

# QUICK START GUIDE FOR CREATING A Night of Prayer

GLOBAL  
CHRISTIAN  
RELIEF

**Every day, millions of Christians around the world face opposition, hardship, and even danger because of their faith in Jesus. Yet their courage, hope, and unwavering trust in God inspire us all.**

As part of the global Body of Christ, we are called to remember, pray for, and stand with our persecuted brothers and sisters. When we gather—whether as a small group, a congregation, or a circle of friends—our prayers become a lifeline of encouragement and strength for those who need it most.

This Quick Start Guide is designed to help you lead a meaningful Night of Prayer & Worship for family, etc. Inside, you'll find a simple outline, prayer prompts, and practical tips to unite your community in worship, story, and intercession.

No matter the size of your group or your experience leading prayer, you can make a difference. Together, we are one Church, one Family—standing in solidarity, fueled by hope, and trusting God to move in powerful ways.

Let's begin.

## Questions to Consider Before Starting

- **Who will your audience be?** Creating a night of prayer activity will look a little different if you're doing it in a small group versus a whole church environment—but the components are all there.
- **How much time you'll need?** The best part is, you can adjust the format for whatever time you have available. The times below are just a suggestion.
- **Do you want to include a time of worship?** Worship is a powerful way to unite hearts and set the tone for prayer. If you have the time and someone to lead it, strongly consider doing so. Later in the guide, you'll find some suggested songs.
- **What kind of next step do you want to offer after the event?** A night of prayer is a wonderful start to supporting the persecuted church, but it doesn't need to be a one-time experience for the people you're engaging. We have a number of ways you can help people make support for the persecuted a regular part of their lives. Encourage one or more of the following next steps:
  - Become a regular email subscriber.
  - Get involved in a small group Bible study about persecution.
  - Use GCR's quarterly Prayer Force Alert to inform your prayer time weekly.
  - Consider becoming a regular supporter of the persecuted church as a Frontline Partner.

Identify your next step(s) ahead of time so you're prepared to help people take action afterwards.

## What You'll Need:

- ✓ Confirm the venue (church, home, community center).
- ✓ Arrange chairs for full group or small group settings.
- ✓ Ensure adequate lighting for worship and prayer stations.
- ✓ Live band or worship leader (if applicable).
- ✓ Sound system (microphones, speakers).
- ✓ Printed lyrics or projection for congregational singing.
- ✓ Video clips (if applicable) and necessary equipment for playback.
- ✓ Information on next steps about engaging with the persecuted church.
- ✓ Projector and screen (if showing videos or slides).
- ✓ Cables and adapters for audio/visual equipment.
- ✓ Candles for lighting (if using).
- ✓ Pens for writing prayers or reflections.
- ✓ Create and distribute invitations (digital or printed).
- ✓ Promote the event through church announcements, social media, and newsletters.

## Sample Schedule: Night of Prayer & Worship for the Persecuted Church

### Option 1: Full-Group Worship Service (60–90 min)

Time	Element	Notes
5 min	Welcome & Vision	Host/leader shares purpose, reads Scripture (e.g., Hebrews 13:3)
10–15 min	Worship Set (Optional)	Live band or worship leader; 2–3 songs focused on faith & unity
5 min	Story Spotlight	Share a GCR video or read a story of courageous faith
30 min	Guided Prayer Segments (3–4 blocks)	Each block: context, prayer prompt, open prayer (see outline)
10 min	Worship Response	One closing song; invite congregation to stand in solidarity
5 min	Next Steps & Closing	Announce ways to stay involved, distribute prayer guides/cards

#### Optional:

- Candle lighting or prayer stations around the room
- Offering for persecuted believers

### Option 2: Small Group Environment (45–60 min)

Time	Element	Notes
3 min	Welcome & Vision	Host shares purpose, invites group to participate
5 min	Opening Worship or Devotional	Sing together, play a worship song, or read a psalm aloud
5 min	Story Spotlight	Read a GCR story or watch a short video together
25 min	Guided Prayer Segments (2–3 blocks)	Use prayer prompts; pray aloud, in pairs, or silently
5 min	Worship Response or Reflection	Sing a closing song, listen to music, or share reflections
5 min	Next Steps & Closing	Discuss ongoing prayer, share resources, close in prayer

#### Optional:

- Light candles as you pray
- Invite each person to share a short prayer or thought
- Provide prayer cards for home use

## Stories to Share

Stories of persecution help people understand persecution so they can pray more boldly and accurately. Pick all or one of the stories below to share with your group.

### REV. MINHO SONG (NORTH KOREA)

Tonight, I want to share a powerful story from North Korea, where a courageous group of believers gathers in secret to worship Jesus Christ, fully aware that their faith could cost them their lives. Rev. Minho Song, who ministers to North Korean refugees, reveals the extreme risks Christians face in this oppressive regime. In North Korea, even owning a Bible can lead to imprisonment or execution. Yet, despite these dangers, it's estimated that between 300,000 and 400,000 Christians continue to practice their faith in hiding, driven by a conviction that transcends fear.

Rev. Song tells us that the seeds of faith were planted during the devastating famine of the 1990s when many North Koreans encountered Christianity for the first time while fleeing to China. This underground revival has persisted, with believers risking everything to share the Gospel with their families and communities. Having endured brutal imprisonment himself for his faith, Rev. Song now dedicates his life to serving North Korean refugees. He believes that through our prayers and unity, the underground church will one day emerge into the light of freedom. Let's take a moment to pray for our brothers and sisters in North Korea, asking God to strengthen them and fill them with hope in the midst of such perilous circumstances.

DOWNLOAD A VIDEO  
ABOUT REV. MINHO SONG



### MARYAM (PAKISTAN)

Tonight, I want to share the inspiring story of Maryam, a Christian widow and mother who has spent two decades trapped in debt bondage in Pakistan's brick kilns. After her husband fell ill, they took a loan of \$862 from the kiln managers, believing they could work off the debt in one year. Instead, they found themselves ensnared in a cycle of exploitation that lasted twenty years.

Maryam raised her four children in the kilns, where they faced harsh conditions and the threat of losing their education. Tragically, her husband passed away from severe asthma, leaving Maryam vulnerable to harassment and abuse. Despite these challenges, her faith in Christ remained unwavering, and she found solace in small house church gatherings with other believers.

Thanks to generous donors, GCR was able to pay off Maryam's family's debt, freeing them from bondage for good. This newfound freedom allows Maryam to receive proper wages for her labor and gives her children the opportunity to pursue their dreams. With support from GCR, her son received supplies for a fruit cart business, and her daughter hopes to open a tailor shop.

Let's take a moment to pray for Maryam and others still trapped in this vicious system.

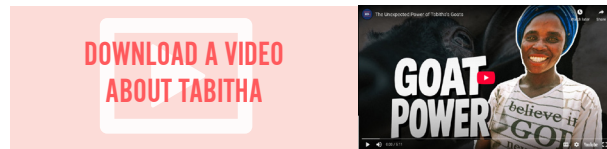
DOWNLOAD A VIDEO  
ABOUT MARYAM HERE



## TABITHA (NIGERIA)

Tonight, I want to share an incredible story of faith and resilience from northern Nigeria, featuring a remarkable woman named Tabitha. Her journey began at the tender age of eight when she and her family were driven from their home simply for being Christians. Despite facing rejection from their Muslim relatives, Tabitha's parents instilled in her a deep faith that God provides, even in the darkest times. By 2014, she had built a peaceful life with her husband and two children, but everything changed when Boko Haram began terrorizing her village, demanding that residents convert to their extreme version of Islam or face death.

When the militants invaded, Tabitha's husband fled, leaving her to confront unimaginable horrors alone. She witnessed the brutal murder of her village pastor and the slaughter of many others, all while grappling with the question: "Is it better to reject Jesus, or die?" With her brother's encouragement echoing in her mind, she chose to hold onto her faith.



## Prayer Prompts

- Pray for the safety and protection of believers who are sharing the Gospel in hostile environments, especially those involved in underground churches and Bible smuggling.
- Ask God for strength and perseverance for Christians facing persecution and challenges in their faith, that they may remain steadfast and encouraged.
- Pray for the provision of Bibles and other resources needed by believers in regions where access to God's Word is limited or dangerous.
- Ask God to raise up and equip leaders within the underground church to guide and support their communities.
- Pray for healing and reconciliation in families where faith has caused division, that relationships may be restored and strengthened.
- Ask God to open the hearts of those who hear the Gospel, that they may receive it with joy and understanding.
- Pray for the unity and growth of the Christian community in regions where believers are a minority, that they may support and encourage one another.
- Ask God to provide peace and comfort to those who have lost loved ones in the service of spreading the Gospel, that they may find solace in their faith.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for those sharing the Gospel, that they may find effective ways to communicate God's Word despite cultural and traditional barriers.