

# 60 Minutes Praying for your Nation

*All you need is:*

- a national newspaper
- a pair of scissors
- glue or tape
- a window and/or a torch
- a picture of your national leader
- a map or drawing of your nation

## **What is your nation like?**

15 minutes

In every country there are things to thank God for and things to ask for His help with. Look through a recent Newspaper and cut out words that describe good and bad things about your nation. Stick them to a piece of paper and look at the image they create. Thank God for the good things you read. Ask for His help with the bad things you read.

## **Praying through the newspaper**

10 minutes

Now look through the articles in the Newspaper you've been using. Choose two things happening in or affecting your nation today. Stick the articles to a window and if there's daylight ask God to shine His wisdom on these situations. If it's night use a torch to illuminate the stories to represent God's truth and wisdom illuminating our world. Ask Jesus to move and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done.

## **Praying for your nation**

15 minutes

Think about the role that government plays in our lives today. Lay the map of your nation on the floor and stand on the place where your government meets. Pray that Jesus' Kingdom would be the foundation of law and leadership in your nation.

*"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live— **1 Timothy 2:1-3***

Look around you at the different parts of your country. Consider the different kinds of people that live in each region. Pray for the ones that jump out at you. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your nation and speak out His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Pick up the picture of your national leader. If there is a cross in your prayer room bring the image and lay it at its base. Pray that your leader will come to know Jesus better as His Lord and Saviour. Ask God to guide your leader in justice and wisdom

### **Pray for a friend and for an enemy**

10 minutes

Every nation has allies and enemies. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour (Matthew 22:38) and to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44); this can be difficult when war or oppression is at the root of dislike.

Choose a nation that is closely allied to your own, and then choose a nation that is historically or currently an adversary. Write their names in your prayer room and pray for God's kingdom and blessing to come in both. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray into their strengths and weaknesses.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

10 minutes

Before you leave pray The Lord's Prayer over your nation. Don't just pray if personally but think about representing your nation. Take some time on each line adding or adapting it to your nation and its needs. Finish by praising God.