

# Prayer and Fasting Against Gun Violence

May 19-June 1

As summer approaches, we want to cover our neighborhood in prayer for God's peace against gun violence. You are invited to fast from one meal each day, or as you feel led. The following prayer prompts for each day were compiled with input from community partners at King County Youth Chaplaincy, the 180 Program, Urban Impact, and Community Passageways.

## Daily Prayer Topics

<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>May 19</b></p>	<p><b>Those who have lost loved ones:</b> Please pray for people who have lost loved ones to gun violence, most recently the family of Royale Lexing, a 19-year-old shot in the Central District on May 10. His mother told reporters, "I'm numb. I want answers....he was a good kid." Pray for this family as they have experienced this kind of trauma before, in 2015, when Royale's 1-year-old niece died in a drive-by shooting in Kent. Pray for the many people in our neighborhood grieving lost children, parents, siblings, and friends.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> <b>May 20</b></p>	<p><b>Healing:</b> Pray for healing for the people hurt in shootings, nine so far in May throughout the city. Pray for Harborview Hospital and the staff who receive and care for these shooting victims. Jon Abe invites us to pray for a friend of one of the young men in King County Youth Chaplaincy who was shot and has been in the hospital. It sounds like he will make it. Pray that he will be able to heal in <i>all</i> ways, beyond just the physical. Coach Dominique Davis of Community Passageways invites us to pray for healing of trauma.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>May 21</b></p>	<p><b>East African Diaspora:</b> Shots fired near our church have often been in the parking lot across the street, affecting the East African Muslim community that attends the mosque and the Somali bussinesspeople who own and operate shops in the adjacent building. Pray for people in these communities many of whom are arriving here trying to leave violent conflict, and who may see those same patterns of conflict following them in different ways. Pray for strong and healthy organizations and relationships to help these communities flourish.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>May 22</b></p>	<p><b>Victims and Bystanders:</b> Pray for safety for people caught at the wrong place at the wrong time in the midst of violent incidents. In a presentation to City Council in March, SPD reported that shooting victims in Seattle are disproportionately young and black. Pray for protection from harm and healing from fear. Pray for Jenni Steinke and the Young Lives group who were meeting at RAC on May 6 when shots were fired across the street. Jenni says, "Sadly, this is normal for our girls."</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>May 23</b></p>	<p><b>Gangs:</b> Pray for youth caught up in gang activity. Jon Abe from King County Youth Chaplaincy invites us to pray for youth he works who fear that conflict will get worse between gang rivals, with some avoiding certain areas in order to not take chances. Seattle Police Department's Gang Unit has been investigating shootings in Rainier Valley and the Central District over the past month. Pray for police to be filled with wisdom and compassion for the community, and to have what they need to interrupt the cycle of violence.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>May 24</b></p>	<p><b>Protection:</b> Pray for a sense of protection from God for people vulnerable to violence, and against the decision to put their trust in weapons. Jon Abe of King County Youth Chaplaincy invites us to pray for youth he works with who have been recently released from jail and struggle with the decision to carry a gun, with added pressure from recent shootings. They want to do better in life and not do anything that will violate the conditions of their release→</p>

<b>Friday May 24</b>	<p>but they don't want to be caught "lacking" and Lord forbid, be shot. For some, carrying a gun provides a sense of security, even though it may be a false sense of security.</p>
<b>Saturday May 25</b>	<p><b>Retaliation:</b> Pray against a spirit of retaliation for the shootings that have happened so far this spring. Jon Abe shares that one of the youth involved with King County Youth Chaplaincy was shot and killed a few months ago. His close friend has been mourning, and thankfully, he has so far resisted retaliating. This is because God is in the process of changing his life. Pray that his transformation will continue and that he will continue to stay away from all the negative things that can take his life. Pray that everyone involved will resist the urge to retaliate.</p>
<b>Sunday May 26</b>	<p><b>Forgiveness:</b> Pray for the spiritual restoration that only Christ can offer. Pray for redemption in the lives of people who are caught up in gun violence and feel there is no return for them. Jon Abe mentions a prayer request from one of the youth he works with in King County Youth Chaplaincy: "Pray that everyone involved can somehow forgive each other."</p>
<b>Monday May 27</b>	<p><b>Fathers and Families:</b> Pray for family support, particularly for young people vulnerable to being caught up in a cycle of violence. Pray for strong fathers throughout our community to guide their children, pray for the families with parents absent because of the rampant incarceration in our country, pray for Pastor Marvin Charles and DADS organization here in our neighborhood supporting fathers being present in their families.</p>
<b>Tuesday May 28</b>	<p><b>Employment:</b> Coach Dominique Davis of Community Passageways invites us to pray for funding for community based organizations to start hiring and training young men to build them up and shift their focus toward making a positive difference in their community.</p>
<b>Wednesday May 29</b>	<p><b>Alternatives:</b> Pray for young people especially to envision options for themselves better than being involved in gun violence. Sean Goode of the 180 Program invites us to pray for the vision to see young people as possibilities and not problems. Pray for the wisdom to advocate on behalf of those who lack power and privilege.</p>
<b>Thursday May 30</b>	<p><b>Collaboration:</b> Pray for appropriate response to shootings in our area from local police, churches, community organizations, and others. Pray for restorative and united responses that make our whole community stronger. Glenn McCray invites prayer for Urban Impact's upcoming meetings with community organizations and SPD's South Precinct to develop ways to work together.</p>
<b>Friday May 31</b>	<p><b>Culture of Violence:</b> Pray against a culture and expectation of violence, especially among youth in our community. Coach Dominique Davis of Community Passageways and Sean Goode of the 180 Program both invite us to pray for healing and a cure for the disease-like spread of gun violence.</p>
<b>Saturday June 1</b>	<p><b>Spiritual Victory:</b> Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Pray for the victory of the kingdom of God in our neighborhood. Sean Goode of the 180 Program invites us to pray for the courage to bring God's light into the dark places in our community. Coach Dominique Davis of Community Passageways invites us to pray that the grip of the enemy is BROKEN!!!</p>