



# Prayer and Crisis Response:

## Team Evaluation, Discovery Bible Story Set, & Resources

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### Introduction to FPS's Prayer Strategies Discovery Bible Studies Set:

Prayer—or engagement with God—is integral to every aspect of the lives of the team members and the corporate team, as well as to the strategy and approach they use. Within this document, you will find the following: a definition and explanation to the Prayer strategy, a set of questions to help you diagnosis the status of your team's use of this strategy, a Discovery Bible Story Set to help you understand Scripture's view on this strategy, and links for further resources related to this Prayer strategy. We recommend completing the team's diagnostic first then adapt the Discovery Story Set to meet your team's needs. Feel free to use the typical DBS questions, however, in addition we've tried to suggest you ask these much deeper questions to elicit specifics regarding this strategy. The Fellowship of Prayer Strategists have a set of nineteen different prayer strategies. These are not intended to be the complete picture of this strategy but a glimpse at the use for this strategy. You can find more strategies at [www.prayer-strategists.net](http://www.prayer-strategists.net). We hope these tools will prove helpful in considering ways you and your team can increase your capacity for extraordinary prayer for the sake of the King and His Kingdom.

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### Prayer and Crisis Response

**Definition:** Prayer strategists embedded in crisis response teams help focus on and identify spiritual dynamics and appropriate responses in prayer, communicating updates and receiving encouragements from the wider prayer shield teams.

**Explanation:** The Kairos Moment is NOW as we are witnessing an acceleration of wars, rumors of wars, plagues, famines and earthquakes in various places, just as Jesus foretold in Matthew 24. At such moments, the rules of society change. This becomes a moment for the gospel IF the Church is prepared not only to survive, but to 'keep its head when all about them are losing theirs'! These disasters become kairos moments among formerly inaccessible peoples. Could this acceleration in fact BE God's answer to our cries for the last remaining least-reached peoples? But just as society's rules change in such situations, so our approaches must in order to retain our poise and seize the moment for His kingdom's sake. Our approaches must work in disasters, in war zones, among nomadic groups, even in the most hostile of settings. Believers walking in conversational relationship with God can access His wisdom even as the crisis unfolds. They can be those who keep their heads when all about them are losing theirs. They walk in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring help and hope to a lost, dying world.

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## Diagnostic Questions for You & Your Team:

1. How are you and your team preparing for potential crises (political disruption, natural disasters, famines, plagues, etc.) in order to not only survive but to also be able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the world around you during that window of opportunity?
2. In responding to crises, is strategic prayer a part of your comprehensive response?
3. Does your disaster response plan include responding to the needs among your neighbors as well as in the nations?
4. Are you and your team prepared spiritually and emotionally for laboring together in crisis environments? How will you care for the member health needs of your team in such circumstances?

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## Discovery Bible Story Set:

1. “So make yourself an ark...” – **Genesis 6:9-22**
  - A. **Pray** as a group before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
  - B. **Read** the entire passage aloud at least 2 times or listen to an audio version twice through. If your group uses storying, present the scripture in this way. Then, have the group practice re-telling the story together.
  - C. **Discussion questions:**
    - What do you like about the story? What is difficult or what don't you like?
    - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
    - What principles do you see in this story about hearing God and preparing for what He may show is coming ahead?
    - How can preparation be part of obedience to God?
  - D. Take a few minutes to **quietly listen** to God. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing. Are some of His instructions quite different than you might have imagined? How?
  - E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
  - F. What key principles about prayer and suffering can you draw from this passage?

No genuine follower of Jesus Christ can seriously entertain the idea that the flood of Noah did not occur. Jesus referred to the event in warning His followers to be ready for His return as well.

2. “As the days of Noah were” – **Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26**
  - A. **Pray** before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
  - B. **Read** the entire passage completely through.
  - C. **Discussion questions:**
    - What do you like about the story? What is difficult or what don't you like?
    - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
    - Why does Jesus refer back to the flood of Noah's day?
    - What expectation are we as believers to have?
  - D. Take a few minutes to quietly **listen to God**. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing. Are some of His instructions quite different than you might have imagined? How?

- E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
- F. What key principles about prayer can you draw from this passage?

The Church at Antioch was birthed from believers who fled because of their persecution in Jerusalem; God uses disasters and crises to build His Church. Let's see what happened when the Church at Antioch became aware of an impending disaster that would be worldwide in scope.

3. "Disaster Response from Antioch" – **Acts 11:27-30**

- A. **Pray** before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
- B. **Read** the entire passage completely through.
- C. **Discussion questions:**
  - What do you like about the story? What is difficult or what don't you like?
  - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
  - How was the Church at Antioch made aware of the impending disaster?
  - What did they do in response to that revelation?
- D. Take a few minutes to quietly **listen to God**. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing. Are some of His instructions quite different than you might have imagined? How?
- E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
- F. What key principles about prayer can you draw from this passage?

Examples abound in Scripture of ministering to the needs of others. Here's one example...

4. "Collection for the Lord's people..." – **1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

- A. **Pray** before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
- B. **Read** the entire passage completely through.
- C. **Discussion questions:**
  - What do you like about the story? What is difficult or what don't you like?
  - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
  - What principles do you see here about responding to the needs around you?
- D. Take a few minutes to quietly **listen to God**. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing.
- E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
- F. What key principles about prayer can you draw from this passage?

Let's review a series of verses that instruct us about preparation:

5. "Preparation" -- **Proverbs 6:6-8; Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 24:42-44; Mark 13:32-33; Luke 21:36; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 11:7**

- A. **Pray** before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
- B. **Read** the entire passage completely through.
- C. **Discussion questions:**
  - What do you like about the passage(s)? What is difficult or what don't you like?
  - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
  - What do we see about the importance of preparation?

- In light of our responsibility to make disciples in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, how is God speaking to us to be prepared for opportunities that may arise to use through disaster response and crises?
- D. Take a few minutes to quietly **listen to God**. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing.
- E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
- F. What key principles about prayer can you draw from this passage?

Jesus describes the world near the time of His return in Matthew 24 as a series of wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, plagues, famines and other disasters. The end of his discourse talks then about this gospel being preached to all nations and then the end coming. Was He perhaps indicating that because of these disastrous events, that the gospel would be propelled into the ends of the earth? How then shall we live?

6. "And this gospel will be preached..." – **Matthew 24:3-14**
- A. **Pray** before beginning that God would speak to us and open our hearts to hear Him.
  - B. **Read** the entire passage completely through.
  - C. **Discussion questions:**
    - What do you like about the story? What is difficult or what don't you like?
    - What do you learn about people from this story? What do you learn about God?
    - What relationship may the disasters listed in the early part of this passage have with the gospel being preached in the whole world?
    - How would that relationship instruct us to be ready to see that happening?
  - D. Take a few minutes to quietly **listen to God**. What is He instructing you to do from what you're hearing? Share with each other what you're sensing.
  - E. Who is God asking you to **share** this story with? When will you do it? Share with the group.
  - F. What key principles about prayer can you draw from this passage?

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#### Further Resources on Prayer as Crisis Response:

- Video "The Kairos Moment is Now" <https://youtu.be/F10apDwF4B0>
- Video Interview of Betsy Brown on Crisis Response and Prayer: <https://youtu.be/vls-B29jxkEU>
- Powerpoint: "Crisis Response and Prayer" <https://prayerstrategists.net/about/resources-by-strategy/crisis-response/>
- "Crimean Tatars Prayer Case Study—Preventing War Through Prayer": <https://prayerstrategists.net/about/resources/prayer-case-studies/crimean-tatars-prayer-case-study/>
- "Current Global Crises (as of April 2015 by Mercy Corps): <https://prayerstrategists.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/current-global-crises.pdf>
- "Disaster Preparedness Checklist": <https://prayerstrategists.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/disaster-preparedness-doc-2.pdf>
- "Shelter in Place" Cards in English: <https://prayerstrategists.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/shelter-cards-english.pdf> and Arabic: (download from <https://prayerstrategists.net/about/resources-by-strategy/crisis-response/>)
- "Evacuation" Cards in English: <https://prayerstrategists.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/evacuation-cards-english.pdf> and Arabic: (download from <https://prayerstrategists.net/about/resources-by-strategy/crisis-response/>)

## Bibliography:

- **Building Cities of Refuge—Preparing Cities thru 24/7 Worship to Endure the coming Systemic Collapse**, Brndon Mathis, 2013: Brndon Mathis, United States. This book contains sober warnings that make us tremble. More than that, though, it carries a message of hope regarding our Father’s plans for the climactic conclusion of natural history.
- Crisis Response International, <https://criout.com/> offers a free download of **7 Steps of Crisis Response Ministry**, as well as courses on crisis preparedness and response, chaplaincy for crisis, and much more.
- **Facing Danger: A Guide Through Risk**, Dr. Anna E. Hampton, 2016: Zendagi Press, New Prague, Minnesota. *Facing Danger* guides cross-cultural workers through a biblical discussion on risk, providing a spiritual and practical framework for working through cross-cultural risk assessment and management.
- **KnoWhat2Do: Think. Prepare. Act.** US Dept. of Homeland Security, [www.KnoWhat2Do.com](http://www.KnoWhat2Do.com) US disaster preparedness/response booklet.
- **Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World—What on earth should we do now?**, Dr. David Jeremiah, 2009: Thomas Nelson Publishing, Nashville, TN. Confidence can be hard to come by these days. People are losing their jobs, their houses, and their life savings at an unprecedented rate. Violence, natural disasters, and moral depravity seem to be skyrocketing. In the midst of all this chaos, we need to know what on earth should we do now? Dr. Jeremiah brings a message of hope and confidence from the priceless counsel of the Word of God and shows us all that with the power and love of Almighty God, we can live with confidence in this age of turmoil.
- **Missions in Contexts of Violence**, Keith E. Eitel, editor, Evangelical Missiological Society Series Number 15, 2008: William Carey Library, Pasadena, CA. In an age of increasing concern for this type of missionary work, the missions community needs to hear from those that have reflected on the multifaceted elements involved in understanding the phenomenon of martyrdom-persecution-violence as it relates to telling the age-old Gospel story.
- **Places of Refuge: Mercy in the Coming Storm**, Craig Cook, 2015: Hope Resources, [www.hopeevansville.org](http://www.hopeevansville.org), Evansville, IN. Craig Cook lays out a clear vision for five great interventions of mercy which God desires whenever judgment is necessary. These five ‘expressions’ of refuge are evident in the Bible, in history, and in modern times. It is one thing to say the sky is falling. It is another to say that, actually, the people of God are rising. Guidance for the sons of Issachar to discern the hour and know what to do.
- **ReadyChristian Training**, Christian Emergency Network, <http://www.christianemergencynetwork.org/> CEN offers this course to help Christians understand Biblical readiness, and how to build a personal preparedness and response network in their local area, including learning how to respond and engage in further, ongoing training.
- **Unto Death: Martyrdom, Missions, and the Maturity of the Church**, Dalton Thomas, 2018: FAI Mission.org, Israel. Thomas explores the implications of the resurrection, the imperatives of costly discipleship, and invites those who love and confess the Lordship of Jesus to invest their limited life in this age for an abundant life in the next—driven by the apostolic “blessed hope” befitting those who worship a crucified King and the slain Lamb.
- **Why God Calls Us to Dangerous Places**, Kate McCord, 2015: Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL. *Why God Calls Us to Dangerous Places* is about what is lost and what is gained when we follow God at any cost.

Further resources and connection with other prayer strategists are available through the Fellowship of Prayer Strategists and their website [www.prayerstrategists.net](http://www.prayerstrategists.net).