



# What is Mine to Do?



## Week 1: Pray



### Why is this important?

For All We Can, prayer is what sustains our movement. We know that the work we do is not achieved in our own strength, but that we are joining in with where the Holy Spirit is at work in our partners and the communities they work with.

Prayer is also important for many of our partners. While we do not choose our partners based on religious beliefs, many of them have an active faith which motivates and informs their work. Many of them actively ask for prayer, seeing this as just as important as the other support they receive.

We also know that, while not a replacement for action, prayer is crucial for tackling injustice more widely.

When praying about situations of injustice, it can be easy to feel helpless – like prayer is a measly response to such big issues.

But even though we may not understand it, we know that prayer sometimes changes situations, and it often changes us.

Prayer is a way of letting God in. It removes friction that gets in the way of the Holy Spirit working most powerfully.



### Is this mine to do?

Of course, prayer should be part of healthy discipleship for all Christians, but some people have a particular calling and gift of praying fervently and frequently. At All We Can, we would love to have a small group of 'prayer warriors' really committed to praying for our work.

In this first week of Lent, take some time to discern if an enriched prayer life is one of the ways you can contribute to the All We Can movement and to the wider pursuit of God's justice.

To help you do that, reflect on these questions:



When you haven't prayed for a while, do you feel agitated or unfulfilled?



When you hear about a situation of injustice in your community or the world, are you naturally inclined to sit with the pain and let it affect you before springing into action?



Do you have an existing prayer habit (or have been keen for a while to develop one) that justice could become more prominent in?



## How do I do it?

The All We Can website contains two ways to help you pray for our work, and for the world.

Each week, a justice-focused prayer will be available which ties in with one of the lectionary readings for that week. This can be used in public worship or as a personal devotional.

Each month, we will highlight a different partner or community, and invite prayer for them. This will include a written prayer, and also prayer topics that have come from the partner themselves.

As you discern whether prayer should be a particular focus of yours, use these resources and consider if using them beyond this week might be a useful and sustainable practice for you.

We would also encourage you to take a look at the Creative Prayer Cards produced by the Methodist Church, and the Joint Public Issues Team's daily topical prayers which are available on their social media channels.



## Who does this help?

When you pray, you will be supporting incredible people like Jeremiah Burgess, and his organisation – SHIFSD.

Founded in a refugee camp in Ghana during the Second Liberian Civil War, SHIFSD (The Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development, pronounced 'shift') is a literacy and vocational training organisation, releasing the potential of people living in poverty through the power of education.

When he was a child, Jeremiah's mother had to beg around the community to send him to school. Knowing the opportunities this unlocked for him, he has always since asked 'what can I give back to society?'

In partnership with All We Can, SHIFSD is helping hundreds of people, many of whom missed out on education because of war, become literate and gain skills for the workplace.

A committed Christian, Jeremiah knows 'had it not been for faith, I would not have come this far.'

'I have a small prayer that I often say – Lord, teach me how long to hold on and when to let go.' This is the essence of what we are inviting you to do this Lent, so perhaps you could say this same prayer today.



Jeremiah Burgess,  
SHIFSD

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