

Global Week of Prayer, Nov 2-6, 2020



 LIMITLESS

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LIMITLESS INTRODUCTION



In Acts 17:24-28, Paul stands before the Athenians and observes that as he walked around their city, he noticed how religious they were. He pointed to an altar to an unknown god. They didn't want to miss out on worshipping a deity. So, Paul decides to tell them about this god. He delivers these powerful words:

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring’.”

Our limitless God is beyond time and space, beyond boundaries and restrictions, and does not distance himself from us. This

year's Scripture Union Global Week of Prayer invites us to continue to draw together as a global family in dependence on him, in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and in reliance on the Holy Spirit. Let's celebrate all that God has done for us, cry out to him and together reaffirm our commitment to our limitless God.



LIMITLESS



This Prayer Guide will provide you with a prayer focus for each day of the week, based on Acts 17. Every movement is different, so choose a way to participate that suits you. Here are some suggestions:

- ☪ Set aside an hour a day to pray. Include staff, board members and volunteers.
- ☪ Invite people to gather together for an evening of prayer, beginning with a meal together (taking into consideration the restrictions amid lockdowns).
- ☪ Send out information to churches near you and invite them to pray with you as part of their Sunday services and gatherings.
- ☪ Invite supporters and prayer partners to join you in your office or at a camp site or local church (again, if you're allowed to).
- ☪ Create an online prayer gathering on Zoom or WhatsApp for young leaders involved in your ministry.
- ☪ Post photos and prayers on Facebook and other social media platforms. You might like to post these to our SU Global Family Facebook page with the hashtags #limitless #globalweekofprayer

You can join us as a Global Family for two special events during the Global Prayer Week:

SU Global Prayer Event: This 90-minute gathering on Sunday 1 November at 7pm (London, UK time) will launch our week together and will be a time to pray together in small groups and as a whole. Click [here](#) to participate!

Limitless: A 24-hour prayer event via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook, where you could Zoom around the globe. Join for as long as you like, any time you like, and pray with others around the world on Saturday 7 November starting at 6am (Auckland, New Zealand time). . Click [here](#) to register now!



DAY 1

THE GLOBAL CHURCH



The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. Acts 17:24

Acts 17:24 gives us an expansive view of God, who is not limited by our endeavours. Today we come together to pray for the global church. Working with the churches is at the heart of Scripture Union's mission. Never before have we seen so many church buildings all around the world close their doors and the church family unable to meet together physically. This has caused a challenge and an opportunity for both the church and SU.



Praise God for the opportunity that the Church has had to be the body of Christ in this season. Closed doors do not contain the reach of the Gospel.

Pray for the Church around the world as there has been a re-thinking and a re-definition of what the Church is meant to be – that in this period of transition and evolution, there will be a refreshed commitment toward her mission, a renewed passion for God's Word and a restored zeal for making faithful disciples of Christ.

Pray for SU's relationship with churches. Pray for Movements as they support and encourage churches in their mission to children, young people and families.

Pray for churches in a secular or multi-faith context – that their faith will grow stronger and show no signs of compromise.



DAY 2 IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC



And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.
Acts 17:25

Paul reminds us that we live in dependence on God. This is a good time to remind ourselves that we put our faith in a faithful God. Although this world is hurting, suffering and in pain, He loves and is dependable.

Today we pray for SU movements who have been ravaged by the pandemic and its impact.



Praise God for sustaining us and journeying with us. Thank God and for the new opportunities in ministry and for the provision of finances amidst the existing challenges.

Pray for a country or Movement to the east of you and to the west of you who are still reeling from the impact of the pandemic – especially for the staff and volunteers in these countries. Pray for protection, provision and guidance.

Pray for wisdom, creativity and courage in exploring newer ways of ministry when former approaches fail as we seek to engage children and young people with God's Word.

Pray particularly for those in financial difficulties – staff to be paid, rents to be cleared, and families to be taken care of.



DAY 3 SU AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. Acts 17:26.

It has been appointed for us to serve God in this moment of history and within the boundaries of the lands he has placed us in.

And what a season this has been! Challenges and opportunities. Joy and sorrow. Gain and loss. Life and death. Victory and defeat. Yet, our God reigns!



Thank God for the way Community Groups and various movements have found ways to meet this year, even if virtually. Pray for the Bible Engagement Consultation that has been postponed until October 2021.

Pray for SU Movements serving in countries that are threatened by new political situations or changing societies. Pray that the leadership will be wise and discerning wherever there has been unrest and upheaval in their countries.

Pray for the Global Board and their leadership – for insight and perception of where God is leading SU.

Pray for the Global Team – that they will continue to serve the SU Global Family well. Pray also for the fundraising efforts during these strange times, that resources will be available to meet the needs of the children and young people.



DAY 4 THE WORLD TO KNOW JESUS



God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. Acts 17:27.

To a world that is suffering, this is the one message that we can share. God is near!

He is with us. He is for us. He is by us. He is on our side. He has gained the victory!



Praise God for those Movements where Christianity has played an important part in the history of their countries. Thank God for the many positive developments that can be ascribed to a deep-rooted knowledge of the Word of God in these cultures.

Thank God for the online space that has created new opportunities for ministry. Also, pray for those who do not have access to either the technology or infrastructure to enable them to connect online.

Several Movements are feeling the impact of not being able to meet face to face, especially as we are relational in both our mission and ministry. Pray that this will give rise to new forms of discipling and faith formation.

Pray for SU Movements which are in countries where the Church or the Bible are not necessarily respected; that they will be able to reinvent themselves so that we will keep making God's Good News known.

Pray for SU ministry around the world to continue to help grow disciples who will become servants to a world in need – that justice, peace, compassion and hope will flow in these discouraging times.

DAY 5

RELIANCE ON GOD



'For in him we live and move and have our being. 'As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' . Acts 17:28.

What an encouragement and a sense of identity that we can draw from this passage! He is a limitless God. He is not limited by anyone or anything.

Praise God that in Him we live and move and have our being and that we are His children. Let us reaffirm our identity as children of God. Let us pray that we will play our part well in God's Big Story alongside children, young people and their families.

Let us give thanks as a Global Family, for the love and unity that has been strengthened and fostered during this season.

Pray that we will continue to depend on God, listen to His calling and express our reliance on God.

Pray that we will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and constantly be listening to what God is saying as we serve Him where he has called us to be.

