

# PRAYER GUIDE

21 Days of Prayer for Arizona Schools



## Statewide School Prayer Initiative

Prayer drive or prayerwalk your local schools throughout the school year as often as possible



changing spiritual climate. transforming culture.  
BRIDGEBUILDERS INTERNATIONAL  
Leadership Network

# Table of Contents

## **WEEK 1: STUDENT LIFE**

Finding purpose, hope, healing, and freedom

Day 1 - Blessing, Refreshing and New Identity . . . . .	1
Day 2 - Hope Restored and Supernatural Help . . . . .	2
Day 3 - Healing for the Broken-Hearted and Rejected . . . . .	3
Day 4 - Releasing Laborers for the Harvest . . . . .	4
Day 5 - Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 1). . . . .	5
Day 6 - Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 2). . . . .	6
Day 7 - God's Divine Destiny and Purpose . . . . .	7

## **WEEK 2: ACADEMICS & CHARACTER**

Excelling in Studies and Growing in Values

Day 8 - Excelling in Academics . . . . .	9
Day 9 - Struggling Students, Struggling Schools . . . . .	9
Day 10 - Creativity in the Arts & Innovation in Technology . . . . .	10
Day 11 - Homeschools & Private Christian Schools . . . . .	11
Day 12 -Student Health: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual . . . . .	12
Day 13 - Positive Classrooms & Godly Values: Peace, Safety, and Respect . . . . .	13
Day 14 - Excellence and Truth in Curricula . . . . .	14

## **WEEK 3: STUDENT'S SUPPORT SYSTEM**

Families, Teachers, Mentors, Administrators

Day 15 - School Boards: A Powerful Influence That Shapes Our Schools . . . . .	16
Day 16 - Quality Teachers: The Critical Factor in Our Students' Success . . . . .	17
Day 17 - Parents and Home Life . . . . .	19
Day 18 - Education Leadership: Superintendents, Principals & Administrators . . . . .	20
Day 19 - Financial Breakthroughs and Community Support . . . . .	21
Day 20 - Arizona Universities and Colleges . . . . .	22
Day 21 - The Glory of God in Our Schools!. . . . .	23

# Prayer Guide

## 21 Days of Prayer for Arizona Schools

### WEEK 1: STUDENT LIFE

#### Finding purpose, hope, healing, and freedom

##### Day 1 - Blessing, Refreshing and New Identity

*For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;  
And they will spring up among the grass, like poplars by streams of water.  
This one will say, 'I am the Lord's'; and that one will call on the name of Jacob;  
And another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord.' (Isa 44:3)*

*Prayer:* Father, we thank you for this incredible promise that You will bring refreshing to the driest places! Where it has been spiritually dry, **we ask for streams of the Holy Spirit**, the Water of Life, to now pour through our schools and that this would **cause our children to thrive and flourish**, like poplar trees by the riverside.

We ask for an **unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our schools**, that You would literally flood the atmosphere of the classrooms of Arizona with Your Holy presence! We pray that Christian students would be **greatly empowered and emboldened to share the gospel**, and courageous in their witness despite any opposition. May they see a demonstration of God's power on their campuses and may Christians there truly be light and salt, in Jesus' name.

**We pray for all campus ministries**, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and Christian clubs, and for those who speak regularly at assemblies. We ask that You would refresh these ministries, bring them gifted staff, give favor and dramatic financial breakthroughs, and open doors to schools for them, like never before!

Thank you for **Your promise to bless our children** and that because of Your blessing they will **find their true identity in belonging to You**, their Father and Creator. We ask that You would touch them so powerfully that they would acknowledge publicly that they belong to You, **"and another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord.'" (Isa 44:3)**

Please would You silence the negative voices telling these students they are worthless or unwanted. May each one **encounter Your love in a supernatural way** this year!



*Jesus called the children to him and said, “**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**” (Luke 18:16)*

Thank you for Your heart of love and Your special concern for our youngest children! We pray for every preschooler and kindergartener in Arizona and their teachers and aides. May the Kingdom of God belong to them, even as Your Word says.

We ask that these tender young hearts and minds would keep their innocence and purity. We pray that You would raise up an army of godly Christian teachers who are divinely gifted and called to teach and mold this impressionable age group.

Pour out Your Spirit on these young ones, we pray! May 2018–2019 be a year of great spiritual harvest from our preschools to institutions of higher learning in Arizona.

## **Day 2 - Hope Restored and Supernatural Help**

*O Lord, you alone are my hope. I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood. (Ps 71:5)*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that **you may overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)*

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.** (Jer 29:11)*

School principals and administrators have told us that the greatest problem in schools is that students have no hope! The cycle of shattered families, poverty, bullying, gangs, rampant drug use, and lack of job opportunities cause many to believe there is no future for them.

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, we pray for every child and teen in Arizona who feels hopeless, even suicidal. May the spirit of heaviness that weighs them down be dispelled now!

**In Jesus, Name, we declare all thoughts of suicide, depression, hopelessness and despair are broken off of the lives of our children** and the students of Arizona. Lord, please break the power of the spirit of death and suicide and bring Life to them.

Lord, send someone to encourage them today and let them know how much You love them. **Show Yourself as the God of HOPE** and may each student **overflow with hope** by the Holy Spirit, according to the authority of Your Word.

**We even ask that You would send heavenly angels to the desperate and the hopeless**, to comfort them and bring them Your answers, even as You did for Hagar, Elijah, and Gideon in their time of crises. Man's solutions are not enough – help our students put their trust in You.

We thank you for the miraculous and measurable answers to prayer that have already occurred in our Arizona schools: financial breakthroughs, test scores that suddenly improved



and a reduction in suicides and drug use –because You responded to the cry of Your people.

In this season, please would You **once again do undeniable miracles and restore life-giving hope to staff, students, and families**, especially for those in desperate circumstances.

In the face of troubling trends in our schools and uncertainty in our economy, we boldly declare that there is hope in a faithful God Who does above what we can think or ask!

We affirm Your Word and agree with thousands of others praying today as we declare that **You have a future and a hope – and a plan to prosper every Arizona young person!**

We declare that the plans of the enemy for every student are CANCELLED and that **Your plans and purposes are established in their lives**, that Your Kingdom would come, in Jesus' name.

### Day 3 - Healing for the Broken-Hearted and Rejected

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. **He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners** (Isa 61:1)*

***For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.** (Ps 27:10)*

*For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have **called you an outcast** (Jer 20:17)*

***He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.** (Ps 147:3)*

*Prayer:* Father, we come to You on behalf of the broken-hearted; those young people and children who have been rejected, neglected, emotionally wounded, or physically or sexually abused.

So many young people in our schools are **crushed by depression, tormented by suicidal thoughts, facing poverty and broken homes**. We bring all these before You knowing that You are close to them in a special way and that Your Father's heart grieves for them.

We pray in particular for **those who feel like outcasts**, those who have been rejected by their family or friends, or who are **mocked or bullied at school**.

Thank you that You will never leave them or forsake them and we ask that the **comfort of the Holy Spirit would be so real to them**, that You would break through the dark clouds and dispel the demonic powers that oppress them!

We pray for the **thousands of teens and even children suffering** extreme mental anguish that drives them to **intentionally harm themselves** by cutting with blades, swallowing harmful substances or even burning themselves. Lord, we cry out to You for deliverance and deep healing for them.





**We break the power of rejection and self-hatred** and the demonic lie that makes these young people believe You hate them or are angry with them and have rejected them too.

Let the orphan mentality and the belief that they are abandoned and alone in this world be dramatically changed by an encounter with someone who will love them unconditionally.

We declare this truth over them: that Your love is everlasting and that they are accepted in the Beloved. May they experience this reality and **may the hearts of an entire young generation be healed as they discover You as their Father, welcoming the prodigal!**

**Please raise up spiritual mothers and fathers who will love them**, minister to them, disciple them, and help bring healing to them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### Day 4 - Releasing Laborers for the Harvest

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."  
(Matt 9:37- 38)*

*And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.** And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)*

*Prayer:* Thank you Lord for your prophetic promise that **we are on the verge of the greatest revival ever...** and that Arizona is about to see the glory of God and another Great Awakening!

As we stand in faith before you for these promises, we obey Your command to pray fervently that **You would send workers into our schools and universities where the harvest indeed is plentiful!**

Thank You for **every Christian student and teacher You have placed in our schools;** we pray that You would stir them up and help them resolve that this coming school year they will **get to know You in a deeper way**, to walk more closely with You, and be an example of character and righteousness and to show love and compassion to those around them.

We fervently pray that You would **awaken the "sleeping giant" of Your Church to become actively engaged in their local schools** and our education system. Help us see this harvest field in our own backyards and find meaningful ways to serve and reach our schools.

We pray for the **young student evangelists on campus.** We ask for you to remove all fear of their peers, compromise and any intimidation from them. We pray that they would **walk in an anointing to preach the Gospel with power**, and we pray that they would see a flood of undeniable **healings and miracles** on campuses when they pray for people.



Thank you for the **Christian students** who will step into leadership roles. We bless them and ask for a **deep spiritual maturity, unshakeable courage**, the zeal of the Lord and that You would not let them be distracted from their high calling in You.

Please give the students of Arizona a great hunger for Your Word! **May thousands of Bible studies spring up on campuses across our state, led by young teachers and pastors like Timothy**; students who are wise beyond their years, faithful to the truth, and effective apologists for the gospel. Release the fivefold ministry (Eph 4:11) in our schools we pray.

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,  
a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)*

## Day 5 - Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 1)

*You boast, “We have **entered into a covenant with death...**” **Your covenant with death will be annulled**; your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. (Isa 28:15, 18)*

*And on this mountain, **he will swallow up the burial shroud that enfolds all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations—he has swallowed up death forever!**  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces. (Isa 25:7)*

***The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)***

Today’s prayer focus is on the cultural influences that promote violence and glorify death.

Tragically, youth culture has become poisoned with a death obsession, to where death has become an idol for many. Death imagery and symbolism (skulls, dripping blood, “dead” eyes, black clothing, corpses, decomposing zombies, the grim reaper, etc.) are common themes in TV shows, games, videos, clothing, music, and graphics marketed to youth.

There is an alarming increase in youth interested in vampirism. Incorporating elements of goth subculture and sadomasochism, the “vampyre” subculture ranges from fans who enjoy vampire themed entertainment and dress, to role-players in live-action games, to blood fetishists who practice blood drinking and bloodletting at organized events, to those who genuinely believe themselves to be vampires.

Though an extreme, this celebration of vampirism is indicative of the spirit of death permeating much of popular culture today. An unhealthy death obsession can quickly open the door to involvement in witchcraft, occultism and even Satanism or trigger bizarre and violent behavior in those with mental health problems or depression and suicidal thoughts.

*Prayer: Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, offering us eternal LIFE, far better than we ever dreamed of! You are the Light of the world – and even in the deepest darkness, **“the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** (John 1:5)*

We come into agreement with your Word that **You are removing the veil of death and deception, a death shroud covering the minds** of so many young people and that **the power**



**of this death obsession is broken, according to Isaiah 25:7!**

**We declare that delusion, rebellion and the strong anti-Christian mindset associated with this culture of death is removed from the youth of Arizona.** Untangle the web of confusion, manipulation, and deception we ask, and replace it with the clear truth of the gospel.

For those who are **oppressed by the spirit of death, ensnared in the occult, or witchcraft,** we speak FREEDOM, DELIVERANCE AND LIFE,

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Day 6 - Overcoming the Culture of Death (Part 2)**

***Death has been swallowed up in victory. "Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55)***

***I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for;  
They will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy.  
I came so they can have real and eternal LIFE, more and better life  
than they ever dreamed of. (John 10:10, The Message)***

Studies by the American Psychological Association linked childhood exposure to television violence with higher rates of aggression later in life (unsurprisingly!). Men who were high TV-violence viewers as children were three times more likely to have been convicted of crimes, while women were four times more likely to have punched, beaten or choked another adult.

In addition to pop culture glorification of death and violence, this generation is traumatized by real-world threats or encounters with death: the brutality of the drug cartels in our region, gang violence, the threat of school shootings, suicides, or the abortion of their own children.

It is not unusual to find teens and even children who do not believe they will live to see their mid-twenties. Having nothing to live for and expecting to die young anyway, they are more likely to engage in reckless or self-destructive behaviors.

*Prayer:* Lord we pray that You would break the power of this self-inflicted curse over those who fully expect to die at an early age! We ask that You would counter this lie with the TRUTH about the abundant life You offer us and that every student would find eternal life this year.

Thank you for the supernatural power of Your Word and Spirit: *"the Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you, they are full of the Spirit and life."* (John 6:63)

May students and teachers in our schools experience the life of God, through the Holy Spirit and the Bible in whole new ways that would transform them! Thank you that You are removing any veil over their minds and hearts that prevent them seeing and receiving You and Your Truth.





We pray for healing for those grieving the loss of a loved one or traumatized by family conflict, exposure to media violence, bullying, gang activity, or the suicide of someone they know.

We pray for girls who have had an abortion and ask that You would be close to them. Please break the power of the spirit of death and send someone who can minister to them.

We declare massive shift in the spiritual atmosphere over schools and our students' homes in Arizona, wherever the thief has killed, stolen or destroyed, we ask that You would bring peace, joy and life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Day 7 - God's Divine Destiny and Purpose

*"...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God... (Col 1:9 -12)*

*Now when David had served **God's purpose in his own generation**, he fell asleep... (Acts 13:36)*

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things?  
If God is for us, who can be against us?  
(Rom 8:31)*

**For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.** (Rom 11:29)

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father and Creator of all life, **You have dreamed a unique dream for every student.** Therefore, we cry out to You that the destinies of our children and young people will be preserved!

**We pray for our future leaders; raise up young people with godly purpose and destiny to contend for the future of our nation!** May many great young leaders, like Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Daniel, Ruth, and Esther, arise from our schools to bring justice and truth to every sector of society.

Raise up those who will lead the way for righteousness in every mountain of influence: in government, in education, in media, in entertainment and the arts, in business and finance, in families and in the church.

May they, **like David, fulfill the purpose of God in their generation.** Like David, may they know their calling from a young age, that no amount of family negativity, or setbacks, would discourage them from pursuing this.

Instill hope in these young people that regardless of their past, You have a plan for them that leads to life and fullness of joy. **Give this emerging generation a strong vision for the future**



and implant in these students hearts an understanding of Your will for their lives.

**Thank you that Your gifts and your callings are irrevocable.** We ask for those who have given up on their God-given dreams, that **You would resurrect these dreams** and breathe new life into their calling in You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



## WEEK 2: ACADEMICS & CHARACTER

### Excelling in Studies and Growing in Values

#### Day 8 - Excelling in Academics

*Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,  
for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her ...  
I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.  
With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity...  
(Prov. 8: 10-12)*

*Prayer:* Father, thank you for every step of progress in our schools and for those who work tirelessly towards improving them. **We pray Proverbs 8:1-21 over our students.**

We pray for every student in our public, private, and home schools and we ask that **You would pour out a love of learning and a hunger for knowledge and ignite their drive for academic success. Give them a deep desire to seek godly wisdom and its blessings.**

We ask that our students would treasure learning above silver or gold, as Your Word says; let them value their education and **be so motivated that they would let nothing stand in their way of graduating!** May they be lifelong learners who excel in their respective fields.

**We pray our classrooms would come alive with an excitement for learning, and that apathy, disinterest, discouragement, and all disruptions be removed, in Jesus' name.**

Proverbs 8:18 says that with wisdom comes “*riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity*” and we know the economic growth of Arizona is directly tied to a well-educated workforce.

**We ask for fresh, innovative solutions from heaven at both the state and local level in how to raise our graduation rates!** Please do an undeniable miracle: turn a state ranked near the bottom into one that leads the way for the nation. May Arizona indeed be the “brightest star in the union” in education, in Jesus' name!

#### Day 9 - Struggling Students, Struggling Schools

*Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. **Help the down-and-out.**  
Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless. (Isaiah 1:17 Message)*

**God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. (2 Cor 9:8 Message)**

While Arizona is home to many schools ranked in the U.S. News' Best High Schools report, many other schools are overwhelmed with helping students who lag behind and require a tremendous amount of help due to their home circumstances, such as poverty or being



refugees from different parts of the world. A large percentage of these students have never been in a school and are illiterate in their own languages.

According to research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 379,000 or 19 % of children were living in poverty in 2016.

Despite challenges, there are examples of dramatic turnarounds, such as the Phoenix Union High School District that went from a 50% graduation rate in the '90's to almost 84% in 2010!

***“Vision is the #1 predictor of success in school. It’s much more predictive than test scores.”***

–John Huppenthal, former Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Prayer:* Your Word tells us that without a vision people perish (Prov 29:18). Lord, we pray for VISION for administrators, principals, teachers, parents and students! **Give them Your vision of what their schools can become** and stir their faith and hope to action. Let them see that NOTHING is impossible with God, no matter how bad the situation!

Father of Light, we ask You to plant **a vision within our students to see academic success** as a real possibility in their lives. Give them a vision to overcome the challenges they live with.

We pray for **mentors and tutors** to come alongside each one who is struggling and give them the educational support and vital encouragement needed to finish their schooling.

Please **open the windows of heaven over our struggling schools:** for finances and good staff, that they would receive a blessing they can't contain! Lord, we ask that You would be glorified when their needs are supernaturally met.

Help our students who are struggling – whether with **learning disabilities or with troubled families** or anything else that would hinder them. We pray that You would **restore their confidence and motivation**, that failures and setbacks would not discourage them. And we ask that You would release the specialized teachers these students need.

Encourage all who feel like giving up to press through to victory, we pray, in Jesus' name.

## Day 10 - Creativity in the Arts & Innovation in Technology

*“See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and **I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.** (Exodus 31:2 -5)*

*I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out **knowledge of ingenious inventions.***  
(Prov. 8:12 Webster's Bible Translation)



*Prayer:* Thank you that all true creativity comes from You... and that the first mention of being “filled with the Spirit” in the Bible is for the purpose of a supernatural gifting in the arts!

**May a new spirit of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship come upon the young people of Arizona. We pray for our young artists, dancers, musicians, actors, graphic designers, filmmakers, and writers.** We bless their creativity in Jesus’ name and we ask that You would cause these gifts to flourish during this crucial time in their lives.

Father, we are praying that You would **do something extraordinary in Arizona among our young artists and performers!** We are believing that in this coming year we will hear of students from our state winning national and international awards and competitions and being given a place on the world’s stage through their films, books, performances, and art!

May new sources of funding for the arts in our schools and universities be released this year and would You **raise up Christians with a love for the arts who would invest in the next generation in Arizona** – both financially and also as coaches, professors and teachers.

We fervently pray over **the performing and visual art departments in our schools and universities.** For those that may have become magnets for darkness by celebrating and exploring the worst parts of culture and the human psyche, we ask that You would cleanse and restore our art departments to be centers of life, creativity, healing and beauty.

We pray for **our young engineers and those with a passion for technology.** We claim and agree with Your prophetic promise that Arizona is going to be blessed with intellectual property and that this will be a gateway to prosperity!

We lift up **those who are involved in pioneering research in our universities,** give them cutting edge breakthroughs in their work, we pray. Let Arizona become known as a new hub of innovation excellence with a **deep pool of scientific and technical talent that attracts high-tech companies with high paying jobs to our state.**

We pray for more Christian students with a vision to glorify You in the arts, technology, and research. We pray that **You would give them dreams and visions with fresh, creative ideas and breakthrough solutions** – and may Your favor cause them to be promoted to places of influence within their spheres!

## Day 11 - Homeschools & Private Christian Schools

*God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. (Daniel 1:17, NLT)*

*Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, ... For he was wiser than all men... (1 Kings 4:29-31)*

***You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3:15, NLT)***





*Prayer:* Lord, we thank you for every private Christian school, college, preschool, and every godly homeschool in Arizona. **Thank you for the parents, teachers, and families who are hard at work educating the next generation** in excellence and with a biblical worldview.

As You did for Solomon or for Daniel, give our Christian students maturity beyond their years and **a supernatural ability to learn and to excel academically**, above and beyond the norm.

**We invite Your Manifest Presence to come to these classrooms and homes** and ask for a great move of God among these students, parents, and teachers! May true revival come to our Christian schools with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would impact every family.

**We ask for a great financial blessing to come to each of these and pray that You would reward and bless them for their commitment and sacrifice:** whether it's a significantly smaller paycheck as a teacher in a Christian school, or paying tuition fees as a student, or the loss of income from the parent who stays home to teach.

Many of our Christian schools and colleges face financial challenges and we ask for dramatic financial breakthroughs for each of them! **Protect these institutions from anti-Christian lawsuits and negative press designed to pressure them into compromising their stand** for the gospel and righteousness. We pray for their governing boards to make decisions in the fear of the Lord and with great wisdom and that You would guide them in the days ahead.

**Father, we fervently cry out to You for every Christian student in Arizona**, no matter their school or age! We ask that even our youngest Christian children would be ***taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood***, as Your Word says; that our young people would have a deep understanding of the Bible. Send them teachers and pastors who can **impart a coherent and intelligent biblical worldview to them** and disciple them into mature believers.

**We pray for a great turnaround in the statistic that 70-75% of Christian youth leave the church after high school!** Please would You intervene in our young people's lives and break this cycle; bring the answers to parents, churches and Christian schools! In Jesus' name.

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world  
but that you protect them from the evil one. (John 17: 15)*

## **Day 12 -Student Health: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual**

*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health,  
just as your soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)*

*Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... **honor God with your bodies.** (1 Cor 6:19-20)*

### **The youth of Arizona face a health crisis of epic proportions:**

**Obesity:** the obesity rate in our state has doubled over the last 15 years. Obesity can create a host of lifelong diseases, including Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, among others.



**Drugs:** 34.6 % of Arizona high-schoolers were offered, sold or given an illegal drug by someone on school property, the highest **rate** in the nation!

**Alcohol:** Arizona youth have the highest rate of binge drinking at 26.5 percent.

**Sex and STDs:** One study of U.S. high school students found that 33.7% had sex during the previous 3 months. A report from the Arizona Dept. of Health reported 8,881 cases of STDs in the 10–19 year old age group. (2014)

**Teen Pregnancy:** Arizona has thankfully seen a decrease in teen pregnancy over the last six years, moving from being ranked 19th in the nation, down from 6th place. (2016)

**Violence:** Violence is prevalent with fighting breaking out daily in some schools. 10% of our high school students are being assaulted by a boyfriend or girlfriend. (2004)

**Depression:** 34% of Arizona students (9-12th grade) exhibit signs of sadness or hopelessness. (2015)

*Prayer:* **Father, we pray for the physical health, well-being, and safety of Arizona's students!** Most of these problems have a moral and spiritual root cause. Raise up those who can effectively disciple our youth in godly lifestyles and practical wisdom. Parents are the front line of defense and we ask that You would touch the families of Arizona. Transform the health of entire households, starting with the parents and filtering down to the students!

**Please inspire a real change in eating and exercise habits;** give wisdom to those who run school meal programs and help our students be nourished with wholesome food, we pray.

**We pray for an end to the pervasive drug culture in our schools.** Please protect our children and young people from getting involved in gangs, drugs, sex and other destructive activities. We ask that You would reveal the dealers, and dry up supply and we pray for Your deliverance for those students struggling with depression, alcohol, drugs, or pornography.

**We declare that by the power of Jesus Christ our campuses are a suicide, drug, and promiscuity free zone!** Spirits of death, depression, oppression, and hopelessness have no place on this campus, in Jesus' Name.

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. (Col 1:13).*

## **Day 13 - Positive Classrooms & Godly Values: Peace, Safety, and Respect**

***Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1)***

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.** (Philippians 2:3)*



*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit** (Rom 14:17)*

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, we invite You to every classroom in Arizona and **ask for a spirit of peace, respect, and excellence to prevail in both students and teachers.** We pray that students will have the desire and discipline to learn; and we ask for an environment that is conducive to learning and creativity, inquiry and critical thinking.

We declare these powerful scriptures over our schools - **and ask for You to literally shift the atmosphere to one that reflects Your Kingdom, with righteousness, peace and joy!**

We cry out to You, Lord, to **guard our students from any harm;** physical, mental or spiritual.

We speak boldly against thoughts, plans and intents to harm our children on our campuses, as they travel to and from school, and during all of their classroom and extracurricular activities.

Father, we pray for our **police and school security** to be specially anointed to guard our schools. Give them eyes to see anything that is wrong and warn them of any plan of the enemy.

**We declare that there will be no shootings, no bombings, and no harassing threats against our students and our schools throughout this school year!**

**We pray against bullying in all forms,** declaring this domineering, vindictive, mocking, and accusing evil practice and the spirit behind it be **banished from our schools,** in Jesus' name!

We pray that there would be a change in the culture that feeds this maliciousness. **As part of that culture-change, we ask that You would make Your people shine!** Let Christians be known as courageous student champions who defend victims and can bring healing and peace into a situation.

**We also pray that You would defend Christian students and teachers from those who would seek to bully, intimidate or silence them.** We ask that You would raise up many who are not ashamed of the gospel and who will exercise their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion with boldness and graciousness.

Raise up strong and godly leadership among Christian groups and campus clubs we pray and help them minister effectively to those around them. **As the gospel advances on campuses, may the culture shift to one of love, respect, joy and peace, we pray.**

## **Day 14 - Excellence and Truth in Curricula**

*For **I am not ashamed of the gospel,** because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Rom 1:16)*



*Be careful not to let anyone **rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ. (Colossians 2:8)***

***“The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention. . . [It] lays the foundations on which both law and gospel rest for success.”***

*—Noah Webster, well-known American educator*

**Prayer: Lord, shine your light upon our school and drive out all darkness, spiritual blindness, perversion of truth, and hostility toward You and Your truth, we pray.**

From our universities to our preschools, we pray for excellent curricula and programs that would make our students competitive in their career field and prepare them for life. We pray that in every subject that truth would be the foundation of what is taught.

We pray that all attempts to use curricula in our schools as a way to disciple our young people in humanism and other godless ideologies would be stopped.

Please would You **raise up godly men and women to be on textbook selection committees** for every school district in Arizona.

We ask for teachers and school boards to select curriculum that preserves our godly heritage as a nation. We pray for the **selection of textbooks that present biblically-based values to students** that will help guide them down a path that leads to blessings.

Father, we ask that You lead and guide those in positions of decision-making in our schools to set fair policies that **protect the rights of our teachers and students to openly present their biblical points of view** in an open, fair and non-threatening manner.

Lord Jesus, when teachers and students are confronted with subject matter that goes against their biblical worldview, we call upon You to give them the right words to speak with wisdom, strength and gentleness of heart.

**Please root out the anti-American bias and historical revisionism** that has crept into so many classrooms and replace it with good citizenship and Judeo-Christian values. **Raise up watchmen and gatekeepers for truth** and excellence in our schools who would guard over what is taught to our young people! Amen.



# WEEK 3: STUDENT'S SUPPORT SYSTEM

## Families, Teachers, Mentors, Administrators

### Day 15 - School Boards: A Powerful Influence That Shapes Our Schools

Studies show that local school boards play a critical role in the success of their district's schools. They have tremendous authority to make decisions at a local level including:

1. Planning for the schools in their community, setting goals, and establishing policies
2. **Approving curriculum materials**
3. Being accountable to the community to make sure schools are well run
4. Hiring and evaluating the district superintendent
5. Overseeing the budget, salaries for employees, and approving purchases

**The role of school board members is one of the most important and influential in our community!**

In the upcoming November 2018 general elections, **Arizona will be voting for 90 school board members in districts across the state.**

School boards not only have a lasting impact on local education, they are typically the first step for anyone seeking higher public office as a mayor, state representative, or congressman.

**School boards are the launching pad for political careers.**

If more Christians were involved in their local school boards, it would not only be a blessing to our schools, but also produce a strong pool of Christian candidates who go on to win other local and state races!

Of course this highlights **the importance of Christians being informed and VOTING in these critical elections!**

*If just 10 percent more Evangelicals came out to vote, it would tip an election.*

In one case study in Austin, TX, for example, **only 2.5 percent of registered voters showed up to the polls for the last school board election!**

The study went on to say, *"Voters often do not know their elected school board member's name or responsibilities..."*

Even if you are not a board member, as a concerned parent, property taxpayer, and a prayerful watchman, **you can still attend school board meetings in your local area, get to know your board members, pray for them, and share your encouragement, ideas, or concerns.**





*The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then peace-loving, gentle, approachable, **full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy.** And the wise are peace-makers who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves. (James 3:17-18)*

**Prayer: Father we thank You for every Arizona governing board member willing to serve our schools and communities!** We ask that You would give them stamina, courage, and the wisdom from above to overcome challenges in their districts.

**We ask that Your plans and purposes for each school would be reflected in their long-term strategic planning** and we invite Your Spirit to be present in every school board meeting across our state!

Lord we pray for **Your answers to the obstacles that often confront our school boards:** the lack of unified vision, little urgency to implement needed reforms, resistance to change, frequent member turnover making it difficult to follow through on long-term strategies, financial shortfalls, community apathy, disunity, and a lack of stable leadership.

We pray that You would bring order, peace, and clarity in these situations and that You would raise up those gifted leaders who would champion the education of the next generation.

**We fervently cry out to You to ACTIVATE Your Church to be involved in the governance of our schools,** by voting, attending board meetings, and serving as board members!

Help us be salt and light in our local communities and not neglect our schools, in Jesus' name.

## **Day 16 - Quality Teachers: The Critical Factor in Our Students' Success**

**The quality of the teacher has a HUGE impact on how much students learn.** One study found that *“good teachers have an extraordinarily powerful impact on the future lives of their students. Symmetrically, the researchers show the lasting damage that poor teachers have on the lives of their students.”*

Furthermore, students who get the best teachers learn a lot- and students who get the worst teachers fall behind. This study found that **teachers matter most in producing educational results;** more than class size, the curriculum, or the amount of money spent per student.

**The best teachers get three times as much learning out of their students as the worst teachers,** according to this research!

**Having a high-quality teacher throughout elementary school can substantially offset or even eliminate the disadvantage of low socio-economic background.** If poor children consistently got great teachers, the achievement gap could disappear.



**The effects of bad teaching are lasting. Even if a student eventually gets great teachers, those who had ineffective teachers in the past continue to lag behind their peers, even as much as two years later.**

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly (James 3:1)*

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. (2 Tim 2:24)*

NOTE: If you know teachers, please pray for them by name.

Prayer: Lord, we are deeply grateful for the school teachers of Arizona! Thank you for their willingness to serve the next generation and for the personal sacrifice so many make as they go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of their students.

We bless our teachers in the name of the Lord and ask for divine health and Your abundant blessing on their families and finances and most of all that they would know and serve You!

Holy Spirit, You are the ultimate Teacher, we invite You into our classrooms to lead students and teachers alike “into all truth.” Father, we pray for every teacher with a true calling from You to be an educator. We cry out for a fresh anointing for our teachers – that they would be supernaturally empowered to achieve results far beyond their natural skills!

**Father we pray over the most important factor in our students’ success: the quality and effectiveness of our teachers.**

**We ask for teachers who are extraordinarily gifted and effective**, with a passion for teaching in our school system. And for those teachers who are not bearing fruit and would be better suited to other careers, move them on to those.

We pray for any teacher who is **exhausted from the day-to-day job stress and has lost vision and enthusiasm**. Would You “*fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and fully refresh the souls of those who are faint.*” (Jer 31:25). We ask that You would refresh and encourage those teachers who may be so discouraged that they are on the verge of leaving.

Please **streamline the workload of our teachers and remove bureaucratic, time-wasting activities** that take them away from teaching. Increase the productivity and effectiveness of every Arizona teacher we pray! Father, we ask for **the teaching materials that our teachers need** and for the financial provision for every need to be met this school year, in Jesus name!

**May those who oversee the education of our children do so in the fear of the Lord!** Remind them daily of how serious it is to cause a child who believes in Christ to stumble (Matthew 18:8) and that those who teach are judged more strictly (James 3:1).



We call upon You to **instill a spirit of peace, cooperation, and mutual respect** among students, teachers and administration. May brotherly kindness be the hallmark of every school in Arizona and let teaching be a source of joy and fulfillment for our precious teachers!

## Day 17 - Parents and Home Life

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** (Eph 6:4)*

*Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Ps 34:11)*

***He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction. (Mal 4:6)***

Arizona has seen improvement in 11 of the 16 indicators used to measure child well-being in the last five years, including fewer teens who abuse alcohol or drugs, and fewer babies born to teen moms.

Unfortunately, many families in our state are under [immense pressure](#)<sup>1</sup>:

- Families living in poverty: **379,000** or **19%**
- Children living in single-parent families: **580,000** or **35%**
- Children whose parents lack secure employment: **506,000** or **28%**
- Homes where teens are not in school and not working: **34,000** or **7%**

Parents and families play a decisive role in children's academic success and their spiritual experience; **over 80% of those who accept Christ, do so before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

*Prayer: **Father we are grateful for every improvement in the well-being of our children** over the past five years and we thank you for what You are doing in the families of Arizona.*

We bring before You every family struggling and in pain, whether from divorce, poverty, unemployment, drug or alcohol abuse, or domestic violence. **Please would You bring healing, comfort, and provision for these broken homes and we pray for a dramatic transformation of the economy in Arizona,** according to Your prophetic promises!

We lift up to You **students who are homeless in our schools and are staying at shelters, on the street, or living in cars.** Your Fathers' heart is for the destitute and vulnerable and we ask that You would help these students and their families in powerful ways only You can.

According to Your Word in Malachi 4:6 **we cry out that the hearts of the fathers be turned to their children** and the hearts of the children be turned to their fathers in Arizona! We pray for those parents who simply lack the motivation, sense of responsibility or the parenting skills to raise their children well. Break off apathy or helplessness and show them where these

---

<sup>1</sup> The Annie E. Casey Fountain, 2018 Kids Profile ([http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC\\_profiles\\_AZ.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC_profiles_AZ.pdf))



parents can find help. **Please bring good parenting role models into the lives of young parents or teen moms** who may not have had them while growing up.

Raise up effective spiritual fathers and mothers, we pray! **Please would You turn the tide of young people leaving the Church, as 6 out of 10 who grew up as Christians walk away from their faith in their twenties.** Bring another Great Awakening to the youth and families of Arizona. We pray, in Jesus' name!

## Day 18 - Education Leadership: Superintendents, Principals & Administrators

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and **all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.** (1Tim 2-4)*

*The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then **peace-loving, gentle, approachable, full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy.** And the wise are **peace-makers** who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves. (James 3:17-18)*

**Prayer: Father, we pray for those in authority over our schools.** As tax payers, voters, and parents we bring before You our Arizona educational system. We pray for the **Arizona Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and our 15 County Education Agencies** and ask that You would bless all who work there.

**May Your wisdom direct them and may a fresh wind of Your Spirit blow into our state educational system at the highest levels!** Where there is turmoil, we pray for peacemakers who can bring a fair and righteous outcome in a spirit of humility.

We pray for the **Arizona State Superintendent, Diane Douglas.** We ask for the wisdom that is from above to be given to her; favor, strategy and the ability to bring about consensus, cooperation, and reconciliation at the highest levels in our state.

**We pray for district superintendents and school principals across Arizona.** Help them in their day-to-day responsibilities; let them function in a spirit of peace and bring peace and order into situations. Expand their leadership and executive abilities we pray and help them to implement innovative solutions and to bring unity and productivity to their schools.

**We pray for positive and happy work environments and for healthy professional regard and respect** among all faculty, administration, and staff.

We stand in faith and boldly **declare that our state will embrace biblical values and operate on the principles of our constitution** and protect the rights of the weak and the “least of these” and that our rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion will be upheld and protected in our classrooms this year.



**We declare that Arizona staff and faculty will not be antagonistic toward any Christian students or teachers and their values,** but that You would change the hearts and minds of those who are offended by the gospel; transform hostility into sincere inquiry and dialog.

May the hearts of all in leadership always put the good of our students first. In Jesus' name.

## **Day 19 - Financial Breakthroughs and Community Support**

***Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matt 5:16)***

*I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* (Act 20:35)

***Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen... to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? (Isa 58:7)***

Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we pray for abundant funding to be released over Arizona schools and for the prospering of students and teachers.** We ask for a new level of generosity and faith as churches step up to provide food, clothing, and supplies for students. Give these churches creative wisdom and strategies as they approach schools and distribute the resources that You're providing.

**Inspire pastors and leaders to build relationships with the schools in their areas, stepping in with finances and volunteers from their church!** Bless the many churches that are taking initiative in their community through Adopt-A-School programs.

Thank you for the positive responses from schools which are already being blessed by the work of Your Church. We ask for boldness and love as churches reach out to principals and faculty. **Open the door for schools to receive the help of these churches!**

**Lord, impart vision to the business community** and to the elected representatives of the community as they partner with their districts. **We pray that local businesses would be moved to donate and support long-term programs in struggling schools.**

**May You release godly volunteers, mentors, tutors, and coaches to come alongside** students, teachers, and their families. We pray that more churches would be led to partner with schools, becoming a financial support and a spiritual covering over the teachers and students.

Raise up Your Church to partner with local schools in caring for the needs of every student and their families. **May Your Church shine brightly and glorify God in our schools through unprecedented acts of love, service, and kindness,** in Jesus' name. Amen.





## Day 20 - Arizona Universities and Colleges

**Arizona is home to over 174 colleges, universities, and technical schools.** A number of top colleges and universities are located throughout the state including Arizona State University in Tempe – one of the largest colleges in the U.S., with more than 72,000 students.

**Only two universities are listed as Christian: Arizona Christian University and Grand Canyon University, both located in Greater Phoenix.**

Many Arizona students need encouragement to continue their education past high school. Arizona fell below the national average for residents who attained at least a bachelor's degree, according to data from 2009 to 2013. The United States census bureau found that 26.9 percent of Arizona residents aged 25 years and older attained bachelor's degrees, compared to 28.8 percent at the national level.

While institutions of higher learning offer students a great place to grow academically and prepare for careers, they also can be places that draw our young adults away from their Christian faith.

**“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3**

Many people are surprised when they learn that Christian pastors and churches founded the majority of our nation's colleges and universities. In contrast, many of today's universities and colleges are citadels of moral relativism in which the notion of absolute right and wrong is nonexistent and **where research shows that 70 percent of students from “Christian” homes deny their faith before graduation.**

**Our college and university campuses need our prayers!**

*Prayer:* **Father, we pray today for our Arizona colleges and universities, that they would be filled with the tangible presence of God.** We pray that each student will have the opportunity to grow and develop spiritually as well as intellectually.

**May the campuses be free from barriers and prejudices against faith-based organizations** and may these organizations thrive and grow and bring many into a mature understanding of You.

We thank you for the new freedoms that campus life gives to students, but we also pray for protection from the problems caused by using freedom to develop personal and moral habits that are unhealthy.

We thank you for those who are courageously living their faith and displaying their faith on campus. Give our Christian students courage to live out their faith in an atmosphere, which is often skeptical of faith.

We pray that many more graduating high school seniors would continue their education in institutions of higher learning. **May Arizona colleges and universities produce influential**



godly leaders who will bring the Kingdom values of righteousness and justice into every sphere of culture.

Lord, we lift up the professors, deans, and presidents of our colleges. May they not only be wise in their area of specialty, but also give them spiritual wisdom. **We pray that the Holy Spirit will use Christian professors and faculty as a mighty force for truth** and that a new standard of righteousness would be raised up on our campuses.

**We pray that our colleges and universities might become centers for revival rather than for the tearing down of the faith of our young adults.** We ask You to work through Christian groups and churches on campuses to bring thousands of young men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray that our Christian universities would equip our young people with a biblical worldview – that will cause them to thrive in their faith through their entire college experience.

May your mighty hand move and may the Holy Spirit be felt with unmistakable power in a way that changes many lives today as well as many future careers and future marriages tomorrow.

In Jesus name, AMEN.

## Day 21 - The Glory of God in Our Schools!

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea. (Hab 2:14)*

*Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
**That the King of glory may come in!** (Ps 24:7)*

*Let them give thanks to the LORD for His loving kindness,  
and for His wonders to the sons of men! (Ps 107:21)*

***Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"  
And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you,  
and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you;  
and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious,  
and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."** (Ex 33:18-19)*

*Prayer:* Father, would You bless the students in the preschools, home schools, private, charter, and public schools and the colleges and universities of Arizona with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Yourself.

We praise You that You have heard every prayer over these past 21 days as we have cried out to You on behalf of our schools.



**Now we ask that You would be glorified, that You would be exalted over our schools and over every power and principality that would seek to influence and infiltrate with the purpose to deceive and destroy the next generation.**

We declare it is time for our Christian students and teachers to ARISE AND SHINE as Your glory rises upon them and that nations will come to the brightness of their rising. (Isa 60:1, 3)

**We stand in faith on Your many prophetic promises that Your glory is going to be revealed in Arizona in a dramatic and unprecedented way.**

Thank you that when You revealed Your glory to Moses, it was Your *goodness* that passed in front of him! **Likewise, we remain confident knowing that we will surely see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (schools)! (Ps 27:13)**

Please reveal Yourself and Your ways in undeniable and sovereign acts. May our schools fulfill their sovereign purpose according to the highest plans of God, in Jesus' name. Amen!

Please encourage other watchmen by sharing your prayers and comments on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/bridgebuildersinternational) ([www.facebook.com/bridgebuildersinternational](https://www.facebook.com/bridgebuildersinternational)).

Email photos to [info@bridgebuilders.net](mailto:info@bridgebuilders.net)

