

## Scripture Prayers for the City

### 1. We pray for the “shalom” of our city.

*Jeremiah 29:7 – Seek the shalom of the city where I have sent you into exile; pray to the Lord for the city: for in the shalom of the city you will find your shalom.*

*Shalom* is the Hebrew word that is usually translated as peace or welfare. It means to live in a right relationship with God and with your neighbor. A city with shalom is characterized by racial harmony, neighbors who care for each other, the absence of violence, and a government that treats all with equal justice.

### 2. We pray that God will rule over all of the powers that control the institutions in our city. We pray for justice in our city government.

*Psalms 82:1-4 – God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the lesser gods he holds judgement: “How long will you judge unjustly and show favor to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and homeless. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”*

*“Lesser gods”* For the ancient Hebrews, the powers and principalities that controlled this world were pictured as lesser gods who allow evil to take place. Today we might talk about “systemic evil.” The psalmist says that God is greater than the gods, and that he commands them to enforce justice and to care for the needy.

### 3. We pray for those who do not “fit in.” For the illegal alien, for new immigrants, for those who society has marginalized.

*Leviticus 19:33-34 – Do not ill-treat the alien who lives among you; treat them as you would treat a fellow citizen, and love them as you love yourself. Remember you were once aliens in the land of Egypt.*

*The alien*, sometime translated sojourner or stranger, is the person who does not fit in. They are of a different tribe. God’s love transcends all human divisions of race, nationality or origin. We are to treat all as our neighbor.

### 4. We pray for our families and for our children.

*Matthew 18:10 & 19:14 – See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of the Father who is in heaven. . . Let the children come to me and do not hinder them: for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.*

*Children.* Jesus shows God’s loving care for children who have a special place in God’s heart. Let us pray for our children and show them the love that God has for them. Let us pray for healthy families, safe streets and good schools.