



Vision and Commitment 2018  
**A year to focus on discipleship**

**Every day, in**  
**everything**  
&  
**everywhere**

## **‘Speaking Up’ (Testifying) (Matthew 21:12-17)**

### **Corporate Prayer**

**Leader:** Dear Lord, we bring before you those moments and situations where we struggle to know how to respond.  
We pray for your wisdom and strength as we seek to be good stewards of your word in our corps, communities, homes, schools and places of work. We ask that you equip us to be the people you have called us to be, so in those moments of challenge we can stand as your people of peace.  
We pray for the confidence to speak out against injustice and corruption and that our actions and deeds will be a reflection of our love for you and an expression of our praise and prayer.

**All:** In the stillness of this moment we bring our prayers before you.

**Leader:** Overturn in our lives all those things that are not of you.  
Free us from all that binds, so that our lives will be a fragrant offering.  
Cleanse us from our sin, so that we can draw closer to you.  
Teach us to be your faithful servants.

**All:** In the stillness of this moment we bring our prayers before you.

**Leader:** You know the needs and concerns of all your children. In moments of silence we bring before you all those who are known to us who are in need at this time.  
We pray especially for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith. We give thanks for their bravery and for the conscience they give to a broken world.  
We pray for those who are battling illness, for those who are providing care and support to loved ones, and for those we know who are coping with loss. May they and others known to us feel your presence and healing peace this day.

**All:** In the stillness of this moment we bring our prayers before you.

**Leader:** As we head out from this time of prayer, we ask that you remain with us.

**All:** Enable us through your Spirit,  
Equip us through your word,  
And direct us through your love.  
In your Son’s precious name we pray. Amen.





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## Prayer Points

- Are there things in our lives that we need to overturn, just as Jesus did with the tables in the Temple? Are there habits, attitudes or broken relationships that are getting in the way of our walk of faith?
- In Matthew 21:17 (RSV) Jesus speaks of 'perfect praise'. What would this look like to you? How can we live our lives as an offering of perfect praise? What would we need to change? Pray about this.
- Jesus reacted to the situation he saw before him as he entered the Temple. Are there situations we have encountered where we are called to act? Are there positive steps we can take to make a difference in our homes and communities to address a specific need? Pray about this.

## Prayer Activities

- **Table-Turning Prayers**

*You will need the template, scissors and Sellotape and Appendix 1.*

This activity provides an opportunity to create a simple visual representation of the tables overturned by Jesus in the Temple. It can be used as a trigger for prayer and calls us all to consider those things we need to overturn in our lives.

As you physically turn the table over, think about those things that get in the way of your walk of faith.

Pause and bring these before the Lord in prayer.

- **Newspaper Prayers**

*You will need current newspapers or printed news articles from the internet*

In the Temple Jesus recognised the injustices that were occurring around him. As Christians we are called to be in the world, but not of the world. We need to direct prayers for healing and peace in troubled times. Many of these injustices occur globally and we encounter them through a whole range of media including newspapers and the internet. Rather than feeling dismayed and helpless at the news, let us use this as an opportunity to bring wider injustices before God in prayer.

Take a copy of a newspaper or print off pages from articles on the internet. Begin this activity by asking God to lay on your heart (as you read) any particular issues or situations that require prayer.

As you read through the paper and feel called to respond, pause and reflect and bring this issue to God in prayer.





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If you wish to extend this activity, invite all members of the corps, or prayer group, to identify one or two articles to bring as a focus for intercession.

- **Marbling Prayers**

*You will need a tray of water, paper and a set of marbling inks.*

Paper marbling provides an opportunity for worshippers of all ages to reconnect with a childlike time of 'perfect praise', pausing to spend time with the Father and letting the images produced shape our time with him.

Marbling inks work because rather than dissolving into the water they sit on the surface. Just a few drops are sufficient to create unique patterns, which can be captured by placing the paper on the surface of the water.

The effects are incredible, each one unique, and it is because marbling inks remain pure that their interaction with the other inks create vibrant, wonderful images. In just the same way we are called to remain faithful to the gospel in every aspect of our interaction with the world.

As you place inks on to the water, think about the issues or challenges these could represent.

As you stir and create patterns with them, pause to consider our responses and actions.

And finally, as you place the pure white sheet of paper on the water to absorb the inks and create the image, reflect upon how God sent his only Son to take away the sin of the world.





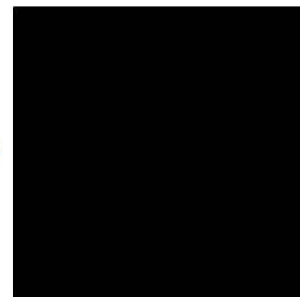
Appendix 1

# Table Turning Prayers

What tables do you need to overturn in your life? Are there habits, attitudes or broken relationships that are getting in the way of your walk of faith?



Take a look at...  
Matthew 21:12 – 17  
Jesus at the Temple



Dear Lord, may I never lose sight of you. Teach me to overturn those things in my life that get in the way of my journey with you. In your son's precious name I pray. Amen

Cut out each square and roll around a pen or pencil to create a tube. Remove and fasten with sellotape. Repeat to create each table leg.

Cut out the table top and fold in half along the dotted line so that the prayer sits under the table.

You can use the white space on the inside of the table top to reflect upon those issues that get in the way of your journey of faith.

