



# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

## JUST FOR FAMILIES The Eight-Day Prayer Challenge

### BACKGROUND

From January 18 through January 25, Christians throughout the world will join in a very special week of prayer called the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's focus, "Justice and only justice you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:18-20), was chosen by the Christian churches in Indonesia. Indonesia, which has the largest Muslim population in the world, is only 10% Christian. It is estimated that only 12% of Indonesian Christians are Catholic.

### THE EIGHT-DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Cut apart the daily Scripture verse strips. Place them on your family prayer table or on your kitchen table. As a family, learn each day's Scripture verse, do the suggested activity, and pray for our Christian family throughout the world.

#### DAY 1 | Friday, January 18

*Let justice roll down like waters.  
Amos 5:24*

Review the Corporal Works of Mercy (go to [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org)). Talk about ways your family does the Works of Mercy, which are works of justice.

#### DAY 2 | Saturday, January 19

*Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No.'  
Matthew 5:37*

Ask God's forgiveness for times you have promised to say or do something, but did not keep your promise.

#### DAY 3 | Sunday, January 20

*The Lord is gracious and merciful to all.  
Psalm 145:8*

Talk about what it means to be gracious. Who are the most gracious people you know? Take time to pray for those who come to mind.

#### DAY 4 | Monday, January 21

*Be content with what you have.  
Hebrews 13:5*

Invite each family member to complete this sentence one or more times: "I am thankful that I have \_\_\_\_." Then pray for all in need.

#### DAY 5 | Tuesday, January 22

*[B]ring good news to the poor.  
Luke 4:18*

Choose a way that your family can bring good news to the poor in the week to come. Make a plan to act on your choice.

#### DAY 6 | Wednesday, January 23

*The Lord of hosts is his name.  
Jeremiah 10:16*

Invite family members to share their favorite names of God. Use those names in your closing prayer for the unity of the Church family.

#### DAY 7 | Thursday, January 24

*Woman, great is your faith!  
Matthew 15:28*

Ask family members, "On a scale of 1 to 5, how great is your faith in God? Why?" Pray for all people of faith throughout the world.

#### DAY 8 | Friday, January 25

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
Psalm 27:1*

Invite each family member to light a candle. Help younger children. Spend a few moments in quiet prayer to Christ our Light.

