

**WEEK 3**

Aug 22-28



# **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 3: STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Families, Teachers, Mentors, Administrators

## Day 15 | PARENTS AND HOME LIFE

*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.*

*(Malachi 4:6, NIV)*

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*(Ephesians 6:4, NIV)*

Families are the cornerstone of our society, and the frontline support system for students. Where this support system is strong, our children thrive. Where it is weak, they struggle. Unfortunately, many families in Arizona are under immense pressure:\*

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

This year, we can add to the above challenges and tensions all the uncertainty and logistical problems accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic. Many parents are out of work. Those whose jobs are intact may have nowhere for their children to go if school is not in session. They may be unable to assist their children with online school for various reasons.

Parents need our prayers more than ever!

### Let's Pray:

Father, we thank you for what You are doing in the families of Arizona.

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\*If you are not located in Arizona, consider looking up the statistics in your state (these should be readily available via Google or other search engine). You can find these measures for child well-being here. The statistics listed here are for the State of Arizona. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018 Kids Profile ([http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC\\_profiles\\_AZ\\_pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC_profiles_AZ_pdf).)

- ◆ We bring before You every family struggling and in pain, whether from divorce, poverty, unemployment, drug or alcohol abuse, or domestic violence. Bring healing, comfort, and provision for these broken homes. We also pray for a dramatic transformation of the economy in Arizona, according to Your prophetic promises!
- ◆ We ask You to bring stability, provision, and peace to families navigating the effects of this coronavirus. Help parents make wise decisions for how their family should deal with the disruptions. Let them not lose heart or hope, or take out their frustrations on their children.
- ◆ We lift up to You students who are homeless and are staying at shelters, on the street, or living in cars. Your Father's heart is for the destitute and vulnerable, and we ask that You would help these students and their families in powerful ways as 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. 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 they 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 turn the tide of young people leaving the Church. Bring another Great Awakening to the youth and families of Arizona.

We pray, in Jesus' name—Amen!

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## Day 16 | TEACHERS

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*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, NIV)*

*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 Timothy 2:24, NLT)*

The quality of the teacher has a HUGE impact on how much students learn. Good teachers have an extraordinarily powerful impact on the future lives of their students. Similarly, there can be lasting damage that poor teachers can inflict 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.

This year, as many classrooms may be online, some teachers are concerned they won't be able to adequately show love to their students, many of whom desperately need the encouragement they find at

school. Other teachers fear the virus and are afraid of taking it home to their families. A large number of teachers already feel overworked and underpaid and, not thinking it's worth it, some are breaking their teaching contracts for 2020-21.

We don't want to lose our valued teachers! They need our support, encouragement, and prayers more than ever!

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

### Let's Pray:

- ◆ 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 health and Your abundant blessing on their families, and most of all that they would know and serve You. Keep our teachers safe and keep them healthy.
- ◆ Please streamline the workload of our teachers, especially as they navigate teaching during a global pandemic. Help them find an effective and efficient balance between in-person and distance teaching, if it is asked of them. Help them prioritize what is most important, and remove bureaucratic barriers that may prevent them from teaching at their best.
- ◆ We declare that our teachers are loved and appreciated. They are not taken for granted. They are on our front lines as they teach our youth during these unprecedented times. Hold them close as they navigate this uncharted territory.
- ◆ We pray for any teacher who is exhausted from the day-to-day job stress and has lost vision and enthusiasm. Fulfill Your Word, that You “fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and fully refresh the souls of those who are faint” (Jeremiah 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.
- ◆ Holy Spirit, You are the ultimate Teacher, and we invite You into our classrooms and online learning experiences 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!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## Day 17 | SUPPORT STAFF

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*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.  
(Hebrews 13:16, NIV)*



*In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”  
(Matthew 5:16, NIV)*

Our school systems rely heavily on a vast army of crucial workers who make life and education happen for our children. These include para-educators and classroom assistants, librarians, counselors, tutors and specialists, school nurses, lunchroom and kitchen staff, school bus drivers, playground monitors, crossing and security staff, custodial staff, office workers, and more. When these positions are not well-funded, well-appreciated, and filled with the highest quality of personnel, our children and their education suffer in many ways. These people fill vital roles in our schools and in our students' lives!

### Let's Pray:

- ◆ Thank You, Lord, for this army of vital workers that often goes unnoticed and unappreciated in the roles they play. These people are the glue that holds together our schools. We pray they would experience Your pleasure and blessing on their sacrifices and their investment in the lives of students.
- ◆ Please provide the funding that is needed for their programs; so many of them are the first to be “cut” when there are budget shortfalls. We pray against any lies of inferiority or rejection the enemy would try to plant in their minds about the significance of their role in education and building young lives.
- ◆ Please protect them in every way: financially, physically, their health, their emotional well-being, their relationships . . . may they be governed by integrity and honor and kindness in all their interactions with students and one another.
- ◆ For all the vital qualities and programs they contribute, we pray You would use them to bring wisdom, guidance, creativity, safety, nutrition, health, and order.
- ◆ Help them to always treat the students with dignity, respect, and compassion. We pray that they will experience huge satisfaction and significance in their jobs, and we ask You to use them in a mighty and powerful way in the lives of the students they serve.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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## Day 18 | PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS

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*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.  
(1 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV)*



*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, PHILLIPS)

Principals and administrators play a huge role. Their leadership sets the pace and priorities for schools. At the same time, many principals and vice principals are dealing with discipline issues with students, personnel issues with faculty and staff, and policy issues with the school district. School administrators “wear a lot of hats” in our schools.

School district officials and administrators also play a key role, functioning as the bridge between state legislators and the communities they serve, making curricular choices, establishing and enforcing boundaries, setting policy, including regulating sports and extra-curricular policies, and other important decision-making responsibilities.

## Let's Pray:

Father, as taxpayers, voters, and parents we bring before You our Arizona educational system.

- ◆ We pray for those in authority over our schools, including principals, administrators, and education officials at every level. We pray for the Arizona Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and 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, Kathy Hoffman. 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 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 and school districts 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, Amen.

## ==== Day 19 | SCHOOL BOARDS 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.  
(Matthew 5:16, NASB)*

*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."  
(Acts 20:35, NIV)*

*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?  
(Isaiah 58:6-7, NIV)*

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. Strategic planning for their community's goals, setting goals, and establishing policies
2. Approving curricular 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. 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 many political careers. If more Christian citizens were involved in their local school boards, it would not only be a blessing to our schools, but would also produce a strong pool of Christian candidates who would go on to win other local and state races. Think about the ways this could impact our communities, our states, and beyond!



(Of course, this highlights the importance of Christians being informed and VOTING in these critical elections! If just 10 percent more citizens with biblical values 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 one 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.

## Let’s Pray:

Heavenly Father, we lift up our communities and pray for them to be valuable sources of support for our schools.

- ◆ For our local school boards, we pray that Your plans and purposes for each district and 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 and local organizations step up to provide food, clothing, and supplies for students. Give these organizations creative wisdom and strategies as they approach schools and distribute the resources that You are providing.
- ◆ Send 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. We declare that Your Church will shine brightly and glorify God in our schools through unprecedented acts of love, service, and kindness, in Jesus’ name!

Amen.



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## Day 20 | THE CHURCH

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*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.”*  
(Matthew 9:37-38, ESV)

*“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bondservants 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, NASB)

Many churches and Christian ministries have found that reaching out to their local schools is an important way to serve children and their families and reach them for Christ, as well as to strengthen ties with their communities. Prayer is a huge and vital step to that engagement. There are also myriad ways that believers can support and invest in schools and help build God’s Kingdom there.

You can get to know your public school officials and teachers by name. Thank them and express appreciation for the hard work they do. Send notes and cards of appreciation to teachers in your schools. Provide modest gifts as a token of appreciation, such as coffee shop or bookseller gift cards, plants, note pads, etc. Ask how you can pray for them, and really listen. Consider volunteering in a local school and being “boots on the ground” for bringing transformation and the light of Jesus to the campus.

Things may look different on campus for schools this year, but teachers still need our tangible support. Reach out to the teachers you know and find out how you can help. Most importantly, pray—and then be a part of the transformation you are praying for! Churches, Christian ministries, and individual believers can build vital bridges of hope within their community that can lead to stronger schools all across our state and nation.

### Let’s Pray:

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 You would stir them up and help them resolve that this coming school year they will get to know You in a deeper way. May they walk more closely with You, be an example of character and righteousness, and show Your love and compassion to those around them.



- ◆ We fervently pray You would awaken the “sleeping giant” of Your Church, and that believers would 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. Especially during this time of great need, when there is so much uncertainty, fear, isolation, and hopelessness, the Church has a message of Hope to impart to our communities and schools. Show us how to do that!
- ◆ We pray for the young student evangelists in our schools. We ask for You to remove all fear of their peers, and any compromise and intimidation.
- ◆ We pray they would walk in an anointing to preach the gospel with power, and that they would see a flood of undeniable healings and miracles when they pray for others. Show them creative ideas to reach out to their classmates with the message of hope and love in Jesus, even if they are not regularly seeing them daily on campus.
- ◆ Thank You for the Christian students who will step into leadership roles with their peers during this time. 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.
- ◆ May thousands of young leaders spring up from across our state, students who are wise beyond their years, faithful to the truth, and effective apologists for the gospel. Release the fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:11) in our schools, we pray: the leaders, the pastors, the teachers, the prophets, and the evangelists!

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## Day 21 | REVIVE AND AWAKEN A GENERATION

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

*Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,  
and for His wonders to the sons of men!  
(Psalm 107:21, NASB)*

### Let's Pray:

Father, 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 students, teachers, families, and 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 ask You to bless the students in the preschools, home schools, alternative, 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 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 Your rising (Isaiah 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)! (Psalm 27:13)
- ◆ Reveal Yourself and Your ways in undeniable and sovereign acts. Empower and equip our schools to fulfill their sovereign purpose according to the highest plans of God, in Jesus' name.

Amen!

