

Midland's Open Door Prayer Guide

Day One: Psalm 107:1-9

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Prayer focus

Give thanks to the Lord for establishing the Open Door as a place of refuge and gospel-centered community for over 40 years. Pray for the men, women and children who make their way to the Open Door every day. Whether they are longing for a home, hungry, exhausted or consumed with trouble, cry out to the Lord on their behalf and ask God to deliver them from their spiritual and physical distress. Ask God to satisfy the lonely, wandering soul with himself and to fill their lives with good things like home and community.

Pray for our volunteers who interact with our guests each week and for those who serve behind the scenes. Ask God to grant them godly wisdom, to bless their faithfulness, and to increase their joy.

Day Two: Psalm 107:10-16

Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Prayer Focus

Praise God for his mercy, for his lovingkindness in setting us free from our chains of sin and shame. Pray that God would have mercy on our friends who sit in darkness, whether in bondage to drugs and alcohol or behind the iron doors of the county jail. Cry out to God, asking him to bend the rebellious heart toward the Father, to replace the shame that overwhelms and condemns with hope through the resurrection power of Christ, the only deliverance that leads to true and complete freedom. No matter how great the sin or how dark the past, ask God to deliver our bound friends swiftly and dramatically that they may give thanks to the Most High God.

Praise God for our community partners who seek to bring help and hope to our friends in chains, both seen and unseen. Pray for our brothers and sisters who minister to those behind iron bars. Pray for our community partners who daily walk with those in bondage to drugs and alcohol and those held in bondage by the shame of their past.

Day Three: Psalm 107:17-22

Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Prayer Focus

Patterns of poor decisions and foolish acts, now piled high, can make one hopeless and sick with anxiety. Pray for an increase in opportunities to teach and model the patient, far-reaching mercy of God. Pray for those guests who have left

and turned back to their sin. Cry out to God on their behalf, asking him to rescue each one and to make them a people who exchange unrighteousness for thanksgiving and joy.

Pray for our community and the poor perceptions that often exist about those God has called us to serve. Ask God to grow compassion within our community, that the Open Door will be known as a place where everyone – whether soul-sick sinner or suffering saint – will hear the Word of God and enter into true and lasting hope.

Day Four: Psalm 107:23-32

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

Prayer Focus

It is here on the tempest waves that we have seen the wondrous works of the Lord. There are days when fear and doubt have veiled the power of the Most High and our feet began to stagger. But praise be to the one who makes proud waves lie down under his command! So we cry out to God when waves rise with fear and when they pull us down into the depths of doubt and despair. Ask God to protect and strengthen us when our hope evaporates, that we will rely on his power and provision alone and not our own skill and strength. Our dependence and our confidence is in the One who not only expands our courage to match the billowing waves but in his rich mercy, speaks peace over us and leads us into his sanctuary of grace.

Pray for the staff and leadership of the Open Door, asking God to daily give an abundance of godly wisdom, inexhaustible courage and a deep, settled confidence in the power of God.

Day Five: Psalm 107:33-43

He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants. He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow, he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes; but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks. The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth. Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Prayer Focus

Oh how wonderful are the mighty works of our sovereign God! With one word, barren, dry and devastated places are transformed into a land where water is abundant, and rich fertile soil produces fruit in its season. This new dwelling place – the land that God has transformed and established – is now marked by blessing so that even when the enemy conspires against us, it is but light and momentary for we have a defender who raises us out of our affliction. Oh that this would be our morning song and the song of those hungry souls who daily seek help and hope through the Open Door. Cry out to our God, asking him to replace barrenness with fruitful abundance and desolation with full and complete restoration so that souls are refreshed and made glad, soliciting praise to our merciful Father.

Pray for the men, women and children who come to the Open Door for our services. Ask God to further establish the Open Door and to multiply the lives transformed through this ministry. And, ask God to make us wise helpers who daily consider the great mercy and love of our God.