

ONE CITY. ONE CRY. ONE LORD.

FIVE DAYS TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

A DEVOTIONAL FOR A CITY BELIEVING GOD TO MOVE

PRAYER. WORSHIP. THE GOSPEL.

READ / REFLECT / RESPOND / REACH

BEFORE WE GATHER, LET US BEGIN.

CityWide229 is a Christ-centered movement bringing churches, ministries, and neighbors together through prayer, worship, and the Gospel. We believe the hope of Jesus belongs beyond the walls of any one church, and that a united Church can serve a hurting city with love, humility, and faith.

This is not a countdown to one event. It is an invitation to become part of what we are praying for: renewed hearts, restored hope, neighbors seen and loved, and lives changed by Jesus.

Our shared refrain: “Jesus, awaken our city. Begin with me.” Pray it each day. Carry it into your conversations. Bring it with you when we gather. The same cry can unite us in different places.

THE FIVE-DAY JOURNEY

01	HEAR THE CRY	Notice the people around us
02	BRING THE CRY	Turn concern into prayer
03	JOIN THE CRY	Choose unity over division
04	LIFT UP JESUS	Make Him the center
05	CARRY THE HOPE	Take the Gospel beyond the gathering

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE • Read the Scripture in your Bible. Sit with the story. Pause at Selah. Complete the action before moving to the next day. Invite someone to join you.

DAY 01

HEAR THE CRY

BEFORE WE CAN REACH A CITY, WE MUST SEE IT.

SCRIPTURE / MATTHEW 9:35-38

“He was moved with compassion on them.” — Matthew 9:36 (KJV)

THE STORY

Imagine driving the same streets you always drive. The traffic light changes, the grocery store is busy, and you pass the same houses without thinking twice. But today you notice the person sitting alone on the porch. You remember the student whose family is grieving. You see a neighbor who smiles in public but may be struggling in private. The city has not changed overnight. Your eyes have. Jesus saw crowds, but He did not see a problem to manage. He saw people who needed care. Compassion came before His call to send workers. Revival begins when we stop looking past the people God has placed around us.

SELAH / PAUSE & REFLECT

Who have I been too busy to notice? What would it look like to see my neighborhood with the compassion of Jesus?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Learn a neighbor's name, check on someone who has been quiet, or ask one person, “How can I pray for you?” Listen without rushing to fix everything.

OUR SHARED PRAYER

Jesus, give me eyes to see people as You see them. Awaken our city. Begin with me.

DAY 02

BRING THE CRY

WHAT BURDENS OUR HEARTS CAN BECOME OUR PRAYERS.

SCRIPTURE / NEHEMIAH 1:3–11

“I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed.” — Nehemiah 1:4 (KJV)

THE STORY

Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem’s walls were broken and its people were in distress. He did not pretend the report was fine. He sat with the grief, then carried it to God. Sometimes we hear troubling news and feel powerless. We scroll, sigh, talk about it, and move on. Nehemiah shows another way: let what breaks your heart lead you into prayer. We cannot carry every burden alone, but we can bring every burden before the Lord. Prayer is not our last resort. It is where our response begins.

SELAH / PAUSE & REFLECT

What need in our city have I discussed more than I have prayed about? What am I ready to surrender to God?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Pause right now. Pray aloud for one family, one school, and one street in your community. Then text someone: “I’m praying for our city today. What can I pray about for you?”

OUR SHARED PRAYER

Lord, turn my concern into faithful prayer and willing action. Awaken our city. Begin with me.

DAY 03

JOIN THE CRY

UNITY IS NOT SAMENESS. IT IS SHARED SURRENDER.

SCRIPTURE / ACTS 2:1–4; JOHN 17:20–23

“They were all with one accord in one place.” — Acts 2:1 (KJV)

THE STORY

Picture people from different congregations standing side by side. Their music may sound different. Their traditions may be different. Their stories certainly are. Yet when they pray, they are calling on the same Lord. In Acts, the disciples gathered with one accord before the Spirit was poured out. Their unity was not built on identical personalities or preferences; it was rooted in shared dependence on God. We do not need to erase our differences to love one another. We need humility enough to remember whose name we are lifting up.

SELAH / PAUSE & REFLECT

Where have preference, pride, or past disappointment kept me distant from another believer? What could humility change?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Reach across a familiar boundary. Encourage someone from another church, pray with a believer outside your circle, or invite a friend to join you in this five-day journey.

OUR SHARED PRAYER

Father, make us one in love and purpose as we follow Jesus. Awaken our city. Begin with me.

DAY 04

LIFT UP JESUS

WE LIFT HIM UP. HE DOES THE DRAWING.

SCRIPTURE / JOHN 12:27–33

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” — John 12:32 (KJV)

THE STORY

A crowd can gather around a personality, a production, or a powerful moment. But none of those can save a soul. In John 12, Jesus spoke of being lifted up, pointing to the death He would die. At the center of our hope is not an event but the crucified and risen Savior. So when we worship, we are not trying to make our own names great. When we invite someone, we are not recruiting them to our favorite church. We are pointing them to Jesus. He is worthy of our praise, and His Gospel is the good news our city needs.

SELAH / PAUSE & REFLECT

If someone watched the way I speak, serve, and worship, would they see more of me or more of Jesus?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Stop and praise God out loud for who Jesus is. Then share John 12:32 with a friend and tell them, in your own words, why Jesus gives you hope.

OUR SHARED PRAYER

Jesus, be the center of our worship and our witness. Awaken our city. Begin with me.

DAY 05

CARRY THE HOPE

THE GATHERING IS A BEGINNING, NOT THE FINISH LINE.

SCRIPTURE / MATTHEW 28:18–20; ROMANS 15:13

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” — Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

THE STORY

Imagine the gathering has ended. The music has stopped, the chairs are empty, and everyone is driving home. What remains? The person who came with questions still needs a friend. The family carrying grief still needs care. The neighbor who heard the Gospel may need someone to walk with them. Jesus did not tell His disciples simply to assemble a crowd. He sent them to make disciples. A revived city is not measured only by who comes together for a moment, but also by how we love, serve, and share Jesus afterward. Hope has feet. Today, yours can carry it.

SELAH / PAUSE & REFLECT

Who is one person I can keep showing up for after the gathering? What one step of obedience can I take this week?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Send a personal invitation to someone: “Our city is coming together for prayer, worship, and the Gospel. Would you come with me?” Offer to meet them there. Then choose one act of service you will follow through on.

OUR SHARED PRAYER

Holy Spirit, send us with courage, compassion, and the good news of Jesus. Awaken our city. Begin with me.