

Student Sunday Resource Pack

The Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) is coordinated by the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), and has been celebrated since 1898, making it one of the oldest ecumenical days of prayer. It is marked on the third Sunday of February every year, serving as a tangible sign of our common life and connecting student movements and WSCF friends across the world.

At SCM, we celebrate Student Sunday every year and invite all our members and supporters to unite in prayer for the world, the church, students, and WSCF itself. Whenever you celebrate it, Student Sunday is a great opportunity to pray for Britain's student population, whether you have students in your church or not.

A Prayer for Students

Loving God, who knows all we will ever learn and holds all we will ever forget: bless, inspire and encourage all students.

In times of hardship, sustain them. In times they are overwhelmed, comfort them. In times of discovery give them joy.

Where learning is restricted by poverty or gender we pray for your justice to come, bringing down systems of inequality and subverting individual barriers. Teach us to be students of your astounding grace, that we may see more of your Kingdom on earth. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

A Prayer for SCM

Creator God, who has sustained the Student Christian Movement across three centuries, we thank you for the gift it is in this generation.

Help those who are its stewards to act wisely. Help those who are its members to seek your change and growth as this movement endures and renews. Deepen the faith of all who find you through SCM, that they might act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Intercessions Option 1

God of all life, we give thanks for all students. We think of those who are starting their academic journeys and the excitement of taking this new step. We think of those in the middle of their degrees and the pressure they might be feeling. We think of those who are finished and are looking forward to what might be next. Whatever stage we are at, let us be reminded that You are always with us. May we always be guided towards Your truth.

God of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer.

God of all creation, we pray for the gift of teaching. Throughout Jesus' ministry, he used stories to teach us to be compassionate and to love our neighbour. We give thanks for those who teach and for those there to learn. Let us honour the hard work and sacrifice that teaching requires, and the joy of expanding our minds as our hearts are expanded by Your grace.

God of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer.

God of all loving, we turn our minds to those who are struggling to cope. We pray for those who are overwhelmed by the thoughts of exams and deadlines that are looming. When our minds are clouded over with the stresses of life, it is hard to find the light amongst the darkness. We pray that, by the power of Your grace, those who are struggling can reach out for help and find the light amongst the darkness.

God of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer.

God of all compassion, we remember those around the world who aren't able to access an education. We pray for those who are prevented from finishing their degrees because of their sex, their race, or their background. Let it be a reminder to us that learning is a precious gift; inspire in us the fires of justice so that we may work for a world where everyone can receive a proper education.

God of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer.

Intercessions Option 2

God of love, we pray for students who are in their first year at university. In Jesus you lived and grew as a human, and you knew what it was to leave the place of childhood to

begin your life in the world. Guide new students as they learn to balance the stresses and joys of independence. Meet them by your spirit in new friendships and new discoveries and comfort them when they are feeling far from home.

Lord of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer

God of love, we pray for students in the middle of long courses. You who are ageless and eternal are the source of all patience and perseverance. Help those who have so much work to do to persist in their studies without feeling overwhelmed. Grant them clear minds to find time for joy, laughter and for pursuing passions outside their subjects. Bless those whose calling is to let their studies go; free them from shame and show them the path into their fulfilment.

Lord of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer

God of love, we pray for all who will graduate this year. You rested when your work of creation was complete - teach us the balance of labour and refreshment. Guard and guide each student who stays up late to complete work, who rushes to lectures, who reads until they fall asleep. Calm their nerves before exams and give them wise minds as they plan their future.

Lord of all wisdom:

Hear our prayer

God of love, we pray for all who learn at any age or stage of life. You taught your followers over meals, on journeys, and within their working lives. Inspire all who will pick up studying again this year whether they begin in confidence or in fear. Encourage them as they open books and join seminars. Help them to know that they are not alone in their nerves and meet their open hearts with the light of your truth.

Gracious God, accept our prayers in Jesus' name.

Amen

Intercessions Option 3

God, who placed a tree of knowledge in the garden at the heart of your creation: help each person, each group of disciples, each university and each church, to honour learning as integral to all you made. May we hold knowledge as a treasure, learning to grow in what is good and reject what will harm us, others, or your world.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

God, who dispersed the people's and languages of the world: grant us the patience to learn from difference, to listen, and to seek deeper understanding, in our workplaces, seminars, social settings, and in our own homes. Breathe into us the spirit of Pentecost to find unity, compassion, and celebration in one another and in so doing to find you.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

God, who sent prophets to the powerful and gave them your words for challenge and change: empower those who study for new insights, for medical breakthroughs, for climate care, for art to inspire us, for psychology to understand ourselves. As we put ourselves in a place to be tested, sustain us. As we step out to share discoveries of truth, give us the words which will be heard.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

God, who called disciples to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from him: bless all who study everywhere. Send inspiration to the weary and comfort to the despondent as they wrestle with essays, experiments, and exams. Call us again into following you daily, to sit at your feet and have our hearts lightened with the rediscovery of your love.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

God, who nurtured the church from the days of her infancy: remake us as the body of Christ, ready to sit with the outcasts and having a voice to teach your word. Help the older among us to learn from the young and help the young to step forward and lead, and in their turn to hand the baton on.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Loving, creating, teaching God, accept the prayers of your children, in Jesus' name.

Amen

Prayer Requests

If your service lends itself more to an unstructured time of prayer, here are some suggestions of what to pray for from our student members.

Financial Worries

Students often have to juggle academic responsibilities alongside multiple jobs to make ends meet. For many of our members, money is a source of real anxiety, and affects their experience of university, as well as their mental and physical health. Please pray that those who are struggling will be able to make enough money to sustain them, join in with campaigns to see real change at a systemic level, and that they would know peace.

Exam & Assignment Anxiety

Exam and assignment fear is real! Please pray for those with summer exams, and assignments due - that they would know their worth does not lie in their grade, and that they would have the energy and motivation to do their best.

Making Friends

Many students will already have settled into a friendship group at university by now, but please pray for those who still haven't found a place or people to fit with. Pray that they would know Jesus' presence close to them.

Discerning Vocation

Many students in their final year will already be considering what to do when they finish their studies. Please pray for them as they discern this important next step - that they would know God's peace and hear God's voice.