

Spiritual Warfare

— August —

We long to see God raise up disciples in Italy who multiply; making disciples who make disciples.

~Below you will find a suggested amount of time for each segment of your meeting, but don't feel bound by these suggestions. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer time together.

10 Minutes- Mix and Mingle

Use this time to catch up and get settled before your time of prayer.

10 Minutes- Praise

Before taking time to intercede, praise God for who He is and how He has recently shown Himself to you.

Speak His names out loud (God, You are Savior, You are King, etc.), and His character (God, Your love is unconditional, You are always present).

Praise God for the ways He has been working in and through You. (God, thank You for providing for my family, Thank You for giving me patience yesterday, etc.)

10 Minutes- Personal Surrender and Confession

Personal Surrender

Before interceding on behalf of the people of Italy, surrender the worries of your life that may distract you during this prayer time. Take a moment to write down on a piece of paper any concerns that are on your mind. Is it your finances? Is it a relationship? Jot that down. Then in your heart, give these concerns over to the Lord.

Confession

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any disbelief or sin that you have been giving in to. Take a moment in your heart to confess these to the Lord and receive His grace and forgiveness.

*15 Minutes- Prayer through the Word

Theme - Spiritual Warfare

This month we are praying against specific spiritual strongholds that are waging war against the people of Italy.

Ephesians 6:12-13

For 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. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask You to empower believers in Italy to recognize their battle is not with one another or with others, but in the spiritual realm.
- God, we ask You to equip believers in Italy with the full armor of God each day.
- God, please empower believers in Italy to stan their spiritual ground no matter what circumstance they face.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask You to equip believers in Italy to be alert and of sober mind, watchful of the schemes and attacks of the enemy.
- God, help believers in Italy to resist the enemy and stand firm in their faith.
- God, we ask You to tune believers' hearts to the battle that rages not only around them, but around all believers. Encourage them in this knowledge and may it spur them on to pray for others.

*15 Minutes- Intercession for Italy

Below are some insights on spiritual strongholds that specifically affect the pople of Italy from living in freedom through Jesus. Please read the text out loud and then pause so participants can pray as God leads.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Don't know who to trust

For many years Italy has been plagued by many scams, from the Mafias to the Church to telemarketers, gypsies, politicians and more. Everyone looking to get their slice of the pie and make it bigger. Italians have come to think that everyone is working an angle and has hidden motives. They don't believe that people can be trusted.

Spirit of Destruction and Disunity

The enemy and his team will do whatever he can to destroy relationships throughout the country. There are a lot of broken relationships among neighbors, family and friends. Ask God to bring healing and reconciliation.

Spirit of Hopelessness

Many Italians are discouraged with the current state of their government, their economy and their lack of opportunity for the future. Many, especially young adults, continue to move to other countries to find work. Ask God to bring renewal to Italy. Ask God to help Italians put their minds on heavenly things above, not on earthly things.

10 Minutes- Listening Prayer

On a blank piece of paper, ask the Lord the following questions. Be still and listen. Write down any words or thoughts that come to mind.

- God, what other spiritual strongholds are keeping Italian people in bondage?
- God, is there any area in my life that is being blocked from receiving Your truth?

After jotting down these thoughts, share them with a partner or your group. Now spend time praying to God for the things He has put on your heart.

5 Minutes- Closing

We want to hear from you. Take a moment to debrief your prayer time. Are there themes, thoughts or passages that God has laid on your heart for the people of Italy? Take a moment to write these down as a group and give them to your small group facilitator. (Small group facilitator- please email these to your contact person in Italy.)

**NOTE: To use this guide for 30 minutes of prayer versus 60, focus your time on the two, 15 minute sections.*