

#Pray4Bresha Worship Guide

JOIN FAITH COMMUNITIES across the country in standing up for Bresha Meadows, a young girl who was arrested for allegedly killing her abusive father. Take a moment to pray for Bresha during your worship service, preach about her plight, and powerfully educate and engage your community to speak out about domestic violence and child abuse. Check out the suggested prayers, readings, and resources below. Modify them to fit the needs of your community. But most of all, put your faith into action to support Bresha and other survivors of violence and abuse.



SCRIPTURE

“Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.”
(Leviticus 18:21, NIV)

“God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. God counts the stars by number, giving each one a name.”
(Psalm 147:3-4, CEB)

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, fail to pity the child of her womb? Even these may forget, but I won’t forget you.” (Isaiah 49:15, CEB)

Jesus said: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.” (Mark 9:42, NRSV)

“The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: ‘Don’t push these children away. Don’t ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom. Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you’ll never get in.’ Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.”
(Mark 10:13-16, MSG)

PRAYERS

Abused and abandoned God, when did we see You and turn away? When did we hear You and turn the volume up on some other distraction? When did we listen to You, but doubted Your word? When did we hear Your story second-hand and assumed “it was all your fault”? Whenever we did these things to even one of Your children, we did them to You. Teach us to shout aloud Your word of justice that we might disrupt the violence of injustice.

— Rose Marie Berger,
Sojourners’ Senior Associate Editor

Creator God, we acknowledge that we need you. We ask that you provide a community of people who help protect and act for the emotional and physical wellbeing of those who are abused. Just as Christ did not work alone to proclaim your good news, we ask that your people will work together to end the senseless violence. Create in us a spirit of cooperation that we may support and serve one another in this work.

— George Lee, Sojourners’ former
Manager of Planned Giving

Steadfast One, you know the struggle to end violence against women and girls is difficult. May your Holy Spirit embolden us when we are tired, when we are weak, when we are scared, when we’ve fought too long and too hard, and when we’re ready to retire the fight completely. God, we need the wisdom of the old and the passion of the young. Walk with us now and always.

— Ryan Stewart, Sojourners’ former
Audience Engagement Associate

#Pray4Bresha Worship Guide (cont.)

LITANY

ONE: Tender God who gives us breath and gathers us under your wing, we come together on behalf of your bruised and battered people.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Save, heal, and protect those whose innocence have been stolen.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Be with those who sleep in fear or are too afraid to go home.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Comfort those whose love and trust have been broken in unspeakable ways.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Forgive us for failing your children, for turning away from the oppressed.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Give us the courage and conviction to rise up against injustice and make a difference in at least one life.

ALL: We pray for Bresha.

ONE: Make us a people who walk in wisdom and power to end the violence in our homes and communities.

ALL: We pray for Bresha. We say her name. And we commit to never forget her and all who suffer in silence. May their tears and fears be no more.

SELECT RESOURCES

Make Violence Against Women History ([Prayer Calendar](#))

One in Three: Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence in our Communities ([Sermon Guide](#))

Out of the Shadows: Supporting Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence ([Webinar](#))

Sacred Spaces: 5 Steps for Faith Communities to Prevent and Respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence ([Resource Toolkit](#))

Troubling Texts: Domestic Violence in the Bible ([Online Series](#))

KEY HOTLINES & ORGANIZATIONS

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: confidentially connects victims and caregivers to counselors, resources, and information about child abuse and neglect. 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

Faith Trust Institute: a multifaith, multicultural training and educational organization that works to end sexual and domestic violence in the U.S. and around the world

#FreeBresha Campaign: features updates about Bresha Meadows' case and opportunities to stand in solidarity with her

National Domestic Violence Hotline: provides free and confidential lifesaving tools and 24/7 immediate support to enable victims to find safety and live free of abuse. 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

We Will Speak Out.US: a powerful movement of diverse faith groups from across the U.S. who collaborate together for action and advocacy to end the silence around sexual and gender-based violence