

Sidewalk Counseling Prayer and Worship Guide



Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,
the fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalm 127:3

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

- Mother Theresa

"America you are beautiful . . . and blessed The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life."

– Pope John Paul II

Praise and Worship song (sing in unison)

Songs suggestions can be found on page 15.

Sermon on the Mount **(members take turns reading)**

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

(REPEAT)

(Group prayers to be said in unison)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Yours is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Prayer for Peace

Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
And where there is sadness, joy.

Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console.
To be understood, as to understand.
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

Reflection

The greatest gift of God,
I would think,
Is the gift of life.

The greatest sin of humans,
It would seem,
Would be to return that gift
ungratefully and unopened.

John J. Powell, SJ

(Group leader reads aloud)

Isaiah 58:5-7

Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it for bowing one's head like a reed
And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed?

Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?

"Is this not the fast which I choose,
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the bands of the yoke,
And to let the oppressed go free
And break every yoke?

"Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry
And bring the homeless poor into the house;
When you see the naked, to cover him;
And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"

(Group reads together in unison)

Zechariah 7:9

“Thus has the LORD of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;’”

Praise and Worship songs (sing in unison)

Songs suggestions can be found on page 15.

(Group reads together in unison)

Isaiah 49:15-16

“Can a woman forget her nursing child
And have no compassion on the son of her womb?
Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.
Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.”

Luke 1:41-44

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.”

Psalm 139:13-17

For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

(Read in unison or group leader read aloud)

Prayer

Father, we thank you for giving us the strength to stand witness here to the evil of abortion. We ask you to give grace to the women going to this clinic today. Help them realize that abortion is murder, and give them strength to leave this place and save their children's lives. Comfort them during this time, and bring them to faith in you and trust in you for salvation. Let them realize that they are not alone; that you are forming this child inside of them. Bless them and bless the children that they have, Amen.

(Sing in unison)

Amazing Grace

John Newton

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun!

(Read in unison or group leader reads aloud)

Isaiah 42:1-7

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;
My chosen one in whom My soul delights
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or raise His voice,
Nor make His voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed He will not break
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not be disheartened or crushed
Until He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.
Thus says God the LORD,
Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
Who spread out the earth and its offspring,
Who gives breath to the people on it
And spirit to those who walk in it,
I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness,
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,
And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the nations,
To open blind eyes,
To bring out prisoners from the dungeon
And those who dwell in darkness from the prison."

(Group leader reads aloud)

Proverbs 31:8-9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

(Sing in unison)

How Great Thou Art

Carl Boberg and Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Optional Rosary. If your group is entirely Catholic, you may wish to recite together.

The Five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

God sent the Angel Gabriel to a virgin named Mary with the message that she was to be the Mother of God. (Luke 1:26-28)

Pray for those mothers who feel that abortion is their only option, that they would be given the grace and strength to choose life.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, O My Jesus...

Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Now in those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town of Judah. And she entered the house of Zechariah and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe within her womb leapt. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of thy Womb!" (Luke 1:39-42)

Pray that we may support pregnant women as Mary did.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, O My Jesus...

Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her Firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(Luke 2: 6-7)

Pray for those who mistakenly believe that abortion is a positive solution for women or that there are too many persons in the world already. Pray that they will come to trust in God's all-powerful guidance and control.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, O My Jesus...

Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation

And Simeon came by inspiration of the Spirit into the temple. And when His parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he also received Him into his arms and blessed God, saying, "Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word, in peace; because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for Thy people Israel." (Luke 2:27-32)
Pray that all children will be born, baptized, and dedicated to the Lord.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, O My Jesus...

Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

And it came to pass after three days, that they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who were listening to Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. (Luke 2:46-47)

Pray that we, as well as our spiritual and political leaders, will proclaim God's truths with boldness and grace.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, O My Jesus...

Recommended Praise and Worship songs

*(You can find all the lyrics online;
most have guitar chords available as well.)*

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Sanctuary

More Love, More Power

There's Just Something About That Name

We Bless Your Name

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Shout to the Lord

Awesome God - chorus only

Amazing Love

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

We Will Dance

Above All

As the Deer

Give Thanks

I Will Celebrate

My Strength is in You, Lord

How Great is Our God

We Fall Down