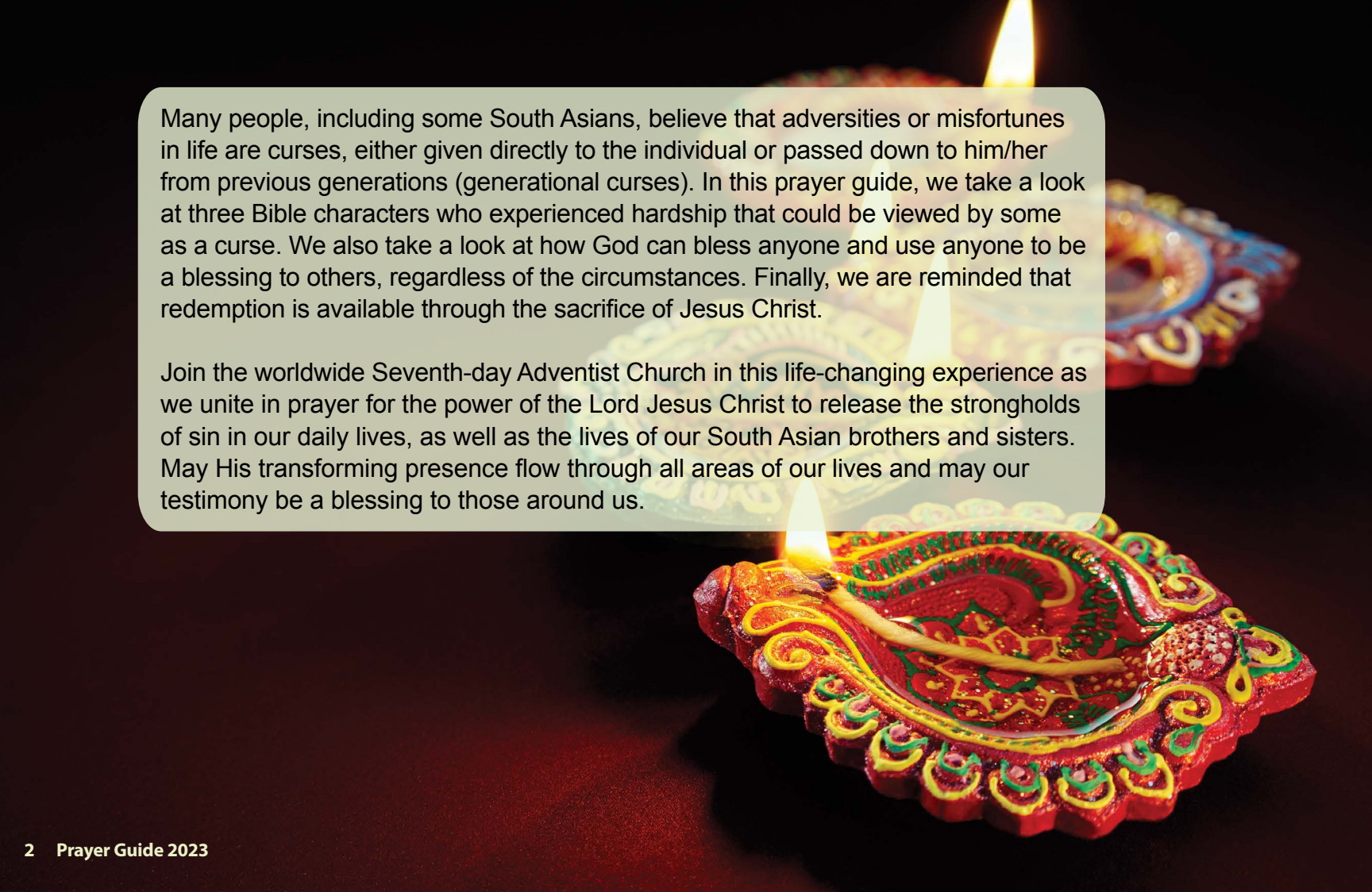


Five Days of Prayer

*for My Hindu and
Sikh Neighbors
During Diwali:
Festival of Light*

November 10–14, 2023





Many people, including some South Asians, believe that adversities or misfortunes in life are curses, either given directly to the individual or passed down to him/her from previous generations (generational curses). In this prayer guide, we take a look at three Bible characters who experienced hardship that could be viewed by some as a curse. We also take a look at how God can bless anyone and use anyone to be a blessing to others, regardless of the circumstances. Finally, we are reminded that redemption is available through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Join the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church in this life-changing experience as we unite in prayer for the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to release the strongholds of sin in our daily lives, as well as the lives of our South Asian brothers and sisters. May His transforming presence flow through all areas of our lives and may our testimony be a blessing to those around us.

1 Day The Woman with Hemorrhage

The background of the page features several lit diya lamps (oil lamps) with colorful, intricate patterns. The lamps are lit, casting a warm, golden glow. The diya in the foreground is particularly detailed, with red, yellow, and green patterns. The background is dark, making the lit lamps stand out.

Reading: Mark 5:24–34

“A large crowd followed and pressed around him [the Lord Jesus Christ]. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ...”

The woman’s strong faith in Jesus resulted in a miraculous healing in her life.

What to do:

- Think about any ongoing health difficulties that your South Asian family or friend may be dealing with. As you pray, keep this person or situation in your mind.
- Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ’s power to heal, rest in His calming presence, and let the peace that surpasses all understanding flow through your heart. Keep this faith and calmness with you throughout the day.

2 Day *The Story of Jonah*

Reading: Jonah 1:1–3; Jonah 2:1–10; and Jonah 3:1–5

Jonah 1:1–3

“The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh....’ But Jonah ran away from the LORD....”

Jonah 2:1–10

“From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: ‘In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ...’ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”

Jonah 3:1–5

“Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.’ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. ... The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.”

When we say yes to God, we begin a meaningful journey.

What to do:

- Consider the areas of your life where there may be tendencies toward ignoring God’s call to reach out to the South Asians around you, comparable to Jonah’s initial reaction to God’s command.
- Imagine God’s kindness encompassing your life, ending any cycles of disobedience, and establishing a new path of obedience and blessing. Allow God’s mercy to envelop you. Take the morals from Jonah’s story to heart and resolve to obey God’s voice and put your faith in His mercy.

3 Day The Prodigal Son

Reading: Luke 15:11–32

“Jesus continued: ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So, he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ... ‘When he came to his senses ... he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.’ ...”

A long-lost son is warmly welcomed home by his father with love and forgiveness, demonstrating how much God loves us.

What to do:

- Think about the life of your South Asian family or friend. Perhaps they have self-inflicted curses resulting from poor decisions, irresponsible behavior, or a disrespect for God’s blessings, similar to the younger son’s wayward lifestyle. Pray that they may seek God’s help to be free from these “curses.”
- Think about how the Father’s love and forgiveness will change your life and erase the effects of previous errors. Relax your mind in the comfort and certainty that come from God’s love and forgiveness. As you go about your day, let this knowledge direct your behavior.

4 Day *The Blessing for Abraham*

The background of the page features several lit Diya (oil lamps) with intricate carvings and colorful patterns. The lamps are arranged in a cluster, with some in the foreground and others in the background, creating a warm and spiritual atmosphere. The light from the lamps is soft and glowing, illuminating the scene.

Reading: Genesis 12:1–3

“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”

Regardless of any circumstances, God can call and empower anyone to bring blessings and have a positive impact in the world.

What to do:

- If you feel there are generational curses in the life of your South Asian neighbor, pray for an opportunity to build a bridge to them. Know that God has the power to turn curses into blessings.
- Allow the knowledge of God’s goodness to wash over you. Start your day with an attitude of expectation and faith in God’s transforming power.

5 Day The Cross of Christ

Reading: Romans 5:8–10 and 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

Romans 5:8–10

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...”

It was Christ’s selfless love that brought about our redemption.

What to do:

- Think about how the generational curse of sin affects everyone regardless of gender, caste, race, religion, or anything else. Think about how the Lord Jesus Christ’s sacrifice has the ability to end this curse. Pray for opportunities for you to share the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ’s sacrifice with your South Asian family and friends.
- Imagine the Lord Jesus Christ suffering on the cross for the punishment of our sins, and then imagine the tomb being empty, signifying His victory over sin and death. Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His sacrifice and accept His gift of salvation and redemption.

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UNITED *in*
PRAYER

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