

PRAYERS FOR HAITI | A PRAYER OF CONFIDENCE

Christ the King Presbyterian Church | www.ctrkraleigh.org

We created these prayer guides to help adults and children pray for the situation in Haiti by formulating prayers based on Psalms 123, 124, and 126. The prayer guides follow a specific order: a prayer of lament (Psalm 123), a prayer of confidence (Psalm 124), and a prayer for restoration (Psalm 126). You are encouraged to pray these prayers in that order.

If you follow the guides, you will find yourself spending more time thinking about your prayer and writing out your prayer than you do actually praying it. That's not a bad thing. You are approaching Almighty God, the King of Universe, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Thoughtful prayer is often appropriate.

The prayer guides are just that, guides. They are meant to help you as you think about what to pray. If you use them, spend time thinking about the Psalms that you find before each prayer. Spend time thinking about the situation in Haiti. Write down your thoughts as directed. Once your prayer is written out, get on your knees (a posture of humility) and read your prayer to God. Allow all that God has made you to be to be part of the prayer. (For example, think about the prayer and allow your emotions to enter into your prayer.)

You can find recordings of each Psalm read by Pastor Steve Brown and a song based on that Psalm on our website at <http://www.ctrkraleigh.org/resources/haiti-prayer-guide/>. You may find listening to these recordings helpful in directing your thoughts toward God.

The prayer guides are based on guides created by Richard Pratt in *Pray with Your Eyes Open*.

What follows are the adult's and children's guides for a prayer of confidence.

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Adult's Guide

Psalm 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—
 let Israel now say—
 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side
 when people rose up against us,
 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
 when their anger was kindled against us;
 then the flood would have swept us away,
 the torrent would have gone over us;
 then over us would have gone
 the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,
 who has not given us
 as prey to their teeth!
 We have escaped like a bird
 from the snare of the fowlers;
 the snare is broken,
 and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
 who made heaven and earth.

Almighty God, you deserve all of your people's praise and adoration. You are the maker and ruler of all things. You are our only help.

Today, I join the Psalmist in remembering a time recorded in the Scriptures when you delivered your people, when you kept them from danger, when you showed them that you are their help. When I think about that deliverance:

I see

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you see)

and I hear

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you hear)

and I feel

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you feel)

Almighty God, you deserve all of your people's praise and adoration. You are the maker and ruler of all things. You are your people's only help.

Today, I join the Psalmist in remembering a time when you delivered your Church, when you kept her from danger, when you reminded her that you are her help. When I think about that deliverance:

I see

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you see)

and I hear

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you hear)

and I feel

(as you think about God's past help, write down something you feel)

Almighty God, you deserve all of your Church's praise and adoration. You are the maker and ruler of all things. You are your Church's only help.

Today, I join the Psalmist in remembering a time when you delivered me, when you kept me from danger, when you reminded me that you are my help. When I think about that deliverance:

I see

(as you think about God's past help in your life, write down something you see)

and I hear

(as you think about God's past help in your life, write down something you hear)

and I feel

(as you think about God's past help in your life, write down something you feel)

Almighty God, you deserve all of my praise and adoration. You are the maker and ruler of all things. You are my only help.

O Lord, as I think about the ways you have delivered your people in the past, I think about how those past deliverances serve as reminders of the greatest deliverance you brought about for your people.

As the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:13-14: “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

As I think about that deliverance, my salvation:

I see

(as you think about your salvation, write down something you see)

and I hear

(as you think about your salvation, write down something you hear)

and I feel

(as you think about your salvation, write down something you feel)

Almighty God, you deserve all of my praise and adoration. You are my only help.

I worship you Almighty God. My help is in your name, O Lord. You are the maker of heaven and earth.

PRAYER FOR HAITI | A PRAYER OF CONFIDENCE*Children's Guide***Psalm 124**

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—
let Israel now say—
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side
when people rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!
We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

In Psalm 124, God's people thank God for rescuing them from a really bad situation. They don't, however, tell us what the specific situation was. So when God's people sang this song, they would have thought about times that God had rescued them in the past.

One story they may have remembered was the story of God's rescuing their ancestors from Egyptian armies.

Thinking About the Psalm

Read the story of that rescue in Exodus 14.

After reading that story, read Psalm 124 again.

Write down or tell your mom or dad some of the things you think are the same between Psalm 124 and the story of God's rescuing his people from the Egyptian armies.

Talk with your mom or dad about how these rescue stories are similar to how Jesus rescued his people from their situation.

Write a few sentences or draw a picture about how these rescue stories make you feel about God, about yourself, and about the future.

Praying the Psalm

God, thank you that you always rescue your children from their biggest problems and their greatest danger. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins.