



PRAYING **forward** ▶▶▶

PRAYING FORWARD GUIDE

Hello + Welcome

You are invited into a conversation and resource that we hope will inspire and equip you to faithful and faith-filled prayer for friends and family who don't know Jesus yet!

This guide accompanies a 3-part conversation between Mark Greenwood (Elim Evangelism) and Sarah Whittleston (Elim Prayer). We explore the big picture and bible inspiration, practical tools to help you pray and how to navigate some of the challenges along the way.

Whether you are new to praying for friends and family, have been praying for many years or excited to think about fresh ways to pray and share Jesus – we pray that you will feel more equipped to have a go and grow in grace.

Our hope is that we build a Praying Forward community who, together with others, are empowered by Holy Spirit to pray for those who don't yet know Jesus or once followed Jesus.

Let's Pray!

How does Praying Forward work?

Watch the video conversation between Mark + Sarah.
Find it at elim.org.uk/prayingforward, or scan the code.



Use this guide, on your own and with others, to reflect and pray.

Respond to the invitation of the Spirit, to pray and share.

Join with others, where you are, to pray together.

Download any resources to accompany this guide; including further resource suggestions at the end of each part.

Sign up to be a part of the Elim Praying Forward Community - we will be hosting online prayer a few times a year.

Use this resource to review how you are growing and going, as you are Praying Forward.

PART ONE

Bible + Big picture

Acts 26:28-29 (NIVUK)
Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?' Paul replied, 'Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.'

In the video, Mark and Sarah reference two places in the New Testament that are the inspiration behind Praying Forward. They talk about being committed to praying for others in a faithful and faith-filled way.

Reflect

From the conversation, what caught your attention or made you think?

In the video they explored, big yes, little yes, healthy maybe. What are your reflections on this? How can it help you?

Mark and Sarah talked about how some people feel more confident to start by talking to their friends about Jesus first, and then talking to Jesus about their friends and vice versa. Which one are you? How can you grow in awareness and confidence in this?

Explore

Read Acts 26 + John 4.

What do you notice about prayer? How is story used to share Jesus? How do you see prayer and action working together?

Think about Paul's response in Acts 26:28-29. Try reading this in a few different translations. How does this inspire you in Praying Forward?

Respond

How can you pray in response? What are you being invited by Spirit to do as you begin to apply this to your life? How can you participate in what God is doing?

Is there a Praying Forward online prayer event coming up that you can join in with?

Further Resources



Big Yes, Little Yes, Healthy Maybe

A video series by Right Now Media, helping local churches get better at understanding the journey by which a person comes to faith.



YouVersion

A 5 day devotional reading plan to help you journey with people who don't know Jesus.

PART TWO

How to pray for friends + family

We've thought about the why, now let's explore the how. In part two, Sarah and Mark talk about how to pray, consistently and with others, for friends and family to say a BIG YES to knowing Jesus.

Reflect

Sarah and Mark shared about how to get started, to identify, commit and connect. What struck you from the conversation?

What, if anything, feels like a hindrance to praying forward for you?

Think about and share any experiences you've had of praying for friends who don't know Jesus or for those who once followed Jesus to come back to faith.

Explore

Identify: Who in your life do you feel drawn to pray for? Who is Holy Spirit highlighting for you? Who do you know? Who can you start to know better?

Commit: Ask Holy Spirit to help you pray faithfully and faith-filled. When is the best time for you to pray? How can you explore a rhythm of prayer?

Connect: How can you connect with others to pray? Who can you pray with?

What suggestions, in the conversation, could be helpful for you? What is manageable for this season of life right now?

Respond

Use the downloadable prayer card to add the names of people you are praying for and the names of people you are praying with.

Put it somewhere or save it on your smart device to remind you to pray. Try using the prayer on the back of the card. How do you find it? How can you adapt it?

How can you encourage others in your church community to join in?

Further Resources



The Praying Forward Podcast Playlist

Around the Fire Podcast

With Sarah Whittleston + Jonny Harding.

Limitless Youth Ministry Podcast

With Tim Alford.

The Reach Podcast

With Mark Greenwood.

PART THREE

Praying for ourselves

We've thought about the why and been inspired by Paul's story and commitment in Acts 26. We've unpacked some of the how, now let's think about how we pray for ourselves and each other, for opportunities to share Jesus and share our story.

Reflect

Sarah and Mark talked about how prayer is relational and not transactional – although we are asking for outcomes, for transformation and change in people's lives, we do that from relationship with God.

What do you think about connecting with friends who don't yet know Jesus not as projects but people you care for and love? Facing fear when you share your story and prayerfully invite – What causes fear to pray or share? How can you pray with someone about it? How can you be aware God is with you and see the opportunities to share your story?

A good question to ask is - who's at the table? Your literal kitchen table and who are you connecting with regularly and growing in friendship.

Explore

Read Matthew 28: 16-20 + Colossians 4:2-6.

What do you notice about prayer and sharing?

What does the great commission mean to you?

How can you live it out?

How can you pray for yourself and others to see the opportunities?

Respond

There is real power in invitation; whether to a meal, a coffee and catchup, an event, an explore, Alpha or a church meeting.

How is Holy Spirit inviting you to connect with those who don't know Jesus yet?

How can you pray for wisdom and courage?

Further Resources



Boot Camp Lite

A course in personal evangelism. We cover sharing the gospel, telling your story, handling tricky questions and leading someone to Christ.



Praying Forward Resources

A Google drive of free digital resources for print & download including the Praying Forward Prayer Card.



elim.org.uk/prayingforward

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