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**Prayers for
Domestic Violence Awareness**

For Adult Victims

Lord, statistics say that 1:3 women worldwide will be a victim of abuse in her lifetime. We are told that in the United States 1:4 women and 1:9 men will be victims. Our hearts are saddened. We carry emotional scars of unspent tears, sleepless nights and ever present fear. Domestic violence rips families apart even when we are together. It is a cancer that has spread through all walks of life, into all parts of society.

Heal us Lord.

Break this cycle of wickedness and despair and give us your protection for we know that the most dangerous time for us is when we leave an abuser. Be with us and give us courage as we create safety plans or activate them. Meet our needs for shelter, food, clothing, finances, spiritual strength, and take care of our other needs as well.

Help us as parents to teach our children that abuse should never be condoned.

Most of all Lord, let us be healed. Make us free to be the people You want us to become and let us no longer be the scapegoat of an abuser.

In You we put our faith,

Amen

For Child Victims of Domestic Violence

As child victims of domestic violence we are the nameless, the faceless, the collateral damage among adults in chaos. We live in a world shattered beyond our control. Ours is a home of confusion. We see, we absorb, we learn. We stifle our cries for mercy. Our pleas are silenced even before we can learn voice them. We learn quickly that the world is not a safe place. We yearn for a happiness that we cannot find so we remain silent, seeing and hearing, but without a voice. God help us we plead. We pray believing that only You can hear and only You care. Send light into our darkness. Reach into our hearts and bring love where fear resides. Send us a rainbow, so we can believe in a future filled with peace. Be our comfort. Let us grow up in the knowledge that in Your eyes we are worthy of being loved. Help us love others in return for the love You give us. Show us how to live lives filled with promise and hope.

In you we pray,

Amen

For Youth Victims of Domestic Violence

Lord, please hear this prayer. Statistics say abuse is a part of 1:3 teenage relationships and another 1:3 teens say they know someone who is being abused. We are weak and heavy laden with the burden of domestic violence. Unlike our backpacks at the end of a school day abuse is a burden we can't put down. We carry it with us all day every day.

We pray for those teens in our schools, our youth groups, and in our lives who are victims - both in their dating relationships or in their homes. We ask that they may be given peace, healing and courage to be free from harm. We pray for those who are abusers, that they may be given healing, knowledge and courage to turn from their evil acts and embrace healthy love. Friends of victims can be overwhelmed. Give our friends steadfast faith and patience to endure.

Domestic violence sometimes spills over into our schools. We ask for protection, for safety.

Lord, we pray for the teachers, guidance counselors, school resource officers, youth group directors, parents and all those who come in contact with youth. Even as You guide Your church, let these adults serve as positive role models for us to follow.

It is in your mighty name that we pray,

Amen

Family and Friends

Lord, how easy it is to be an armchair quarterback! When we see friends or family members struggling as domestic violence victims we want to act. We want to bundle victims up, put them in the car and carry them to safety. We want to tell the victim exactly what should be done and how to do it. Then, we want to see that the victim follows our advice, now. When that doesn't happen, we judge and criticize – and in so doing, we become a surrogate abuser. Forgive us for this tendency we pray.

Lord, help us be supportive – not reactive. Our friends and family members who are victims need us to be non-judgmental and caring. They need to know they are still worthy of being loved, no matter how bad things get. They need us to be educated, rational and calm. This is hard to do when someone we love is hurting! Help us with this. Help us to see beyond missed lunches and unreturned phone calls. Give us Your patience, Your grace, your compassion and help us be Your hands and arms as our friends need us.

When our friends are batterers we may need a double portion of Your grace. We don't understand how someone could hurt someone they love – someone we love. We are angry that someone we know could be so cruel. We don't want to hear it, see it or admit it - but we know that domestic violence is a pattern that involves all aspects of society – and that includes us.

Break through our denial Lord. Help us hold abusers accountable with Christian love and compassion instead of a quick form of forced forgiveness. Help us give space and time to allow for healing on all levels, by all parties, both victim, abuser and children.

Heal us all, as friends and family Lord. We need you too.

In Your Name,

Amen

Congregations and Church Leaders

Traditionally, the church has turned a blind eye to victims of domestic violence. We have failed to hear the cries of the beaten, the abusing and the children. We pray for your forgiveness. Like Jericho, it is time for the walls that keep victims in silence, to come crashing down. May those walls never be rebuilt! As a church, may we never fail to hear the hushed cries of the suffering.

Lord, give us the tools we need to be better equipped. Anoint us with the holy-boldness we need to face this problem head-on. Let us not refrain from holding an abuser accountable or hold back when helping a victim or children.

Give us this day all that we need to reach out to your hurting children – of any age – and remind them of just how much You love them.

In You we pray,

Amen

Batterers

Lord, Your Word tells us that love is patient and kind that it is not jealous and does not boast. Help us to be patient and kind when dealing with abusers.

We do not like to think that someone we know would choose to hurt someone else that we know. To us, this is incomprehensible! But we know that there would be no victims if there were no abusers. We also know that domestic violence is a learned behavior about power and control. And we know that battering doesn't have to happen that it is a choice – either conscious or unconscious – on the part of a batterer.

Lord, we come before you to ask you to help batterers choose better. Let Your Word be the curative that illuminates the path to healing. Show them can clearly see the way to get help. Escort them along the road so they may put down their weapons of words, fists, finances, jealousy and other abuses.

We ask that you bring healing where there is insecurity; give courage where fear is keeping an abuser locked in a cycle of violence; give education so that the cycle may be broken.

And Lord, help us see abusers as people created by you and loved by you. Let us never fail to pray for them, see them and to hold them accountable.

In Your Name,

Amen

Praise and Victory

Lord, come before you a weary people; a tired people; an overburdened, overwhelmed, needy people. We are sick and tired of the evil called domestic violence that permeates our society. We are so burdened down that we forget who is really in control. For just as when you were on the cross we sometimes fail to see the glory that is in You; that is You. Forgive us we pray.

We thank you for your resurrection Lord! For the hope that it gives us all, for the healing that it brings, for the comfort that it provides.

Dealing with domestic violence is too much to bear alone. We rejoice in the knowledge that after we accept You as our savior, anything done to us is done to You; anything that has been done to us in the past, was done to You. That you know our circumstances, our hearts, and that you bring healing and love to all areas of our lives. We thank you for being here with us!

Through you, we have hope that one day the violence will end. A day will dawn when all of your people will walk hand-in-hand as equals, side-by-side, in joyous harmony. A morning is coming when all of our children will laugh and play as innocents in a garden; where fear will not be known and abuse is non-existent.

We believe in that day Lord, we see it and we anxiously wait on it.

Until, and after, that day dawns, we as your people will praise your unending name!

Glory to God in the Highest, on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

In You, For You, By Your Holy Name,

Amen!