

Prayer Guide

April 23, 2024

What is the city but the people?

William Shakespeare

REFLECT

Cities matter to God. Jerusalem moved Jesus' heart when he viewed it from a distance. His words about Jerusalem reveal a passion to embrace, rather than shun, the city. Jesus was moved by cities because God cares for people, and the city is where people dwell in large numbers.

Cities are where people live, work and play. Relationships are birthed and faith practiced. In the hub of the city, Jesus found liberals and conservatives, those who longed for the strict ways and those who begged for something new. The city is a crossroad of ideas, religions, and politics. Yet, in the midst of such differences, the Kingdom thrives.

Like Jerusalem, Kansas City is filled with thousands of people, each significant and in need of the Good News. May our faith embrace urban concerns and express compassion for the poor inside our city's walls.

MOVEMENT #1 - THANKSGIVING + PRAISE

Respond

Think of a fresh reason to thank him today related to the city you live in.

Pray

*On your feet now—applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter;
sing yourselves into his presence
Psalm 100:1 MSG*

MOVEMENT #2 - PRESENT YOUR HEART TO GOD

Respond

Allow God to gently search your heart; to create deeper wells of love and compassion for Kansas City and those in your missional context.

Pray

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life. Psalm 139:23-24 MSG

MOVEMENT #3 - OBEDIENCE

Respond

Ask the Spirit to highlight a person or people group to begin praying for. Consider adding them to your [*Bless 5 Prayer Rhythm*](#)

Pray

*Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best—as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.
Matthew 6:10-13 MSG*

Adapted from Embracing Soul Care by Stephen W Smith (p. 159-161)

