

**WEEK 1**

Aug 8-14

# **AWAKEN** **A GENERATION** *TO LIFE. TO PURPOSE. TO PASSION.*

**AUG 8-28, 2020**

21 DAYS  OF PRAYER  
for Arizona Schools and Universities

## **Statewide School Prayer Initiative**

Use this guide on your own or with friends and family during our focus week (August 8-28), and throughout the year. We encourage you to prayer-drive or prayer-walk your community as often as possible.



BRIDGEBUILDERS INTERNATIONAL  
Leadership Network

*Awaken a Generation:  
21 Days of Prayer for Arizona Schools and Universities  
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# WEEK 1: SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

## Preparing the way for hope, healing, and freedom

### Day 1 | SHIFTING THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE

*“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.”*  
(Isaiah 44:3-4, NASB)

The 2020-2021 school year will be like no other before it. Children have not been in school in person since mid-March. Most have been navigating online learning (or no learning at all, where online access has been difficult or even impossible). No one knows with any certainty what the new school year will look like.

Many parents have bought all the school supplies, backpacks, etc., and are ready to start—only to be told their schools may open late, or not at all—and they may not know for certain until the last minute. Many working parents are left in a bind and scrambling for childcare options in districts whose schools are only opening two or three days a week, or with reduced hours.

Some teachers and support staff are afraid they may contract the COVID-19 virus. Young children may be filled with fear from the conversations they’ve overheard or the news stories they’ve been exposed to. Then there are the restrictions. Staff and children may have to wear masks all day. Sports, activities, lunchrooms, recesses—all these normal parts of the school day—will be either reduced or completely eliminated. No proms, no school assemblies, no football games. School as we know it will not be the same.

This is the climate our students will be entering this school year—so much uncertainty, so much fear—and our prayers will aim to shift that climate for our students, starting with the spiritual atmosphere.

It is true that God is everywhere. However, God does not manifest His presence equally everywhere. God manifests His presence when the *atmosphere* is right—when the stage has been set for Him to shine. Let’s begin our prayer focus with inviting the transforming presence of God’s Spirit into our schools during this uncertain and tumultuous school year.

We will pray more about the specific issues we’ve mentioned here later in this prayer guide. For now, let’s pray to shift the spiritual atmosphere in our schools—to drive out any fear and uncertainty and replace it with a climate of peace and joy, one where our children will thrive and flourish. In an atmosphere that trusts God and welcomes His peace and presence, our children will be able to overcome the obstacles and reach their full God-given potential.

## Let's Pray:

Father, thank You for this incredible promise—that You will refresh the driest places!

- ◆ Where the environment has been spiritually dry and cold in our schools, we ask for streams of the Holy Spirit, the Water of Life, to pour into their hallways and classrooms.
- ◆ Where there is fear and uncertainty, we declare in Jesus' name there will be peace, confidence, and stability.
- ◆ We ask for an outpouring of Your presence that will shift the spiritual atmosphere on every school campus in our state, and cause our children to thrive and flourish like strong trees growing by the riverside.
- ◆ We ask for an unprecedented, tangible presence of the Holy Spirit in our schools, displacing the darkness and flooding the atmosphere of the classrooms with Your goodness and power!
- ◆ We pray that Christian students would be emboldened to share their faith in You, and courageous in their witness despite any opposition. Let them see undeniable demonstrations of Your power that will strengthen their faith.
- ◆ Empower all Christians there—students, teachers, and administrators—to truly be light and salt, in Jesus' name. We ask that You would touch them so powerfully that they would acknowledge publicly that they belong to You.

Amen.

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## Day 2 | RESTORING HOPE

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*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.*  
(Isaiah 61:1, NIV)

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

*“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.”*  
(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

School leaders routinely tell us that one of the greatest problems among students in their schools is hopelessness. The cycles of shattered families, poverty, bullying and abuse, addiction, and lack of job opportunities cause many people—even young people—to believe there is no future for them and they will never amount to anything. Too many students are crushed by depression, tormented by suicidal thoughts, and living in broken homes that offer little to no solace.



As we pray, we can bring these needs before our Heavenly Father, knowing He is close to them in a special way and that His heart grieves alongside them. He sees them and desires for them to be full of hope—hope for a life of met needs, life-giving relationships, and joy.

More recently, due to the COVID-19 crisis in our country and around the world, many students have been isolated from their friends, the activities that bring them joy, and the teachers who have always looked out for them. Unfortunately, this has only increased their sense of hopelessness as they feel further isolated, away from the safety net of schools, counselors, coaches, and the like. They need our intercession more than ever.

## Let's Pray:

Heavenly Father, we pray for every child, and teen, in Arizona who feels hopeless or even suicidal.

- ◆ May the spirit of heaviness that weighs them down leave their hearts, minds, and bodies, and be replaced by a transforming spirit of hope and joy. 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, we ask You to release them of all thoughts of death and suicide, and bring life to them instead.
- ◆ Lord, send someone to encourage them today and let them know how much You love them. We ask that You would reveal Yourself as the God of Hope. We pray each student will be overflowing with hope for their future, knowing there is so much planned for them.
- ◆ We 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 times of crises. Human solutions are not enough—help our students put their trust in You, and receive the hope and freedom only Your Spirit can give.
- ◆ We stand in the gap on behalf of the brokenhearted—for young people who have been rejected, neglected, emotionally wounded, or physically or sexually abused. Thank you that You will never leave them or forsake them. Let the comfort of the Holy Spirit be real to them.
- ◆ We pray for the thousands of teens and children suffering extreme mental anguish that drives them to intentionally harm themselves. Lord, we cry out to You for deep healing for them. We pray against the power of rejection and self-hatred and the lie that makes these young people believe You are angry with them and have rejected them. Drive out this belief that keeps them trapped in hopelessness.
- ◆ We declare this truth over them: that Your love is everlasting and that they are accepted and beloved by You! We affirm Your Word and agree with thousands of others praying today as we declare that You have a future and a hope for every student.

In Jesus' powerful name we pray, Amen.



## Day 3 | IDENTITY AND PURPOSE IN GOD'S DESIGN

*... 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. . .*  
(Colossians 1:9-10, NASB)

Our children and young adults are desperately looking for identity and purpose, asking questions like: *Who am I? What makes me different? What is my purpose in this world?* In fact, in America, our children and youth are experiencing an identity *crisis*. Due to the pressure and messaging of the media—including social media like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and the like—young people often have no idea who they are, and feel compelled to try to be someone else.

Our identity is the first thing God establishes about us—we are made in God's image. Each of us is known by our Father God, who has a design for our lives within His perfect plan. However, evil demonic forces are distorting the very core identity of our children—confusing them through the lie that they can decide who they want to be based on “feeling,” instead of living out God's original design. A lot of false information about identity, sexuality, and life purpose is being disseminated through our public schools and greater society.

God's Word tells us that we have divinely powerful weapons for the tearing down of strongholds, and every lofty thing raised up against the truth of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Prayer is one of those weapons we can use to tear down the strongholds of insignificance, inferiority, rejection, and comparison—and replace them with affirmation of and confidence in God's unconditional love and acceptance.

### Let's Pray:

Lord, thank You for Your promise to bless our children. Because of Your blessing, our children will find their true identity and sense of purpose in belonging to You, their Father and Creator.

- ◆ Please silence the negative voices telling our students they are worthless or unwanted or that they can find their identity and purpose outside of Your plan for their lives. You have dreamed a unique dream for every student. We ask for the destinies of our children and young people to 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 truth 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 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, peer pressure, or

setbacks would discourage them from pursuing it. You have a plan for them that leads to life and fullness of joy.

- ◆ We pray protection for our children from false information about their purpose, sexuality, and Your design for life. We ask You to raise up spiritual watchmen (fathers, mothers, teachers, school leaders) who will watch, pray, and be a voice for truth in our schools.
- ◆ We declare, in Jesus' name, that this will be a year of blessing, refreshing, and new identity in God's original design for each student.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

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## Day 4 | ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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*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, NIV)*

Elementary school is a pivotal point in the lives of our children. They are young, often anxious about their first school experience, and easily impressed. For many kids, elementary school can be their first exposure to bullying, teasing, cliques, and other cruel behavior. It may also be their first exposure to extreme behavior such as major tantrums and violent outbursts, which have become rampant in our elementary schools. For some kids, elementary school is their first experience away from mom and dad, which may be tempting for them to "experiment" with behaviors and personas that are not who they are.

Additionally, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, elementary-aged students are some of the most vulnerable. Social-emotional learning is paramount in their education, and being separated from their peers or being prohibited from certain activities (that will be restricted or eliminated this school year) can drastically impact their learning experience and psychological health.

We have the opportunity to lay foundations in children's lives through prayer, for them to be reassured, protected, and affirmed, and for a plumbline of truth, justice, and confidence to be laid in them—a foundation that will last a lifetime.

### Let's Pray:

Thank You, Lord, for Your heart of love and concern, especially for our youngest children! We pray for every young student in Arizona, as well as their teachers and aides. The Kingdom of God belongs 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.
- ◆ Even amidst this pandemic, we pray for all of the social and emotional needs of our young students to be met. We pray that their hearts would be full of joy, and their elementary school experience would be uplifting, despite the circumstances.
- ◆ Pour out Your Spirit on these young ones, we pray! Let there be an awakening of their spirits and minds to You. May each student in Arizona feel and see Your presence in their lives. May all of our children and the adults who teach and lead them encounter Your love and truth in a supernatural way!

Amen.

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## Day 5 | IN HIGH SCHOOLS

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*Even a child makes himself known by his acts,  
by whether his conduct is pure and upright.  
(Proverbs 20:11, ESV)*

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!  
Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be  
kept diligently. Oh, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!  
(Psalm 119:1-5, ESV)*

High school can be an incredibly intense time for teens, with experiences including dating and romantic relationships, friendship struggles, identity crises, bullying, exposure to drugs, alcohol, and sex, immense peer pressure, and much more. It's no wonder that almost 70 percent of Christian youth leave the Church after high school. It's one of the most volatile seasons of life for young people, and we must pray to cover our nation's high schools with God's presence.

It's important for young people to know that "Christian life" can and does exist beyond chapels, church youth groups, and worship services. It is our deepest hope that the teens of Arizona would discover the multitude of ways they can bring Christian life to their circle of friends and high school campus. Through clubs, prayer groups, and being open with their faith testimony with peers, high schools can become thriving hosts for spiritual impact and transformation. Even despite the pandemic restrictions, there are creative ways teens can connect, communicate, and even gather to share and experience Christ together. We pray for boldness among the Christian teens in our communities, that they would bring more of their friends into the Kingdom of God on the mission field of their high school relationships.

At the same time, high school is ripe with temptation. There are daily spiritual battles taking place for our teens' purity, tempting them to believe that they must grow up sooner than they really should. We



must also pray against all forces that would tell them they need to drink, party, or sleep around in order to experience acceptance. We pray in Jesus' name that all high school students would discover their worth and wholeness in the eyes of Christ, and not in the eyes of the world or their peers.

## Let's Pray:

God, first and foremost, we pray for a great turnaround in the statistic that 70 to 75 percent of Christian youth leave the Church after high school. Heavenly Father, we ask You to intervene in our young people's lives and break this trend. Bring Your answers to parents, churches and Christian schools! In Jesus' name, keep our children close to You as they navigate the pressures of teenagehood.

- ◆ We pray for godly teachers and school administrators to guide them with truth and love.
- ◆ We ask in Jesus' name for edifying and fulfilling friendships, rather than negative influences that would cause them to turn from You.
- ◆ We think of alternative high schools, with unique student populations that are usually experiencing even higher levels of brokenness and challenges. (Many times, these students are trying to overcome significant adversities and roadblocks to education, and may be dealing with juvenile incarceration, pregnancy and parenting, addictions, and more, in even greater numbers than in regular high schools.) We pray You would give extra strength and grace to the teachers and administrators of these students. Pour out Your mercy on these children and give them Your Spirit to help them overcome their adversity and go on to know You, follow You, and achieve success in their lives.
- ◆ We pray against the spirits that lead teens in all of our schools into partying, substance abuse, and provocative behavior. Lord, cover our students in a hedge of Your protection. Cause them to feel a wholeness and acceptance that only comes from Your unfailing love for them.
- ◆ We ask that the Christian students in all of our high schools would walk in boldness, proudly proclaiming Your name! We ask, God, that You would anoint them with a bravery that only comes from You. We declare victory over all spirits that would bind our students in fear, preventing them from sharing openly about their faith. We pray against the fear of man, the fear of rejection, or any other trepidation that would make them feel anxious about sharing their testimony. May there be a wave of revival in our high schools that sweeps across our state and our nation!

In Jesus' name we pray for all these things, Amen.

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## Day 6 | IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

*(Joshua 1:9, NIV)*



*“O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others. Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”*  
(Psalm 25:1-5, NLT)

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.

Two universities are listed as Christian: Arizona Christian University and Grand Canyon University, both located in the greater Phoenix area.

Many Arizona students need encouragement to continue their education past high school. Arizona has fallen 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. Our college and university campuses need our prayers!

## Let’s Pray:

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.
- ◆ 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 it on campus. Give our Christian students courage to live out their faith in an atmosphere that is often skeptical of faith.
- ◆ We pray that many more graduating high school seniors would continue their education in institutions of higher learning. We boldly ask You, Lord, to use Arizona colleges and universities to 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. We ask that they not only be wise in their area of specialty, but also that You give them spiritual wisdom. We pray that the

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\*(These same kinds of statistics can be easily found through an internet search if you are from a state other than Arizona.)

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 ask that Your mighty hand will move, and Your 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 7 | IN HOMESCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ====

*God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom.*

*(Daniel 1:17, NLT)*

*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 Timothy 3:15, NLT)*

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*

*(John 17:15, NIV)*

There are many reasons why parents choose to send their children to private school or to home educate them. Many times it is because they want to have greater opportunity to instill biblical values or pursue a certain emphasis in the children's education. In some cases, children with special needs are not being served adequately by the local public school district.

This year, many parents who have not previously homeschooled, or who would not likely otherwise choose to homeschool, are doing so because of the uncertainty and restrictions being faced in many parts of the country, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools and families are among the hardest-hit segments of our population in this regard, and many will choose to homeschool rather than send their children to school or participate in online public school.

Some families in the U.S. are scrambling to create a modern version of the one-room schoolhouse, sometimes called "homeschooling pods." Under this model, a small group of parents split the cost of hiring teachers and tutors and paying for resources such as online classes. Founded in 2015, a program



of this nature called Outschool has seen a 30-fold increase in enrollment since the start of the current pandemic.

Whatever the reason parents may choose to utilize them, homeschools and private schools are extremely important components of our state's educational opportunities, and we want to pray for parents and teachers as they undertake this valuable endeavor.

## Let's Pray:

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 and for Daniel, please 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! We pray for true revival to 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: to the teacher in a Christian school with a significantly smaller paycheck, to the student paying tuition fees, and to the parent who experiences a loss of income to stay home and teach their children.
- ◆ 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 Your truth from childhood, and that they would have a deep understanding of the Bible. Send them teachers and pastors who can impart an intelligent biblical worldview to them and disciple them into followers of You.

Amen.

