

# PRAY LIKE A **NORTH KOREAN**

*Experience life in North Korea: Imagine, Pray, Act*



SMALL GROUP INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE **ISSUE TWO**



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

*"To crush underfoot all prisoners in the land, to deny people their rights before the Most High, to deprive them of justice – would not the Lord see such things?" – Lamentations 3:34-36*



## IMAGINE A LAND...

Where people go into the mountains and pray all night. A prayer-drenched land – filled with prayer warriors who view it as the day's most important task and who carry out their task in the utmost secrecy. A land where those who are persecuted pray for their persecutors, yearn to conquer evil with good, and believe that their leaders could become Christians.

**This is prayer in North Korea.**

(For more info on this series see p. 4)



## PREPARE THINK TALK



You will need:

- Prayer slides for North Korea (download it at [www.opendoors.org.za/northkorea](http://www.opendoors.org.za/northkorea)).
- Images from North Korea to help people to pray.

**Read: Luke 18:1–8**

“Will not God grant justice to His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night?”

- What do we learn about prayer from this parable in Luke?
- Are there things in our lives or in our societies which we think are simply too big for prayer to change?
- Have you seen prayer change something which you thought could never have been changed? How did prayer change it?
- How should we change the way we are praying in the light of this parable?
- Read the insert on being a prayer warrior in North Korea (see opposite box). How can we become prayer warriors for one another and for countries like North Korea?

## IMAGINE

North Korea is a land of fences and barriers and walls. Sometimes they seem so high. Look at the picture of the barbed wire fences (pictured left). Can God break down those fences? Prayerfully imagine those fences falling. God can break down the barriers!





## PRAY

Stick pictures around the room of North Korea and its people. Use these to inspire quiet prayer as people move around and engage with the images.

Pray for the leaders. North Korean Christians pray that their leader will change and reform North Korea, that he will be an instrument in God's hands. "God, save Kim Jong-Un." Can their daily prayer become ours as well? Do we have faith for this seemingly impossible task?

Is anything too big for God? Quietly in your hearts revisit any of the things mentioned as being 'too big' for God to change. Pray with confidence for God to move!

## ACT

**As individuals:** Choose which of the weekly actions you will do (see top of p. 4).

**As a group:** It's not only North Korea's leaders who need Jesus! As a group perhaps you can commit to pray for the leaders of the world. If there are different nationalities within the group, then pray for the leaders of those respective countries.

**With Open Doors:** Sign up for the monthly *Frontline Faith* newsletter from Open Doors. These cover not only North Korea, but many other countries where Christians are persecuted. You can sign up for the newsletter at [www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za)



## INSIGHT INTO NORTH KOREA

### Prayer Warrior

*"We must pray as warriors. I must do so. In the past, I often went to the mountains and prayed all night. As I got older, this happened less often. But I'm going to do it again, because the Church needs people who pray like that. God uses this prayer to open doors... While I was praying in a concentrated way, a sentence came to my mind: 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.' I did not know this text. When I spoke to a friend about it, he told me that it is in the Bible in Philippians 4:13. There was much sin in my life. I had to pray long and often in order to break down the barriers between God and me. This, too, is praying as a warrior." – North Korean church leader*

# ACTION

Which of these will you do?

- **Fast and pray.**

North Korean Christians fast and pray daily for their country and for each other. What can you fast from this month? Food? Television? Social media? Use the time saved to pray. Maybe your group could organise a prayer meeting or vigil for North Korea.

- **Send messages to North Korean believers.**

You can send a message of encouragement to North Korean believers that will reach them via night-time radio. For guidelines visit [www.opendoors.org.za/write](http://www.opendoors.org.za/write).



The lives of North Koreans are constantly scrutinised. Every Saturday, citizens attend their local Kim Il-Sung research centre where they study the teachings of the great leaders and take part in 'criticism' sessions to address the ways they have failed the state. Every citizen is also part of the 'inminban' – a kind of neighbourhood watch system. No North Korean person exists outside the inminban system; everyone is a member. The leaders of these inminban groups write reports on their neighbours: Have their members had visitors? Been away from home for any reason? Are the portraits of the leaders kept clean?

For Christians – who believe that there is a higher authority than the nation's leaders – life is perilous. *"I was afraid, every day, for my life,"* said one. This is one reason why Christian parents don't often tell their children about their faith. Children might let something slip, sing a song, say a prayer, which could result in their entire family disappearing, them being executed or more likely sent to labour camps.

Even for those who aren't locked up, life is incredibly hard. The economy is in a state of collapse. And it's estimated that famine has killed between two and three million people in

North Korea since the early 1990s.

While living under such conditions, North Korean Christians and citizens alike need much prayer...

In this resource you will find readings and prayers to help you pray with the underground Church in North Korea. The stories you will read show the hardship, pain and suffering of North Korean believers, but also their joy, courage and faith – because, amazingly, despite the secrecy and pressure and fear, the Church is growing!

But what makes this resource different is that it also challenges **you** to live like a North Korean.

Along with Bible readings and prayers, there are actions that will help you experience a little of what North Korean Christians endure every day. You might end up living without electricity (or food). You might bury your Bible or learn long political thoughts of the 'Dear Leader'. These actions can't replicate the reality, but they can, with prayerful reflection, provide a window into the world of North Korean Christians.



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