

Sample Prayers: Baptist

The sample prayers found here were graciously provided by Pastor Jay Abernathy, GRACE member and Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church Woodville.

Monday, January 11: *Pray for an end to human trafficking.*

Oh God, my heart is broken for the sin of Human Trafficking. Break the hearts of others of faith and add to the number those who have their eyes opened to see the evil one behind it all. You have declared "freedom for the captives". May we work together to make the day when humans have no desire or means to exploit another human being.

By the truth of Freedom that is in Christ, I pray. Amen.

Read Isaiah 61:1-4. (God declares deliverance)

Helpful Context:

- Human trafficking occurs when force, fraud, or coercion is used to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex from another person. Causing a child to engage in the commercial sex trade is human trafficking regardless of whether the exploiter uses force, fraud, or coercion.
- Human trafficking can occur in a variety of legitimate and illegitimate industries, such as labor trafficking in agriculture, domestic work, beauty services, and restaurants or sex trafficking in escort services, pornography, cantinas, and illicit massage businesses.
- This roughly [3-minute animation](#) from Texas Christian University that accurately, succinctly, and artfully describes the realities of child sexual exploitation and how we can help survivors heal.
- [Be the One](#) is a powerful training documentary from the Office of the Attorney General that features actual cases prosecuted in Texas to educate viewers.
- January 11 is also National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition of this day, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign promotes [#WearBlueDay](#) and encourages the public to wear blue and raise awareness of human trafficking.

Tuesday, January 12: *Pray for prevention efforts and those who are vulnerable.*

Dear God of Creation, we know you call us to be responsible for our fellow human beings. You have blessed us with all the necessary resources to work together to stop Human Trafficking. Make us bold and brave as we get in the way of those who would manipulate and abuse the vulnerable into this unimaginable evil.

Break my heart as Christ's was broken for me. Amen.

Read Matthew 25:31-40 (God praises ministry to the vulnerable)

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers are master manipulators and prey upon vulnerabilities. Examples of risk factors for human trafficking include: homelessness; economic insecurity; runaway youth; prior histories of abuse; forced displacement; and irregular migration.
- Research suggests that a healthy, trust-based relationships can prevent youth from entering a cycle of exploitation and that those same relationships are pivotal in helping exploited youth to successfully exit their exploitation. Research has also found the presence of a caring adult to be related to numerous positive outcomes in the lives of vulnerable teens and young adults.
- In Texas, schools are required to provide access to age-appropriate, research-based education to help protect children from sexual abuse and trafficking. Many organizations are doing great work to provide students, teachers, and caregivers with access to quality prevention education. Others are focused on addressing root causes of exploitation such as poverty, homelessness, and childhood trauma. These efforts are essential for moving upstream and stopping trafficking before it occurs.

Wednesday, January 13: *Pray for all those working on the front line to support survivors.*

*Thank you, Oh God, for those souls that are giving of themselves to identify and recover those rescued from Human Trafficking. These workers carry the heavy burden of knowing the inhuman acts of human beings against another. Help them as they persist in the face of incredible odds to reclaim broken lives by letting them know how beautiful and valuable they are to you, oh God! With awareness of the cost Jesus paid to speak peace into lives, I pray. Amen.
Read Matthew 5:1-12 (Jesus celebrates hunger and labor for righteousness and peace)*

Helpful Context:

- Advocates and service providers work tirelessly to provide shelter, crisis intervention, and ongoing case management to victims. While many do not understand the trauma endured by survivors or fail to recognize their dignity, these programs provide the supportive trust-based relationships and services that help survivors heal and thrive. Considering the complex needs of survivors and the intensive nature of these causes, those working on the front line may experience vicarious trauma and burnout.
- When asked what made the biggest difference in exiting their exploitation, many survivors name an individual rather than a program or service. Advocates on the front line often have the opportunity to build bonds of trust and begin the journey of healing from years of relational trauma.
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy is a critical component of the Texas approach to addressing child sex trafficking. Review [this flyer](#) more information on CSEY (pronounced “see-say”) Advocates.
- For information about services available to survivors, visit the [National Human Trafficking Hotline Referral Directory](#).

Thursday, January 14: *Pray for survivors to find healing.*

Creator. Sustainer. Redeemer. You alone can perform the miracle of restoring what “locusts have eaten.” Please use your Holy Spirit to speak peace and hope to the ones victimized by Human Trafficking. Share Grace to their hearts as they hear from caregivers that they are not to blame for the victimization and silence with powerful wrath those who would imagine or speak otherwise. Remind me how you have restored much in me and are able to do more than I could ever imagine in the lives of those who are trafficked.

In the name of Jesus Christ who has reached all the way to us, I pray. Amen.

Read Luke 6:6-10 (Jesus restores those others ignore)

Helpful Context:

- Victims of trafficking are often hiding in plain sight – held prisoner by fear, shame, and the trauma bonds that their traffickers create to manipulate and control them. Victimization may go unnoticed for years, and many victims do not even realize they are victims; they believe what their exploiters tell them – that they are willing participants in the abuse.
- Trafficking survivors often experience complex trauma and a loss of self-identity as well as serious financial and healthcare issues. These difficulties create barriers to securing safe and stable housing as well as educational and career advances. Complex trauma takes a lifetime of healing.
- It is also critical that our strategies to address human trafficking are informed by survivors. Their perspective is irreplaceable, and their resilience is an inspiration.

Friday, January 15: *Pray for all those working to bring traffickers and exploiters to justice.*

Dear God, you love justice and promise you will pour it out like a raging river. Please give wisdom and integrity to the ones who have prepared and been placed by you to uphold the law, protecting victims. Give them a bottomless well of endurance. Protect them, their families and coworkers from retribution. Strengthen their will against the victimizer and soften their hearts to the victims.

Reward their efforts I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Read Amos 5:7-10, 24 (God’s desire for justice will have no end)

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from exploitation must be held accountable. Law enforcement and the justice system play a critical role in disrupting trafficking operations. These cases are often complicated to investigate and prosecute, and research indicates that misidentification of victims is a common problem across the country. Dedicated resources, training, and community support are important factors in law enforcement’s ability to stop exploiters.

- Traffickers often use their victims to shield themselves from liability. Efforts to seek justice should include strategies to prevent victims from being punished for the actions of their traffickers. Survivors with criminal records stemming from their victimization have legal access to cleaning up those records and pursuing a fresh start.

Saturday, January 16: *Pray for an end to demand and societal factors that lead to exploitation.*

Dear God, your love and grace is immeasurable. We have broken your beautiful intention for intimacy and made it flawed and evil lust. Help those who speak prophetically about the danger of silence regarding pornography and its easy accessibility. Pour out your light in the darkness of an industry that promises a lie and exploits human beings for profit of any kind. Cease our lust for bargain products and base pleasure. Open the eyes of our leaders and our land who lead us away from a care for others and the fair value of labor.

Under the redemptive love of your Son, who paid the price of salvation, I pray. Amen.

Read Jonah 3 (A leader hears God's word and leads repentant change)

Helpful Context:

- Sex trafficking would simply not be profitable without demand. Sex buyers drive the market for the illegal sex trade. From May 2019 – June 2020, CEASE Texas identified over 1 million unique online advertisements for commercial sex across 6 Texas cities. We should consider the roles of technology, pornography, sexually oriented businesses, and a hypersexualized culture in facilitating an environment that normalizes exploitation and facilitates demand.
- Labor trafficking is also impacted by demand. The demand for cheap goods and cheap labor can result in worker exploitation and slavery in supply chains. In 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor identified 155 goods from 77 countries produced by child or forced labor.

Sunday, January 17: *Pray for discernment on the actions you can personally take to address human trafficking.*

Dear Lord, forgive me for the false lords in my life that clamor for my time and money. Help me to make the most of each day as I value those around me and see them all as loved by you.

Make me sensitive to the cost of my action and inaction upon others. Point me to trustworthy, credible ministries that I can support and assist.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who saw my need for Grace, and paid the price I pray. Amen.

Read Matthew 6:19-21 (Our eternal treasure is worth the investment of our time and money)

Helpful Context:

- Every Texan has an opportunity to join the fight against human trafficking, whether by educating friends, mentoring vulnerable youth, being a conscious consumer, financially supporting trusted organizations, or reporting suspicious activity.

- What can you do about human trafficking? [Be the O.N.E. – Observe. Notify. Empower.](#)
- Explore [10 ways you can help end trafficking](#) and learn more about how [faith-based and community organizations](#) can be involved.