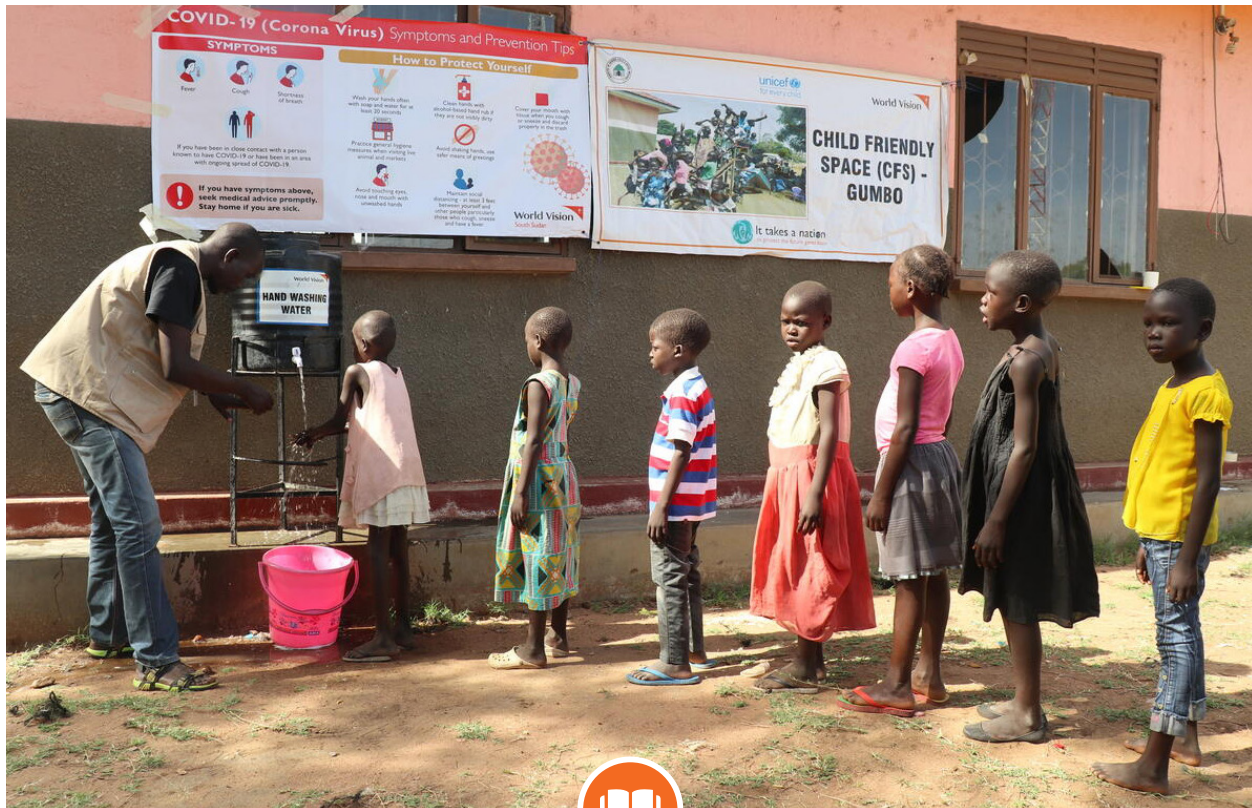




INFANTUM | World Vision

# HOPE OVER FEAR

THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER



## PSALM 46:10, NIV

*“He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”*

*In the midst of the global COVID-19 crisis, may we remember the Lord is close to the broken-hearted.*

The Lord is our refuge, He is sovereign and steadfast. At World Vision, we are praying for you in these uncertain times. We know that God is with us, even if we do not feel His presence. We trust in God, even though we may not understand His ways. We are reminded that God shares our sufferings and that He has overcome death so that we may rise.

Over the next three weeks, Danielle Strickland will guide us through ***Infinitem***, a prayer practice for those who **follow Jesus** and choose to live lives of **love**. *Infinitem* is a rhythm to help center your mind and body during prayer using simple physical postures of **Surrender, Generosity, and Mission**.

This three-week journey is an opportunity to pray, journal, and read Scripture on a daily basis. You'll be given weekly challenges as a way to put your prayers and faith into action. Let's journey through the postures of Surrender, Generosity, and Mission as we hold on to hope and grow closer to God in these times.

See what others are praying for in the midst of COVID-19 and share your own prayers using **#HopeOverFear** on social media.



## A LIGHT IN THE DARK, A NOTE FROM DANIELLE STRICKLAND

Greetings friends,

It is an incredibly complex time we find ourselves in during these COVID-19 restrictions and implications. None of us have ever been here before and yet, it is precisely for these unprecedented times that the Church was created to thrive. We are the hope of the world—a light in the dark—a city on a hill. I believe that despite the challenges of this season and the genuine grief and impact felt around the world, we have the recipe for a thriving future. But I also understand that fear is the currency of oppression. What we do (or don't do) in these days filled with anxiety and uncertainty are pivotal to our witness and our spiritual health.

**World Vision knows better than anyone how the implications of this current crisis affects the world's most vulnerable people and how intricate our lives really are.** One thing is for sure—our world is globally connected! This is good news because we are a global church with a global mission for such a time as this. I'm honored to offer some tools for you that will take this crisis and harness it as an opportunity to move past surviving and into spiritual thriving. Infinitum (Latin for Boundless) isn't just a good idea for me, it's a way of life I've been practicing for several years. I've centered my whole life around following Jesus by using regular rhythms (prayer, connection, and challenge) and three simple postures: Surrender, Generosity, and Mission. This practice offers me a way to live out my faith in real life.

What's incredible about these postures and rhythms is that they don't require elaborate programs or large gatherings, they are not complicated or expensive, and they offer the simple and profound essentials of Jesus-centered living no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. We are hoping, believing, and trusting that God will use every single moment of this crisis as an opportunity for us to grow, to trust, and to live our faith in such a way that the world will hear and know the Good News.

**Practically, it looks rather simple:** daily prayers (which we will introduce through this guide), regular connection with a hub (cultivating spiritual friends), and monthly challenges to keep vibrant and fresh on the journey.

**I believe these practices will help every Jesus follower to keep Him at the center of our lives.** And I'm thrilled to offer them with open hands, believing that God is inviting us all to discover ways to cultivate our spiritual lives to bear fruit for His Kingdom come. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying in these times and then the wisdom to follow.

Praying for and with you. God's Kingdom Come.

Danielle Strickland



## **AUTHOR AND JUSTICE ADVOCATE DANIELLE STRICKLAND**

*Danielle is a spiritual leader, justice advocate, communicator, and peacemaker.*

Her aggressive compassion has served people firsthand in countries all over the world. From establishing justice departments and church plants, to launching global anti-trafficking initiatives, to creating new initiatives to mobilize people toward transformational spiritual life. Danielle trains, advocates, and inspires people to live differently through initiatives like: Amplify Peace, Brave Global, Infinitum, and the Women Speakers Collective.

Her podcast is listened to by thousands globally, and closer to home, she's on the teaching team at The Meeting House.

Currently based in Toronto, Canada, Danielle is the proud mom of three boys, wife to Stephen and as an enneagram seven, has been affectionately called the "ambassador of fun."



Download **Infinitum** to continue this rhythm of prayer and visit [infinitumlife.com](https://infinitumlife.com) to learn more.

# 3 WEEK PRAYER JOURNEY



**WEEK 1**  
Surrender



**WEEK 2**  
Generosity



**WEEK 3**  
Mission



We curated a Spotify playlist of our favorite worship songs as a way to incorporate music into your time in prayer. Listen [here](#), or search for World Vision's Hope Over Fear playlist!

# LEARN THE POSTURE OF SURRENDER



## ROMANS 12:1-2

Transforming my mind, will, body and emotions

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”*

### DANIELLE STRICKLAND’S PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THIS PASSAGE

**Life often pushes us around.** The cultural values and expectations that we live with can easily squeeze us into a kind of prototype—we end up looking the same exact way everyone else does. This is what the Apostle Paul suggests we push back against. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,” is how the NIV puts it—the Message version says this, “Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold.” All of us have an idea of how this works. It is most often manifested in our attitudes and values and anxieties and worries.

**But we don’t have to be pushed around by cultural norms that aren’t in line with the Kingdom of God.** We don’t have to be afraid, or ashamed or find our value through work or money or fame—there is another way of living—one that the Apostle Paul says is “transformational.” I love that. Instead of conforming we can be transforming. But how?

**Well, it’s a simple invitation—we offer our lives to God.** We surrender. We become available and willing to let God have control over us. As this act of surrender happens, our minds can be transformed, so we can see and hear what God is saying and what God is wanting. That itself will bring clarity for us—purpose and insight and help for us to make decisions every day that line up to God’s Kingdom instead of this world. Instead of fear, we can receive and act in love. Instead of anxiety, we can place our concerns and worries on God. Instead of selfish pleasure, we can enter into a way of life that honors everyone, including us. Surrender is a posture that brings transformation into our daily lives.

# WEEK 1: LIVING OUT SURRENDER



## SURRENDER

"I choose to hold up my hands as a symbol of surrender. My life is not about me. I surrender to your Lordship. I surrender my preferences, prejudices and position to you. My fears, finances, friends, and family to you."

### □ DAY 1 📖 *Matthew 11:25-30*

I choose to surrender all my fears and anxieties around the coronavirus to You today.

#### NOTES

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### □ DAY 2 📖 *Luke 12:22-26*

I choose to surrender my attempts at control, which I often hold so tightly.

#### NOTES

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### □ DAY 3 📖 *Isaiah 46*

I choose to surrender my desires and plans, offering all that I am and everything I do for Your glory.

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### □ DAY 4 📖 *Psalms 46*

I choose to surrender my uncertainty and doubt, knowing that You are with us, even if we do not feel Your presence.

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### □ DAY 5 📖 *2 Chronicles 20*

I choose to surrender my life and future to God, trusting in You this day and seeking Your voice.

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## PUT THE POSTURE OF SURRENDER IN ACTION

Take some time to journal, surrendering your control during this time of uncertainty. Make a list of all your fears and things outside of your control and know that God is holding them all. Looking at your list and, trusting these things to God, take note of the places you see hope and strength in your surrender.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How did it feel to set aside distractions, such as social media or technology, and spend time in personal reflection?

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- As you practice the posture of Surrender, what's one way you can continue to incorporate this posture into your daily life?

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## JOIN WORLD VISION IN PRAYER

During this time, it's important to pray for your own family and community, but also to remember our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's keep both our local and global neighbors in our prayers, remembering that we are all in this global fight together.

- Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.  
 *Philippians 4:6*
- Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease, that they would be kept physically protected as well as mentally, emotionally, and spiritual healthy.  
 *1 Peter 5:7*
- Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus. Pray for an increase in the production and distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). This is desperately needed around the world by healthcare practitioners.  
 *Psalms 23:4*
- Pray for the disease to stop spreading and for vulnerable communities around the world to be protected against COVID-19.  
 *Psalms 46:1-2*





# LEARN THE POSTURE OF GENEROSITY



## ROMANS 12:3-8

Freely we receive, freely we give

*“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”*

## DANIELLE STRICKLAND’S PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THIS PASSAGE

**My favorite definition of humility is “agreeing with God about who you are.”** Once we’ve surrendered ourselves to God, we are able to explore the way God has made us and the way He has made others. One thing is for sure—we were designed to collaborate and help each other. Sometimes what this translates to is drudgery or duty or obligation to help. But this is not the Spirit of God at work. The Spirit of God is generous. He gives gifts freely and generously. What gifts has He given to you? How do you experience the goodness of God everyday?

**Paul offers a list of gifts that people often have but it’s not exhaustive.** Maybe He’s made you encouraging and one of the ways you practice generosity is by receiving this gift with joy and then offering this gift to others with that same joy. This becomes infectious by the way. When we celebrate, receive, and then freely share what we’ve freely been given, it builds us all together! It spreads the infectious generous nature of grace to everyone, everywhere.

What gifts are you reluctant to receive? Why? What gifts have you received and aren’t sharing? Why not? Take some time to freely receive everything God has given you—and then decide to freely give those gifts to others today.

# WEEK 2: LIVING OUT GENEROSITY



## □ DAY 1 📖 Lamentations 3

I choose to open my hands this day, to receive afresh Your love and mercy, which is new each morning.

## □ DAY 2 📖 John 7:25-44

I choose to hold my hands open to the world, seeking to share all that I receive from You.

## □ DAY 3 📖 2 Corinthians 8

I choose a generous spirit today, driven by abundance not scarcity, hope not fear.

## □ DAY 4 📖 Matthew 25:31-46

I choose to follow Jesus' call to care for the least of these brothers and sisters of ours.

## □ DAY 5 📖 Galatians 5:13-6:10

I choose to live a lifestyle of generosity, praying for Your wisdom and guidance.



## GENEROSITY

"I choose to hold out my hands as a symbol of generosity. What I have is not mine. I am only a steward of all that you have given me. I want to mirror the way that you opened your hand to us and lavished your love and life upon us. I want to live an open-handed life in a closed-fist culture."

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## PUT THE POSTURE OF GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Be generous with your time! Call a friend or family member and spend time encouraging and praying for one another.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How did it feel to connect with a friend or family member in a personal way during this time of physical distancing?

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- What was the most difficult part about being generous this week? What was most rewarding?

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## JOIN WORLD VISION IN PRAYER

During this time, it's important to pray for your own family and community, but also to remember our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's keep both our local and global neighbors in our prayers, remembering that we are all in this global fight together.

- Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the coronavirus. Pray that faith leaders will be able to effectively share fact-based messages with their congregations.

 *2 Corinthians 1:10-11*

- Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life. In many less developed countries, parents are leaving their children, who are out of school, with grandparents. They may have no other options. This has the potential of leading to other challenging consequences.

 *Psalms 57:1*

- Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress, both in your own community and communities around the world. Consider choosing a specific country and praying for people affected by the coronavirus.

 *John 14:27*

- Pray for grocery store workers and delivery drivers, that they would feel safe and in Your presence as they continue to work.

 *Lamentations 3:22-23*



# LEARN THE POSTURE OF MISSION



## ROMANS 12:9-21

Others-focused living—blessing, hospitality, prayer, zeal, and peace

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

## DANIELLE STRICKLAND’S PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THIS PASSAGE

**Love must be sincere.** That might be one of the best sentences in the Scripture. Living an others-focused life is not about duty—it’s about love. What does love look like in public? What does it mean to really love your neighbor?

**Well, this passage has a few practical ideas that are revolutionary ways of transforming the world.** Bless people (even those who curse you), practice hospitality (open your life and gifts toward others), live in harmony (offer value to others), don’t consider yourself above others (treat everyone with respect), be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer and sharing (maybe the most underrated way to transform the world!).

**These are practical ways of identifying and interacting with others.** The list is not just about “doing things” it’s also about “feeling things”—rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn is an invitation to live a life of feeling. The entire list is worth thinking through practically. In what ways can you share your life with others? In what ways are you afraid to? In what ways are you tempted to “curse people” or “repay anyone evil for evil”? These are real temptations that lead us right back to becoming “conformed into the pattern of this world.” **One of the ways we work out Surrender and Generosity is through Mission.** Letting our love transform difficult things into goodness is what it looks like to live transformationally.

# WEEK 3: LIVING OUT MISSION



## □ DAY 1 📖 Luke 4:14-30

I choose to orientate my life to the vulnerable and hurting.

## □ DAY 2 📖 Ephesians 4:17-32

I choose to reject my self-centered tendencies and choose others-centered actions.

## □ DAY 3 📖 Hebrews 11

I choose to engage in this fight rather than retreat in self-absorption.

## □ DAY 4 📖 2 Corinthians 4

I choose to welcome discomfort so that I may grow closer to You and others.

## □ DAY 5 📖 John 15:1-17

I choose to embrace Jesus' love for myself and my neighbors, both near and far.



## MISSION

"I choose to hold my hands forward as a symbol of mission. I want to live for something greater than me. I want to embrace your kingdom mission. I want to embrace and welcome your mission to the lost, last, least, and lonely—the poor, powerless, privileged, and persecuted."

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## PUT THE POSTURE OF MISSION IN ACTION

Organize a virtual dinner, devotional, or movie night with friends so you can all stay connected. Be intentional about inviting those experiencing more isolation and anxiety during these times.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What kind of healing—physical, emotional, or spiritual—did your virtual gathering bring you and others?

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- What is one way you could reach out to your wider community this week, showing God's love to your neighbors both near and far?

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## JOIN WORLD VISION IN PRAYER

During this time, it's important to pray for your own family and community, but also to remember our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's keep both our local and global neighbors in our prayers, remembering that we are all in this global fight together.

- Pray for World Vision leaders, as they manage their teams, and for their staff, who have taken on even more duties during this tumultuous time.

 *Ephesians 6:18*

- Pray for economic relief for the most vulnerable communities globally. Many of the world's poorest people cannot afford to stock up on necessities. They are dependent on daily wages for daily meals, which has been greatly impacted by physical distancing and other strains from COVID-19.

 *1 John 2:17-18*

- Pray for children made vulnerable by COVID-19 and World Vision's efforts to protect children from the disease. Many children, families, and communities do not have access to clean water to wash their hands, or healthcare systems in their community to provide basic care. Pray that these children would be protected and safe.

 *Psalms 5:11*

- Pray for the most vulnerable, particularly for refugees and displaced children. World Vision is urging governments to take action to protect children in some of the world's most fragile contexts including Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Haiti, and Syria.

 *Psalms 140:12*





# GOING FURTHER WITH INFINITUM

*This prayer guide introduced you to the postures of Surrender, Generosity, and Mission.* As you prayed each day, your physical postures and actions provided an opportunity for your prayer life to deepen. But Infitum is so much more than these three postures. The following steps outline a life in Infitum, and we hope you'll dive into all that it has to offer. Join Danielle Strickland and others around the world in the Infitum Life.



## 1. FOLLOW JESUS

Who are you following? We have one vision in Infitum and that's following Jesus. We believe this should be the central investment and focus of our lives. This isn't just about believing in Jesus, it's about making a commitment to follow Him in our everyday ordinary life.



## 2. LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

To live like Jesus in the world, looks like love. We often overcomplicate discipleship, when actually Jesus told us it simply looks like loving God and loving others. These virtues underpin everything we do.



## 3. LIVE SURRENDER, GENEROSITY, AND MISSION

We call these postures, as they require a serious commitment to see them lived out in our everyday. They help refine our character, inform our holy ambitions and vocations, and direct our daily decisions. Surrender: This is the ultimate posture of a disciple. It is a person surrendered to the Lordship of Christ. Generosity: This is all about open-handed living in a closed fist culture. Mission: Discipleship that is meaningful and intentional in our everyday world.



#### 4. FIND SOMEONE TO JOURNEY WITH

Infinitem Life can only be lived in communities and never truly experienced as an individual. Discipleship at its best is always a “team sport.” We call these communities Hubs, which exist to provide support, accountability, and a creative context to explore this Way of Life. Hubs range from two believers in a prayer covenant, up to and including local churches—they are communities committed to living life intentionally through the lens of the three postures. So one of the first steps is to find someone to start this journey with—there’s a helpful guide at [infinitemlife.com/getting-started](https://infinitemlife.com/getting-started) for doing this.



#### 5. PRACTICE INFINITEM RHYTHM TOGETHER

We’ve developed a daily, weekly, and monthly rhythm which is constantly developing. Head over to the Rhythm section of the Infinitem website to find out more details.



#### 6. LET’S TRY THIS OUT TOGETHER

Infinitem is practiced by thousands across 30 different countries. Let us know you’ve started this practice so we can stay in touch and keep you connected with the wider Infinitem community. Once you’ve got your Hub together, let us know so we can keep you connected with others!

## WORLD VISION'S COVID-19 RESPONSE AROUND THE WORLD

*World Vision has been responding on the ground since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, meeting critical needs around the world.* We are responding in every country we work in, collaborating with local authorities, hospitals, academic institutions, and NGOs to prevent the spread of the virus. Our response to the most vulnerable people is centered on 17 countries where we are focused on prevention of transmission, supporting health responses, and caring for children made vulnerable by this crisis.

- In January, World Vision began distributing protection equipment and supplies in Asia, where the virus outbreak was first recorded. Teams on the ground are supporting vulnerable communities by promoting prevention behaviors, offering essential health advice and psychosocial support, and engaging government health authorities.
- Further action is now underway in some of the world's most fragile contexts including Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Haiti, and Syria. World Vision is urging governments to support a united global effort to protect the most vulnerable by rallying support particularly for those who host refugees and displaced children.

### WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE FOCUSES ON THREE AREAS:

- 1. Promoting preventive measures to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19 by targeting households and communities.** This includes promoting things like handwashing and respiratory hygiene, isolation, and good family and community water, sanitation, and hygiene behaviors. We are able to do this through our community partnership with health workers and volunteers, setting up public handwashing stations, and distributing soap, sanitizer, and masks appropriately.
- 2. Supporting health systems and workers by providing them with personal protective equipment** such as masks and gowns, treatment supplies such as thermometers; training and equipping community health workers to help with home care for the sick; sharing stay-healthy messaging; and helping to run isolation centers or support the transportation of the sick and testing supplies.
- 3. Supporting children made vulnerable by COVID-19.** This includes assisting Ministries of Education with home learning, if schools are closed, by providing school materials and activity packs; supporting the protection of children; preventing the separation or stigmatization of children during treatment and isolation; providing psychological first aid; and delivering livelihood activities and cash, food, and care packs to people in isolation.



Learn more about how World Vision is responding to COVID-19 at [worldvision.org](https://www.worldvision.org).

# JOIN WOLD VISION IN PRAYER



*The full recovery* for the thousands of people around the world who are currently infected with COVID-19 and for comfort and peace for the many people who have already lost loved ones.

*Psalm 34:18*  
*Isaiah 43:2*



*Wisdom and discernment* for those working to find a vaccine and for leaders entrusted with decision-making authority to be united.

*James 1:5*



*The peace and love of Jesus Christ* to cast out all fear for World Vision leaders and staff during this time, especially those with current travel and response obligations in vulnerable communities.

*1 John 4:18*



*Our Global Health Emergency Response leaders and staff* as they focus on the development of clear interventions in countries in which we serve.

## THANK YOU

*Over the last three weeks, you've practiced the postures of Surrender, Generosity, and Mission in your prayers.*

We hope that these rhythms from Infitum will become part of your daily life and that you continue these practices and join community Hubs through the Infitum app. Take what you've learned during this experience and let it transform your walk with Jesus, now and always.

As the world navigates this uncertain time and everyone adjusts, we will be praying for you. God is with you and all those affected by this outbreak. God can use all experiences, including suffering, as an opportunity to grow and transform our faith. **See what others are praying for in the midst of COVID-19 and share your own prayers using #HopeOverFear on social media.**

We ask that you continue to join us in prayer for World Vision's work, those who are most vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis, and for the children, families, and communities that we serve.