# SEEK: a selection of prayer ideas to ask God for inner transformation into peacemakers, to intercede for peace (at a local, national and international level), and to cry out to the Prince of Peace for a softening of hearts, an end to conflict and lasting peace

*Supplementary PowerPoint template available, with call and response, Bible verses and additional material.*

## Responsive Prayer

*This call and response is a good way to get everyone involved in thinking about what it means to be a peacemaker (the words are in the supplementary PowerPoint presentation).*

Call: God is wanting peacemakers in the world.

**Response: We pray that people will rise up in courage to stand for peace.**

Call: God is calling peacemakers to speak out for those oppressed by war.

**Response: We pray for brave hearts, beating for war-torn places and people.**

Call: God is searching for peacemakers to advocate for justice.

**Response: We pray for strong, dedicated, deep-thinking people to stand for the powerless.**

Call: God is needing peacemakers in every land to teach forgiveness and reconciliation.

**Response: We pray for reconcilers and the reconciled to share their story.**

Call: God is calling us to be peacemakers.

**Response: We are not qualified! We will keep praying for others to step forward.**

Call: God sees your courage, your empathy, your sense of justice and desire to see reconciliation.

**Response: O Lord, show us how we can work for peace and make a difference where we are.**

Call: God says, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ (Matthew 5:9).

**Response: As children of God, we desire to be counted as peacemakers.**

**All: Amen.**

## Map and Dove Prayers

*Print off enough copies of the supplementary dove templates and cut them out.*

***Using a map of your local area,*** *identify those places where a spirit of peace is vital. Plan a series of short prayer walks around the identified areas. Invite people to complete the sentence ‘We pray for peace in …’ by writing on the doves, and then leaving them with people you meet or handing them in to places you are praying for. For example:*

* *We pray for peace in this hospital*
* *We pray for peace in this school*
* *We pray for peace in this park*

*Keep your walk peaceful (as quiet as possible) and share the peace of God with each other before you set out and when you return. Do this by shaking hands and saying, ‘Peace be with you’, responding with ‘And also with you’.*

***Using a map of the UKI Territory (England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales),*** *identify places you are aware of that need a spirit of peace to surround them. Invite people to complete the sentence ‘We pray for peace in …’ by writing on the doves, before sticking them on the map. Play reflective music while doing this. You might like to close by reading out the names of places that have been highlighted.*

***Using a map of the world,*** *identify places where peace is urgently needed, eg where there is war, turmoil, political unrest etc. Invite people to complete the sentence ‘We pray for peace in …’ by writing on the doves, before sticking them on the map. Play reflective music while doing this.*

*Share in a closing prayer when all the doves have been added:*

Father God, we lift our world to you now, praying for peace where there is war, unrest or disturbance.

We call on your Spirit of peace to invade the hearts of those in power, so that they may urgently seek a peaceful solution for the good of the people they serve.

Strengthen those who are working to maintain peace and bring about an end to turmoil.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

## Group Discussion and Prayer

*Read this passage of Scripture a few times, really taking time to dwell on each of the fruits.*

‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.’ (Galatians 5:22-23)

*In small groups of three to five, invite people to discuss the following statement:*

‘Sin is the enemy of peace.’

*In the same small groups, look again at Galatians 5:22-23, asking people to identify the opposites of these fruits. They can then think about what the world would be like if we all exhibited good fruits. Close in prayer.*

## Crumpled Paper Prayer

*Give everyone a blank sheet of paper.*

Lord,

We come before you with this simple sheet,

clean, whole, full of possibility.

But now, we crumple it in our hands.

We press into its surface the weight of our world’s brokenness –

Wrinkled, torn, distorted,

just like some relationships we see around us.

*Invite people to pause, then slowly crumple their paper into a ball.*

This is our world, Lord,

screwed up by pride, by fear, by silence.

We think of nations divided by war and greed,

of leaders who speak past each other

and policies that fracture rather than heal.

*Invite people to gently unfold the crumpled paper.*

We open this paper now,

not to erase the creases

but to acknowledge them.

Each fold a scar,

each line a story of pain and possibility.

Hold the opened, wrinkled paper in your hands.

This paper will never be smooth again.

And neither will we.

But you, Lord, are the God of restoration.

You do not discard the damaged.

You redeem it.

*The words for this final prayer can be found in the supplementary PowerPoint template.*

Together we pray:

**Take this crumpled offering.**

**Take our world, our country, our communities, our hearts,**

**And begin again.**

**Not by hiding the brokenness,**

**but by transforming it and bringing peace.**

**Amen.**

*As a development of this prayer idea, invite people to take the paper and create a mosaic pattern from the crumpled lines. They can colour between the lines to form a picture of beauty to share with others.*