

# How to pray for the local church at Pentecost



In our world today, we are inundated with overwhelming news about global poverty. It can sometimes be hard to know where to start with our prayers. Or even to imagine whether our prayers will make a difference. But as we head towards Pentecost Sunday, let us pray in faith that the Holy Spirit will empower local churches in these poverty-stricken communities around the world, as well as our own church and community, to love our neighbours and be centres of hope and transformation.

*We love this verse in Romans 15:13 that says:*

**‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’**

**Romans 15:13**

Imagine a church, overflowing with the hope and power of Christ, reaching out to its community. The transformation would be epic. And that’s exactly what we want to celebrate and pray into, through the words of Pastor Amani, and farmers Rene and Odile from Ivory Coast.

This Pentecost, join us in praying for local churches in some of the poorest communities in the world.

Feel free to adapt these prayers to the needs of your church and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your time together with God.





## A prayer for the church to grow

Lord God, we thank you that on Pentecost Sunday, we can remember the incredible moment when your Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. They were empowered, they were renewed. On that day, Peter preached, thousands met Jesus, and the church was born. By your grace, the church continues to grow.

Lord, we join with Rene, father and farmer in Ivory Coast, to pray that 'their church will continue to grow and move forward' and that you will give them the strength to build your spiritual and physical church.

And we praise you, Lord, that among Rene's community, they are seeing profound growth, having taken part in Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme. We thank you that the church congregation has tripled in size and the wider community is being impacted by the strength and hope of the local church.

Lord, we long to see the same impact in our own communities. Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit and equip us to reach out into our neighbourhoods.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness.

**Amen.**



## A prayer for **Odile**

Lord God, we give thanks for Odile from Ivory Coast and so many others who have embraced Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme and, in doing so, have equipped their congregation and wider community to realise and unlock their God-given potential.

We pray for Odile, mother and farmer. She asks us to 'Pray for God's work. As president of the women, God gives me the strength and wisdom to lead the women.'

Lord, we pray that you'll give Odile the strength and wisdom through your Holy Spirit to empower others and lead with integrity and love.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness.

**Amen.**





## A prayer for **new beginnings**

Father God, we praise you for the transformation that is taking place in communities around the world, thanks to the unleashing of the power of the local church.

We praise you that families like Rene and Odile can proudly support their children and the wider community through their successful pineapple business.

We praise you that churches around the world that have taken part in Tearfund's innovative training are now seeing opportunities to raise funds from within the church to support the most vulnerable in their communities.

We thank you, Lord, for new beginnings and stories of hope that are rising up from across the globe.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness.

**Amen.**





## A prayer for communities to flourish

On Pentecost Sunday, let us join together in praying the words of Pastor Amani from Ivory Coast:

**‘We want to thank God for Tearfund’s innovative training, which has opened our eyes and helped enormously in the management of many things. The training is an instrument for development, for transforming people’s way of thinking.’**

Lord, we pray that more communities will flourish like Pastor Amani’s as they have the chance to take part in Tearfund’s Transforming Communities programme. We thank you that through the Bible studies, lives are empowered and renewed.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness.

**Amen.**



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