts of an entire young generation be healed as they discover You as their Father, welcoming the prodigal!**

Please raise up spiritual mothers and fathers who will love them, minister to them, disciple them, and help bring healing to them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 4 – Releasing Laborers for the Harvest 2018

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
(Matt 9:37- 38)

*And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.** And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.** (Acts 4:29-31)*

Prayer: Thank you Lord for your prophetic promise that **we are on the verge of the greatest revival ever...** and that Alabama is about to see the glory of God and another Great Awakening!

As we stand in faith before you for these promises, we obey Your command to pray fervently that **You would send workers into our schools and universities where the harvest indeed is plentiful!**

Thank You for **every Christian student and teacher You have placed in our schools;** we pray that You would stir them up and help them resolve that this coming school year they will **get to know You in a deeper way,** to walk more closely with You, and be an example of character and righteousness and to show love and compassion to those around them.

We fervently pray that You would **awaken the “sleeping giant” of Your Church to become actively engaged in their local schools** and our education system. Help us see this harvest field in our own backyards and find meaningful ways to serve and reach our schools.

We pray for the **young student evangelists on campus.** We ask for you to remove all fear of their peers, compromise and any intimidation from them. We pray that they would **walk in an anointing to preach the Gospel with power,** and we pray that they would see a flood of undeniable **healings and miracles** on campuses when they pray for people.

Thank you for the **Christian students** who will step into leadership roles. We bless them and ask for a **deep spiritual maturity, unshakeable courage,** the zeal of the Lord and that You would not let them be distracted from their high calling in You.

Please give the students of Alabama a great hunger for Your Word! **May thousands of Bible studies spring up on campuses across our state, led by young teachers and pastors like Timothy;** students who are wise beyond their years, faithful to the truth, and effective apologists for the gospel. Release the fivefold ministry (Eph 4:11) in our schools we pray.

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)*

Day 5 – Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 1) 2018

*You boast, “We have **entered into a covenant with death...**” **Your covenant with death will be annulled;** your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. (Isa 28:15, 18)*

*And on this mountain, **he will swallow up the burial shroud that enfolds all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations—he has swallowed up death forever!**
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces. (Isa 25:7)*

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

Today’s prayer focus is on the cultural influences that promote violence and glorify death.

Tragically, youth culture has become poisoned with a death obsession, to where death has become an idol for many. Death imagery and symbolism (skulls, dripping blood, “dead” eyes, black clothing, corpses, decomposing zombies, the grim reaper, etc.) are common themes in TV shows, games, videos, clothing, music, and graphics marketed to youth.

There is an alarming increase in youth interested in vampirism. Incorporating elements of goth subculture and sadomasochism, the “vampyre” subculture ranges from fans who enjoy vampire themed entertainment and dress, to role-players in live-action games, to blood fetishists who practice blood drinking and bloodletting at organized events, to those who genuinely believe themselves to be vampires.

Though an extreme, this celebration of vampirism is indicative of the spirit of death permeating much of popular culture today. An unhealthy death obsession can quickly open the door to involvement in witchcraft, occultism and even Satanism or trigger bizarre and violent behavior in those with mental health problems or depression and suicidal thoughts.

Prayer: Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, offering us eternal LIFE, far better than we ever dreamed of! You are the Light of the world – and even in the deepest darkness, ***“the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*** (John 1:5)

We come into agreement with your Word that **You are removing the veil of death and deception, a death shroud covering the minds** of so many young people and that **the power of this death obsession is broken, according to Isaiah 25:7!**

We declare that delusion, rebellion and the strong anti-Christian mindset associated with this culture of death is removed from the youth of Alabama. Untangle the web of confusion, manipulation, and deception we ask, and replace it with the clear truth of the gospel.

For those who are **oppressed by the spirit of death, ensnared in the occult, or witchcraft,** we speak FREEDOM, DELIVERANCE AND LIFE,

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Day 6 – Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 2) 2018

***Death has been swallowed up in victory. "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55)***

***I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for;
They will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy.
I came so they can have real and eternal LIFE, more and better life
than they ever dreamed of. (John 10:10, The Message)***

Studies by the American Psychological Association linked childhood exposure to television violence with higher rates of aggression later in life (unsurprisingly!). Men who were high TV-violence viewers as children were three times more likely to have been convicted of crimes, while women were four times more likely to have punched, beaten or choked another adult.

In addition to pop culture glorification of death and violence, this generation is traumatized by real-world threats or encounters with death: the brutality of the drug cartels in our region, gang violence, the threat of school shootings, suicides, or the abortion of their own children.

It is not unusual to find teens and even children who do not believe they will live to see their mid-twenties. Having nothing to live for and expecting to die young anyway, they are more likely to engage in reckless or self-destructive behaviors.

Prayer: Lord we pray that You would break the power of this self-inflicted curse over those who fully expect to die at an early age! We ask that You would counter this lie with the TRUTH about the abundant life You offer us and that every student would find eternal life this year.

Thank you for the supernatural power of Your Word and Spirit: *"the Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you, they are full of the Spirit and life."* (John 6:63)

May students and teachers in our schools experience the life of God, through the Holy Spirit and the Bible in whole new ways that would transform them! Thank you that You are removing any veil over their minds and hearts that prevent them seeing and receiving You and Your Truth.

We pray for healing for those grieving the loss of a loved one or traumatized by family conflict, exposure to media violence, bullying, gang activity, or the suicide of someone they know.

We pray for girls who have had an abortion and ask that You would be close to them. Please break the power of the spirit of death and send someone who can minister to them.

We declare massive shift in the spiritual atmosphere over schools and our students' homes in Alabama, wherever the thief has killed, stolen or destroyed, we ask that You would bring peace, joy and life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 7 – God’s Divine Destiny and Purpose 2018

*“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God... (Col 1:9 -12)*

*Now when David had served **God's purpose in his own generation**, he fell asleep... (Acts 13:36)*

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
(Rom 8:31)*

***For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.** (Rom 11:29)*

Prayer: Heavenly Father and Creator of all life, **You have dreamed a unique dream for every student.** Therefore, we cry out to You that the destinies of our children and young people will be preserved!

We pray for our future leaders; raise up young people with godly purpose and destiny to contend for the future of our nation! May many great young leaders, like Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Daniel, Ruth, and Esther, arise from our schools to bring justice and truth to every sector of society.

Raise up those who will lead the way for righteousness in every mountain of influence: in government, in education, in media, in entertainment and the arts, in business and finance, in families and in the church.

May they, **like David, fulfill the purpose of God in their generation.** Like David, may they know their calling from a young age, that no amount of family negativity, or setbacks, would discourage them from pursuing this.

Instill hope in these young people that regardless of their past, You have a plan for them that leads to life and fullness of joy. **Give this emerging generation a strong vision for the future** and implant in these students hearts an understanding of Your will for their lives.

Thank you that Your gifts and your callings are irrevocable. We ask for those who have given up on their God-given dreams, that **You would resurrect these dreams** and breathe new life into their calling in You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Coming in Week 2: Academics and Character (Available August 19)

Please encourage other watchmen by sharing your prayers and comments on our [FaceBook page](#). Email photos to info@prayalabama.org.