



Prayers for Lasting Peace in the Middle East

Updated Prayer Guide — 29 April 2026

What Is Happening Now — Day 60: A Stalled Peace

The war that began on 28 February 2026 with joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran has now entered its third month. The two-week ceasefire brokered by Pakistan on 8 April was a genuine answer to prayer — but it has since been extended twice under enormous pressure, repeatedly violated, and now hangs by a thread. We are in Day 60, and a return to full-scale war remains a very real possibility.

The Islamabad peace talks between the US and Iran (11–12 April) ended without agreement. JD Vance left saying Iran had refused to accept America’s terms after 21 hours of negotiations. A second round was cancelled on 25 April after Trump said he would not resume talks unless Iran engaged. Iran has proposed ending hostilities and reopening the Strait of Hormuz if the US lifts its naval blockade — but without any nuclear commitment — an offer the US appears likely to reject.

A “dual blockade” now grips the Persian Gulf. The US Navy is blockading Iranian ports, while Iran keeps the Strait of Hormuz closed to most commercial shipping. Three US aircraft carriers are now stationed in the Middle East — the largest naval presence in the region since 2003. On 22 April, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard seized two container ships in a direct escalation.

In Lebanon, a separate US-brokered ceasefire was agreed on 16 April and extended for three weeks on 22–23 April. But it is already fraying: Israel has continued airstrikes across southern Lebanon, and Hezbollah has fired on Israeli troops. Both Hamas and Hezbollah have rejected disarmament proposals. The path to a comprehensive peace covering all fronts remains painfully unclear.

The nuclear question is the hardest of all. Iran has shown no willingness to surrender its nuclear programme. The US insists it is a red line. Iran’s new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, has shown no more flexibility than his father.

Meanwhile the people of Iran continue to long for freedom. The underground church is growing in the darkness. Their courage deserves our prayers.

As followers of Jesus, we believe prayer matters. Children and families around the world can pray for peace, protection, wisdom, and hope during this desperate time.



2 BILLION CHILDREN

How to Use These Prayer Points

Below are nine things we can pray for, updated to reflect today's urgent situation. Each topic includes two prayer points with Bible verses to guide our prayers.

Children, families, schools, Zoom calls, and churches can use these prayers in different ways. You might pray one topic each day, pray them all together in a prayer meeting, or invite children to take turns reading aloud. After each section, everyone can say the declaration together as a prayer of faith.

1. Pray for the Ceasefire to Hold

The ceasefire between the US, Israel, and Iran is still in place — but it has been violated by both sides and is in serious danger of collapsing. Trump cancelled the latest round of talks on 25 April. Iran's Revolutionary Guard seized ships at sea. Three US aircraft carriers are waiting in the region. This is the most dangerous moment since the ceasefire began.

Pray: that the ceasefire will survive the breakdown in talks — that God will intervene to stop a return to full-scale war, that both sides will step back from the brink, and that space for renewed diplomacy will open.

“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. — Psalm 34:14”

Pray: that the countries mediating peace — Pakistan, China, and Gulf states — will be given fresh wisdom and courage to bring both sides back to the table before the ceasefire expires.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. — Matthew 5:9”

Declaration

Jesus, Prince of Peace, hold back the missiles. Let Your peace break through every barrier before it is too late.

2. Pray for Children and Families Living in Fear

More than 340 children have been killed across the region since the war began, and over 2,000 children have been injured. In Iran, 3.2 million people have been driven from their homes — 60 per cent of them women and children. In Lebanon, over one million people are displaced. Families are sheltering in basements and makeshift camps. Iran's internet has been blacked out by 99 per cent, cutting families off from the world.

Pray: that God will place His hand of protection over every child and family caught in the crossfire — in Iran, Israel, Lebanon, and across the Gulf.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. — Psalm 46:1”

Pray: that families separated by the chaos will be reunited, that frightened children will know God's peace, and that the internet blackout in Iran will end so that people can communicate safely and



receive help.

“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. – Psalm 91:4”

Declaration

Lord, place Your protection over every child living in fear tonight. Let them know they are seen and loved by You.

3. Pray for Leaders to Choose Peace Over War

The talks between the US and Iran have stalled. Deep distrust, competing demands over nuclear weapons, and the unresolved Lebanon conflict have so far prevented any deal. Both sides continue to take aggressive actions even while negotiating. The leaders who carry the decisions of war and peace in their hands need something beyond political calculation — they need wisdom from God.

Pray: that leaders on all sides will choose genuine diplomacy — that Iran’s leadership will engage honestly on the nuclear question, and that US leaders will find a pathway that gives Iran security as well as demanding it.

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. – Proverbs 2:6”

Pray: that national pride, fear, and anger will not lead to catastrophic decisions — and that Pakistan’s Prime Minister and other mediators will be given fresh creative breakthroughs to restart the talks.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. – James 1:19”

Declaration

God, guide the leaders of every nation involved in this war. Give them the courage to choose peace.

4. Pray for the Wounded and Those Who Are Grieving

At least 2,362 civilians have been confirmed killed in Iran, with the true number almost certainly much higher. Thousands more have been killed in Lebanon and across the region. Over 300 health facilities in Iran have been damaged or destroyed, including hospitals and emergency centres. Doctors, nurses, and Red Crescent workers have been among the victims. Families are grieving loved ones lost without warning.

Pray: for doctors, nurses, paramedics, and aid workers in conflict zones — that they will be protected and strengthened as they care for the injured under impossible conditions.

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. – Isaiah 41:10”

Pray: that God will bring supernatural comfort to families who have lost children, parents, and loved ones in the strikes — and that the grief of this war will not be forgotten by the world.

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. – Psalm 147:3”



Declaration

Jesus, bring healing to the broken and comfort to the grieving. Be close to every hurting family today.

5. Pray for the Millions Who Have Been Displaced

In Iran alone, 3.2 million people have been internally displaced — the majority women and children. In Lebanon, over one million people are on the move, some facing displacement for the second or even third time. Across the region, the conflict has worsened an already desperate situation for 24.6 million existing refugees and displaced people. Many aid agencies are stretched beyond capacity while humanitarian budgets have been cut.

Pray: for safe shelter, food, clean water, and medical care to reach those who have lost everything — especially in Iran, where international aid access remains severely limited and the internet blackout prevents people from calling for help.

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. – Psalm 82:3”

Pray: that humanitarian organisations will be given full access to bring aid where it is needed most, and that the world will not look away from the suffering of millions as the conflict drags on.

“Whoever is kind to the needy honours God. – Proverbs 14:31”

Declaration

Lord, provide shelter, food, and safety for every displaced family. Let aid reach those who are suffering and forgotten.

6. Pray for the Strait of Hormuz and the World’s Poor

A “dual blockade” now grips the Persian Gulf: the US Navy is blockading Iranian ports while Iran keeps the Strait of Hormuz effectively closed. The Strait normally carries around 20 per cent of the world’s oil. Food prices in Gaza have risen 85 per cent since the war began. Sudan, which imports over half its fertiliser through Gulf ports, is facing catastrophic food shortages. Millions of the world’s poorest people are paying the price of this conflict in hunger and hardship.

Pray: that both the US naval blockade and Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz will end — and that shipping and trade will be restored, bringing urgent relief to the world’s poorest families who are bearing the heaviest burden of this war.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. – Psalm 24:1”

Pray: for the many migrant workers, seafarers, and Afghan refugees caught in the conflict zone — exposed to danger, cut off from income, and with no safe way home.

“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. – Psalm 146:7”



2 BILLION CHILDREN

Declaration

Lord, open the sea lanes and bring relief to the poor. Protect those who work on the seas and far from home.

7. Pray for the Peace Talks to Restart

The Islamabad talks between the US and Iran broke down on 12 April without agreement. JD Vance said Iran refused to accept US terms; Iran said trust had not been established. A planned second round was cancelled by Trump on 25 April. Iran has now proposed ending hostilities without resolving the nuclear question — but this appears unacceptable to Washington. The talks that were a gift three weeks ago now feel impossibly far away. They must be restarted.

Pray: that the peace process will be restarted before the ceasefire collapses — that both sides will find a way back to the table, that the nuclear question will be resolved with creative wisdom rather than ultimatums, and that a just and permanent peace will emerge.

“Seek peace and pursue it. – Psalm 34:14”

Pray: that Lebanon will not be left behind in the peace process — and that Pakistan, China, and Gulf states will be given authority and creativity to bring all the warring parties, including Israel and Hezbollah, toward lasting agreement.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. – Matthew 5:9”

Declaration

God, let the peace talks be restarted and bear real fruit. Give mediators wisdom, give leaders courage, and open the way for a deal that brings lasting peace.

8. Pray for the People and Church of Iran

In January 2026, five million Iranians rose up demanding an end to the Islamic Republic. Thousands were massacred. Even now, under a brutal regime that has used the war to intensify repression — with executions on a scale unseen since the 1980s and tens of thousands imprisoned — the Iranian people continue to resist and to long for freedom. And through the darkness, the underground church is growing. Many Iranians are coming to faith through dreams, satellite broadcasts, and the quiet witness of believers. Pray for them with hope.

Pray: that many Iranians will encounter Jesus through dreams, Scripture, ‘The Light of the World’ movie, and the witness of bold believers — and that the underground church will keep growing in this darkness.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. – John 8:12”

Pray: that God will fulfil the longing of the Iranian people for freedom and democracy — and that a new Iran will emerge from this suffering: free, at peace, and open to the Gospel.



*“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
– Habakkuk 2:14”*

Declaration

Jesus, let Your Kingdom advance across Iran. Shine Your light into the darkest places, and let many find hope in You.

9. Pray for Freedom, Justice, and Lebanon’s Future

Christians and minorities in Iran face relentless persecution. Human Rights Watch has reported that Iranian authorities have carried out executions on a scale unseen in decades, using the war as cover to silence dissent. In Lebanon, over one million people are displaced and the country stands at a tipping point. Israel has announced plans for a long-term ‘buffer zone’ in southern Lebanon that would bar hundreds of thousands from their homes. Lebanon’s government is struggling to rein in Hezbollah. Both nations need prayer for a better future.

Pray: that Christians facing persecution in Iran and across the region will be protected and strengthened — and that their faith will shine brightly even in danger.

“The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. – Psalm 9:9”

Pray: for Lebanon — that its government will have the courage to chart a new course of peace, that the Lebanese people will not be crushed between competing powers, and that displaced families will one day return safely to their homes.

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. – Isaiah 1:17”

Declaration

Lord, bring freedom, justice, and a future of hope to Iran, Lebanon, and every nation affected by this war.

Global Children’s Prayer Declaration

Lord Jesus, we lift the Middle East to You.

We pray for Iran, Israel, Lebanon, and every nation touched by this war.

We ask You to stop the fighting — today, Lord — and bring Your peace.

Hold the ceasefire. Restart the peace talks.

Protect children and families living in fear.

Comfort those who are hurting and grieving.

Provide help for the millions of people who have lost their homes.

Give wisdom to leaders so they choose peace instead of more destruction.

Open the sea lanes and bring relief to the world’s poor.

Let Your light shine across Iran, Lebanon, and the whole region.

May many people discover the love and truth of Jesus.



2 BILLION CHILDREN

Bring freedom to those who are oppressed.
Protect believers who follow You and strengthen their faith.

**We declare that Jesus is the Prince of Peace,
and His Kingdom brings hope, justice, and new life.**

**Lord Jesus, let Your peace and Your glory
fill the Middle East.**

Amen.

For further prayer resources, visit: www.2bc.world/shine