

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords Prayer, February 2019

The woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She said to the people, "Come. See a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?"

John 4:28-29 NIRV

God always has something to say. Whether we listen and respond is another matter. God speaks through the Bible, by the Spirit, through other people, in the still small voice. We read, share our lives, pray, listen – and in turn can choose to respond to what God is saying.

When Jesus meets the woman at the well in John 4, he speaks to her. He speaks truth and offers her new life. She listens and responds – she tells everyone she sees that she has met the Messiah. She understands and this impacts her worldview.

This month we are praying for people who have connected with God's Word, often through a Lifewords resource. They are open to hearing from God, challenging their ways of thinking, and seeing their lives transformed. And we ourselves see new perspectives as we engage with the Bible, reading and re-reading, and finding new truths.

Welcome to the February edition of Lifewords Prayer. This month we have stories from Christmas, news about Easter, an update on *Consider the Wildflowers*, and a review of our Bible literature in 2018.

3–9 February

Christmas feedback

Last year, Kathryn from Somerset ordered 600 copies of OUTSIDE/IN. These were used in three churches over eight services. Kathryn told us: “The message was so simply communicated and had a thought-provoking narrative. It built so easily into the service, people still wanted to discuss it after the service.” Here’s what others said about their experience with OUTSIDE/IN:

- “As a single mum,” said Dani, “I’d never thought of Mary as someone who had a complicated situation to deal with and mixed emotions like us. That made me want to know more about the story.” Give thanks that the Bible speaks into our situations and that people like Dani were able to connect with the Bible through OUTSIDE/IN. Pray that those who received a booklet would explore the Bible further, and encounter God’s love and faithfulness in their situations.
- “It was refreshing to view the events of Christmas in a modern context,” says Chris. “I only really come to church at Christmas as a family tradition, but OUTSIDE/IN really did make a difference. The Christmas story was told in a way that I can relate to, and not just as something that happened once upon a time.” Give thanks for new perspectives on the Christmas story. Please pray for Chris and others like him, that they may be drawn back to churches and Christian communities to continue their journey of faith.
- “The booklet was really powerful,” says church member, David. “I realised I had never looked below the surface of the Christmas story before. OUTSIDE/IN gave me a lot to think about, so thank you.” Give thanks for the way OUTSIDE/IN engaged church members as well as visitors. Pray that they may extend God’s love and welcome within their communities.

You can share your Christmas stories, photos, or feedback with us by emailing uk@lifeworlds.global

10–16 February

Day Three: Believe the Women

This year, Lifeworlds has produced a new Easter resource – *Day Three: Believe the Women*. Using Bible verses and compelling illustrations, this booklet tells the story of the women who followed Jesus – and the day that changed everything. Lifeworlds’ Bible Engagement Co-ordinator, Marielle, shares how this new resource came about and our own ongoing engagement with the Bible:

- “During the concept stage, something stood out to us as we read the Easter story again. Even though the women had played an integral part of Jesus’s life and journey, and were first to see the miracle of the resurrection, they weren’t believed. How that narrative played out has real resonance for today’s culture.” Give thanks that as we read the Bible, God is always speaking, often revealing truths and ideas that we hadn’t noticed before. Ask God to help us discover more each time we read, watch, or listen to God’s Word.
- “This is so key and relevant today,” says Marielle. “In our world, very often women aren’t given the same chances as men: they’re not always recognised for leading change.” Please pray for countries all around the world, that the hearts and minds of many would be open to accepting, supporting, and championing all people.

- *Day Three: Believe the Women* uses a contemporary black and white design with thought-provoking illustrations. Inspired by iconic images of women making a real difference, the booklet invites us to challenge the way in which we relate with Bible and culture. Give thanks for this new Easter resource as it provides people with a new way into the Bible. Pray that this may bring about change, and a fresh understanding of God's love for everyone.

To place an order or request a sample copy of *Day Three: Believe the Women*, please visit www.lifewords.global/easter

17–23 February

Consider the Wildflowers

Breakforce Ireland is a Christian NGO that specialises in creating safe, intimate spaces for women who have been abused or exploited. They do this through hosting events and offering one-to-one support. Wonu from Kent is involved in organising these events, and works closely with some of the women.

- “At Breakforce, we provide an essential space for women,” says Wonu. “We take time to build trust with them, and provide opportunities for open, non-judgmental conversation. Being a Christian organisation we help empower the women using Bible stories. There’s a lot of interactive discussion exploring God’s love and hope in our lives. We also direct the women to a range of professional services they can access for help in certain areas of their lives.” Give thanks for the committed work of Breakforce. Ask that they continue to walk in God’s peace, rest, wisdom, and kindness.
- In December, Wonu ordered 50 copies of *Consider the Wildflowers*. “These booklets are wonderful,” says Wonu. “I was thrilled to come across *Consider the Wildflowers*. Having experienced abuse myself, it spoke so much to me.” Please pray for women who’ll receive a copy of *Consider the Wildflowers*, that they may be open to God’s love. Pray too that churches might find the booklet helpful when engaging in sensitive conversation with women in sexual exploitation.
- Wonu is also a child psychiatrist. After years of working with children and families, Wonu explains the impact that abuse and exploitation of women can have on a child’s mental health. “The majority of children I examine, evaluate, and counsel are greatly affected by issues stemming from familial breakdown,” says Wonu. “In many cases, the mother is being abused. This is then projected onto the child.” Please pray for children and women who are affected by experiences of abuse and/or exploitation. Pray too for Wonu as she continues to work with vulnerable people.

Please visit www.lifewords.global/wildflowers if you would like to order copies of *Consider the Wildflowers*. Please note that these are for specialist work with women and are also available in multiple languages.

24 February – 2 March

Good news for everyone

Towards the end of last year, we invited you to join our latest campaign, helping more people experience the Bible’s life words. So far, we’ve raised over £12,000! Thank you for your support, prayer, and gifts. With this we can continue to print and share Bible resources around the world. Here are a few 2018 highlights:

- Last year, more than 150,000 copies of the *WW1 Active Service St John's Gospel* were ordered from Lifeworlds. These were given away at events and services commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Give thanks for the generosity of trusts, individuals, churches, and groups who made it possible to share almost one million Gospels since the replica was first produced in 2014.
- Through new UK and global partnerships, more people have been able to encounter the life-giving words of the Bible. Together with different organisations, Lifeworlds has resourced teachers, counsellors, chaplains, pastors, youth leaders, and more with Bible resources in English and 46 other languages. Give thanks for fresh opportunities allowing us to reach wider audiences with good news. As we continue to collaborate on future projects, pray for positive relationships and outcomes with new and existing partners.
- In 2018, Lifeworlds shared over one million resources – half in the UK, and half in 65 countries around the world. Please pray for people who have received a way in to connect with God and experience the Bible as good news for their lives. Pray too that Lifeworlds will receive enough financial support to continue producing Bible booklets, media content, and innovative projects.

If you haven't yet made a gift, but would like to support Lifeworlds in helping more people access and experience the Bible's transformative words, please visit www.lifeworlds.global/give

Thank you for praying with us! Your partnership in prayer is vital to all that we do as we share the Bible's life words around the world. You can also make a donation to our work online at www.lifeworlds.global, by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.