

OCTOBER 7, 2023

REMEMBRANCE

VIGIL GUIDE

CHRISTIANS
UNITED FOR ISRAEL ON CAMPUS

To commemorate October 7, use this vigil guide to plan a vigil and memorial. Secure a location for your vigil and select a date and time. Assign a speech to the leaders of the pro-Israel community. Ask each speaker to invite their network to attend.

At the vigil, hand out prayer point pages to attendees.

VIGIL PLAN

- Opening Speech Explaining Why We Care about Israel and October 7th
- Remembering the Nova Festival
- Remembering Hersh Goldberg-Polin
- Remembering Eden Yerushalmi
- Remembering the Children
- Remembering the Bibas Family
- Reading of the Names
- Prayer for the released hostages and their families
- Prayer for the IDF
- Prayer for Israel
- Prayer that America and the Next Generation of Christians Would Bless Israel
- Explanation of Hatikvah National Anthem
- Listen to Hatikvah

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use the following prayer vigil guide to pray together as a group. Assign each speech to a student. Service length is approximately 30 minutes.

PRAYER VIGIL SAMPLE SPEECHES AND PRAYERS

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 121:4, "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. God's gifts and call for Israel can never be withdrawn. 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 loss of Jewish lives since the Holocaust. Hamas butchered, raped, burned, and beheaded men, women, and children. Approximately 1,200 people were killed, thousands were wounded, and 251 were kidnapped to Gaza. 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.

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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. 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. The attack at the Supernova Music Festival became the worst Israeli civilian massacre ever, with some attendees being murdered on the spot, some running for their lives for miles, and some being kidnapped and taken into Gaza as hostages. When innocent people were trying to enjoy music and friendship at the festival, Hamas had a different plan and chose to launch an attack that took many of their lives.

Speech Remembering Hersh Goldberg-Polin:

Today, we remember the life of Hersh Goldberg-Polin and celebrate how he lived.

Hersh was deeply curious about the world. As a child, he fell in love with geography and different places around the world. His mother says he would memorize countries, capitals, and landscapes. Hersh was fascinated by people from other places beyond his community. His curiosity grew as he became older. He dreamt of traveling the world, meeting new people, and learning different cultures. Hersh was passionate about treating others with care and getting to know them genuinely.

On October 7, 2023, Hersh was taken hostage when Hamas attacked southern Israel. For months, his family advocated tirelessly to bring him home. Tragically, after being held in captivity in the Gaza Strip, Hersh was murdered with other hostages. His death was a loss for his family and all who share the values he carried.

Hersh stood for curiosity, exploration, and kindness. He believed life was meant to be explored and celebrated.

His life was tragically cut short and we remember and honor his life today.

Speech Remembering Eden Yerushalmi:

Today we remember the life of Eden Yerushalmi.

Eden was twenty-four years old and full of positivity, sunshine, and joy—filling every room she entered. She saw beauty in the simple things in life, like the beach, music, and time with her friends. Eden enjoyed spending time in the sun and was excited for the adventure of life. Eden was a Pilates instructor, and she loved fashion. She could even sew her own pieces. Eden was one of three tight-knit sisters and was close to her mother. Eden valued peace, forgiveness, and connection with family.

Eden was taken hostage on October 7, 2023, after surviving hours while trying to escape Hamas's attack on southern Israel. For months her family held onto hope as she was held captive by Hamas terrorists. After enduring a long period of suffering, Eden was murdered by Hamas while still being held hostage, alongside other hostages, including Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

Her death was the loss of a young woman with dreams and a future.

Eden's life should matter to all of us, especially those who are finding their way as their life is unfolding. May the way she lived shape the way we live ours and remind us to protect curiosity and peace. May our resolve be strengthened to stand firmly against the terrorism that took her life so that people like Eden can grow, live, and fully experience the life they were meant to live.

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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 who were killed on October 7th in both the Israeli communities and at the Supernova Music Festival are now orphans and are navigating life without their parents. Children who witnessed these attacks and former hostages who survived captivity continue to face the lasting effects of trauma and need ongoing care and support.

Speech Remembering the Bibas Family:

Today, we remember the lives of Ariel Bibas, Kfir Bibas, and their mother, Shiri Bibas.

Ariel was four years old and Kfir was only nine months old when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and kidnapped them and their mother. Their father, Yarden, was also taken separately on that day.

The Bibas babies were at the very beginning of their lives. Life was full of wonder and discovery. Their lives were simple and pure. Both Ariel and Kfir had noticeably red hair like their young mom, Shiri, who loved them with a fierce and passionate love that defines motherhood.

Ariel loved Batman. A hero who doesn't have superpowers but chooses to stand in the darkness and fight for light.

Shiri Bibas was a real-life protector, like the hero her son admired. On the day their lives were changed forever, she held her babies close. The image of Shiri clutching her two little boys has stayed with the world. The image of a mother standing between her children and danger.

After the Bibas family was taken from their home, Shiri and the two little boys were held in captivity with no information on their conditions. Their father, Yarden Bibas, survived and was eventually released, but he returned to a world forever changed. It was later confirmed that Shiri, Ariel, and baby Kfir were murdered by Hamas.

Their story is heartbreaking and their ending is unthinkable. It is also a call to all of us to stand against darkness to protect light. The Bibas children were pure and innocent. To protect other children like them, we must stand against terrorism everywhere.

We can stand for light in a dark world so that children like Ariel and Kfir can grow up and see their fifth and first birthdays. So that mothers like Shiri and fathers like Yarden can watch their children become who they are meant to be.

That is how we honor them.

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Reading of the Names:

We cannot allow the people and hostages who were murdered by Hamas to become just numbers to us. We must say their names—because they are more than numbers, more than statistics in a war. Each name represents a life, a story, a soul created in the image of God. When we speak their names, we honor their humanity and stand against the attempt to erase them through silence. These individuals were sons, daughters, friends, and parents. By remembering them, we declare that their lives mattered—and that we will not forget them. Please stand as I read their names.

1. Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23 years old
2. Ori Danino, 24 years old
3. Eden Yerushalmi, 24 years old
4. Alex Lobanov, 32 years old
5. Carmel Gat, 39 years old
6. Almog Sarusi, 26 years old
7. Itzhak Elgarat, 68 years old
8. Tsachi Idan, 49 years old
9. Ohad Yahalomi, 49 years old
10. Shlomo Mantzour, 85 years old
11. Chaim Peri, 79 years old
12. Kfir Bibas, 9 months old
13. Ariel Bibas, 4 years old
14. Shiri Bibas – Mother of Kfir and Ariel, 32 years old
15. Alexander Dancyg, 75 years old
16. Ronen Engel, 54 years old
17. Eliyahu Margalit, 76 years old
18. Tamir Adar, 38 years old
19. Muhammad Al Atrash, 40 years old
20. Aviv Atzili, 49 years old
21. Sahar Baruch, 24 years old
22. Uriel Baruch, 35 years old
23. Itay Chen, 19 years old
24. Yoram Metzger, 80 years old
25. Amiram Cooper, 84 years old
26. Nadav Popplewell, 51 years old

Prayer for the released hostages and their families:

Lord, we thank You for bringing every hostage home from Hamas captivity in Gaza. We acknowledge Your hand in their return. For those who survived, we ask for Your restoration and healing. Heal their bodies, their minds, and their hearts from the unimaginable trauma they endured. Give them a sense of safety and comfort. God, we ask that You renew their strength and surround them with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Let them experience stability and hope. For the families of those who were killed in captivity, we ask for Your nearness to comfort them in their grief. Be with them in their mourning and hold them close in their sorrow. We ask that You cover every family affected, bringing healing and restoration. Amen.

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Prayer for the IDF:

Lord, we thank You for giving supernatural wisdom to the Israel Defense Forces, or the IDF, and the Israeli intelligence service to guide them in all their decisions. We pray that Your discernment and guidance would surround the IDF and help them to protect Israel from evildoers who seek to annihilate the Jewish people. We pray that each member of the IDF is given strength to carry out their duties with excellence in this critical time in history. We pray that 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 the 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. 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 against Israel's enemies and that You would 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 of the Jewish people, that "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. If they betray or turn against Israel, let the curse come upon them and not on the people of this land, especially the Christians in this nation who stand for God's truth. 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 own 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.

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Explanation of Hatikvah National Anthem:

The national anthem of Israel, Hatikvah, comes from a poem written by the Hebrew poet Naftali Hertz Imber. Music was later added by Samuel Cohen. Early Zionist pioneers who settled in Ottoman-era Palestine took up the song, infusing their communities with pride and hope. "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 had exclaimed "next year in Jerusalem," showing their faith in restoration to their inheritance and 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.

Video of Night to Honor Israel Hatikvah anthem.

Hand out with lyrics of Hatikvah in English & Hebrew

Dismissal

PRAYER POINTS:

Psalms 122:6–9 New International Version (NIV)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Psalms 121:3–8 New International Version (NIV)

He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalms 25:22 New International Version (NIV)

Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles.

Genesis 12:3 New International Version (NIV)

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Zechariah 12:5 New International Version (NIV)

The clans of Judah will say in their hearts, "The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God."

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כל עוד בלֵבב פְּנִימָה

נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה,

וּלְפִאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קְדִימָה,

עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה

עוֹד לֹא אֲבָדָה תִּקְוַתֵּנוּ

הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אֲלֵפִים,

לְהִיּוֹת עִם חֹפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ,

אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

English

As long as the heart within the Jewish soul yearns forward
toward the East, an eye looks to Zion, our hope is not yet lost.

Our hope is two thousand years old: To be a free people in our
land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Hebrew Transliteration

Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima, Nefesh yehudi ho'miyah. U'lefa-atei
mizrach kadimah, Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah. Od lo avda tikva-
teinu, Ha'tikvah bat sh'not al-payim Lih-yot am chofshi b'ar-
tzeinu Eretz Tziyyon v'Yerushalayim.



**SCAN TO LISTEN TO
THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS**