



# 10/07

## P R A Y E R V I G I L G U I D E

CUFI HIGH SCHOOL - 10/7 REMEMBRANCE WEEK

A prayer vigil can be held anywhere that students can gather. It can be an informal gathering, perhaps at a location outdoors. It can be scheduled during a regular CUFI Club meeting time. It can be formal, taking place during a chapel service or school-wide assembly. It can be of any size.

After selecting a time and location, invite your peers to join you in remembering October 7th and praying for Israel and the Jewish people.

In this Vigil Guide, you will find a suggested order for the vigil and templates of remarks to give for each section. Select up to 8 people to be responsible for at least one section of the vigil. People may be responsible for multiple sections. Flameless candles will also be provided. Hand them out to up to 10 attendees.

### **Order of Vigil/List of Speeches:**

1. Opening Speech Explaining Why We Care about Israel and October 7th
2. Speech Remembering the Nova Festival
3. Speech Remembering the Children
4. Prayer for the Hostages
5. Prayer for the IDF
6. Prayer for Israel
7. Prayer that America and the Next Generation of Christians Would Bless Israel
8. Explanation of Hatikvah National Anthem
9. Dismissal

### **Resources Provided:**

10 Flameless candles  
Vigil Guide and Plan  
Hatikvah Lyrics

### **Written Instructions:**

Use the following prayer vigil guide to pray together as a group. After praying, learn about the National Anthem of Israel, Hatikvah, together and recite the lyrics.

## **Opening Speech Explaining Why We Care about Israel and October 7th:**

As Christians, we care about Israel because God cares about Israel. As it says in Psalm 121:1, "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." God is always aware and watches over His people, the Jewish people, and the land of Israel. The promises of God to Israel are irrevocable, as mentioned in Romans 11:29. The Bible is clear in Genesis 12:3 that God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. We want to stand with and bless Israel since it is important to God, and we want to please Him.

We care about what happened on October 7th, 2023 because it marked the largest single day loss of Jewish lives since the Holocaust. Hamas butchered, raped, burned, and beheaded men, women, and children. 1,269 Israeli civilians were brutally murdered, thousands were wounded, and 251 were kidnapped. 116 are still in captivity in Gaza as hostages. Hamas militants invaded Israel's southern border, attacking Jewish communities and partygoers at the Supernova Music Festival and targeting civilians.

As Christians, we must speak up against the atrocities that occurred on October 7th, 2023, and ensure that we make "Never Again" a reality in our generation.

## **Speech Remembering the Nova Festival:**

The Supernova Music Festival in Israel was held to celebrate music and unity, but it turned into the deadliest concert attack in world history.

On October 7th, between 3,000 and 4,000 concert attendees gathered in the Negev Desert in Israel about three miles from the Gaza border at the end of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. It was here that Hamas chose to launch an attack on innocent civilians, claiming many of their lives. Today we remember them.

## **Speech Remembering the Children:**

On October 7th, 2023, children were killed, injured, orphaned, and kidnapped by Hamas and taken into Gaza as hostages.

When Hamas attacked Israeli villages, known as Kibbutzim, they broke into homes and injured and killed family members, including children, parents, and grandparents. Some of them were kidnapped and taken hostage, including a baby named Kfir Bibas.

The children of parents killed on October 7th in both the Israeli communities and at the Supernova Music Festival are now orphans and are facing life without their parents. These children have suffered psychologically and many have severe post-traumatic stress disorder, leaving them broken from the trauma they experienced at the hands of Hamas.

### **Prayer for the Hostages:**

Lord, we thank you for bringing freedom to the hostages that have been released and rescued. We pray that you would release the remaining captives. We thank you for reuniting family members and friends who have been separated. We pray that you keep the remaining hostages safe and healthy in captivity and that you help them not lose hope of reuniting with their families and communities. We pray for the Israeli intelligence and military officials who are trying to rescue the hostages from captivity. We pray that their efforts are successful and that the hostages are released quickly. We bless the hostages in Jesus' name, amen.

### **Prayer for the IDF:**

Lord, we thank you for giving wisdom to the Israeli Defense Forces, or the IDF, and the Israeli intelligence service to guide them in all their decisions. We pray your discernment and guidance would surround the IDF and help them to protect Israel from evil-doers who seek to annihilate the Jewish people. We pray that each member of the IDF is given the strength to carry out their duties with excellence in this critical time in history. We pray each member of the IDF would feel loved and comforted as they are away from their family members and defending their country's right to exist. We bless the IDF in Jesus' name, amen.

### **Prayer for Israel:**

Today, we cry out to You, Lord God of Israel, for Your peace, Your protection, and Your intervention on behalf of the nation of Israel, which You established through your sovereign will, and Your chosen people, the Jews, to whom You gave the land of Israel through an everlasting covenant.

Lord God, we pray that You would stretch forth Your mighty hand of grace and protection over the people of Israel in this time of distress and war. These are Your people and the apple of Your eye. Our hearts are broken and filled with a great burden for Israel. Your chosen people, the Jewish people, are fiercely hated and there is an increasing effort from the nations of the world to drive them into the sea so that the name of Israel would be no more.

Lord, we pray that you would rise up against Israel's enemies and confuse their plans. We ask you to guard and protect the nation and people of Israel. We bless Israel and the Jewish people, in Jesus' name, amen.

### **Prayer that America and the Next Generation of Christians Would Bless Israel:**

Lord, we pray that America and the next generation of Christians would choose to bless Israel. Lord, we know that You said of Israel, and the Jewish people, "I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse You." We pray that our leaders do not abandon Israel and bring a curse on our nation. Lord, we pray that by Your sovereign hand, You would intervene. Touch the hearts of our leaders and touch the hearts of the American people, so that our nation will continue to stand firm with Israel in her time of distress and in so doing, continue to bring a blessing on our people.

Toward that end, we come against the evil spirits that are driving the alarming rise of antisemitism in our land, especially among young people. We pray that the next generation of Christians will rise up and choose to bless Israel and stand with the Jewish people as You have called them to do. We bless the United States of America and the next generation of Christians who will bless Israel, in Jesus' name, amen.

### **Explanation of Hatikvah National Anthem:**

The national anthem of Israel, Hatikvah, comes from a poem written by the Hebrew poet Naftali Hertz Imber. "Hatikvah" means "The Hope" and it encapsulates the longing of a dispersed people to reinhabit their God-given land after two thousand years of exile.

For two thousand years at the Passover Seder, the Jewish people exclaimed "Next year in Jerusalem," showing their faith in restoration to their ancestral homeland through a return to the Holy City of Jerusalem. The Jewish soul's hope to be a free people in their land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem, became a reality on May 14th, 1948.

Hatikvah was officially made the national anthem of Israel in 2004. Together, let's recite Hatikvah in English.

**Action:** Hand out with lyrics of Hatikvah in English & Hebrew. If you can play a recording of Hatikvah, listen to the Israeli national anthem before dismissal.

### **Dismissal**