TIME IS RUNNING OUT
Since the civil war in Syria began in March 2011, more than 100,000 people have been killed. The
number of refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries has topped 2 million, and these countries are
feeling the strain. More than 6 million individuals have been displaced from their homes within Syria –
but because of the fighting, aid agencies are unable to reach many of these people with the help they
so desperately need.

The ground-breaking deal to rid Syria of its chemical weapons, agreed by the UN Security Council in
September, highlights what can be achieved when countries work together for a diplomatic outcome.
However, the progress in removing chemical weapons must not be a distraction from the continued and
growing humanitarian crisis.

Time is running out for the men, women and children affected by the conflict. Winter is coming, and the
cold weather will hit refugees hard. A peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria needs to be found – now.

‘PEACEMAKERS WHO SOW IN PEACE
REAP A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.’
(JAMES 3:18)

A CALL TO PRAY URGENTLY FOR PEACE TALKS
International leaders are urging that a peace conference on Syria, dubbed Geneva II, should take place soon.
However, plans for these talks are facing delays as those involved are struggling to agree on terms.

This means our prayers are more important than ever.

Please join us in praying that the Geneva II peace conference will take place without delay or hindrance,
that all parties to the conflict will be present, and that the talks will be representative of the peaceful
majority of Syrians, including women’s groups and refugees.

Let’s pray that through the Geneva II peace talks, world leaders and decision makers in Syria will do
everything they can to find a sustainable political solution to the conflict. Pray that these talks will
be a successful first step towards lasting peace in Syria.

We cry out together to ‘the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort’ (2 Cor. 1:3) for peace
and healing in Syria.
A SEVEN-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Behind the overwhelming statistics are individual men, women and children – fathers, mothers, sons and daughters – who are struggling with a conflict beyond their control. As we move through these seven days of prayer, we’ll remember these individuals, all of whom are made in the image of God and deeply loved by him.

We warmly invite you to use this guide to help you pray for Syria. You may like to focus on a different issue each day or to use these topics in a prayer group setting. Please use our 'Syria peace talks: a guide for churches' available at www.tearfund.org/syria to help with Sunday intercessions.

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DAY 1

REFLECT ON PSALM 34:14 – 'SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.'

More than 100,000 committed supporters like you signed the Don’t Let Syria Down petition urging Presidents Obama and Putin to overcome their differences and set dates for peace talks. Soon after the petition was submitted to the leaders and the UN Special Envoy to Syria, discussions about dates for the talks began in earnest.

Praise God for all those who are lifting their voices to call for a peaceful political solution to the Syrian conflict. Pray that nothing will happen to prevent or delay the Geneva II peace talks from taking place. Ask the Lord to give international leaders and parties on all sides of the conflict a deep desire to find a path to lasting peace.

DAY 2

A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

Father-of-five Mohamed owned a hardware store in Syria and was an active member of his community. He was desperate to remain in his homeland – until the day his house and shop were bombed. ‘After that I knew it was too dangerous to stay. I had to keep my family safe,’ he says.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the fathers who have been affected by the conflict in Syria. Please give them courage and strength as they struggle to protect and provide for their loved ones.

We ask you to bring about peace in Syria so that families can rebuild their lives in stability and live free from want. Amen.

DAY 3

REFLECT ON PROVERBS 31:8 – ‘SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE.’

For talks to be a success, they must include representatives of the peaceful majority of Syrians, including women’s groups and refugees, who want this nightmare to end.

Pray that the peace talks will be genuinely inclusive and representative. Ask the Lord to bring about a future society in Syria where all minority groups, including Christians, can flourish and know that their rights are protected.
DAY 4
A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Grandmother Mannan fled the violence in Syria with her grown-up daughters and their children. She describes their life before the conflict: ‘We were happy; the children went to school; we were just living.’ As refugees in Jordan, food is scarce, and they have no money for the children’s medical care.

Loving Lord, we lift up to you all mothers whose lives have been torn apart by the fighting. Please pour your comfort into their hearts as they grieve to see those they love in distress.

We ask you to bring about peace in Syria so that mothers can rejoice to see their families thrive again. Amen.

DAY 5
REFLECT ON MATTHEW 5:9 – ‘BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.’

In order for the peace talks to work, the international community must support them wholeheartedly. It’s vital for world leaders to refrain from any acts or statements that might risk undermining the process.

Ask Jesus, Prince of Peace, to fill all those in positions of influence with his wisdom. Pray that they will do everything in their power to support the peace talks. Pray also that those in authority will intensify efforts to ensure people suffering within Syria receive the aid they so urgently need.

DAY 6
A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Eleven-year-old Yasmin fled Syria with her family, and is receiving trauma care and art therapy from a charity in Jordan. ‘When I am grown up I would like to be a doctor. I would like to treat children in Syria,’ she says.

Lord Jesus, we bring before you every child caught up in the conflict. We pray for healing for their trauma, and that they will know the joy of childhood despite the disorder surrounding them.

We ask you to bring about peace in Syria so that children can grow up free from fear and filled with hope. Amen.

DAY 7
A PRAYER FOR THE PEACE TALKS

Almighty God, we pray that peace talks for Syria will take place without delay or hindrance. We ask that these talks will lead towards a stable and secure future for the Syrian people, in which they can rebuild their lives without fear. We pray for a time to come soon when the weapons of war will be exchanged for positive plans for restored and thriving communities.

Please help those involved to do everything in their power to find a path to lasting peace. Amen.

Visit www.tearfund.org/syria for further news, stories and other prayer resources on Syria, including a prayer guide for churches.

Thank you for joining with us in prayer. Let’s continue to pray until there’s a lasting peace in Syria.