

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **PRAY.** Use this Prayer Guide to continue to pray for the issue of addiction. Go to unitethechurch.org/ap4c to find additional Prayer Guides about other ongoing issues facing our city

Also pray about these **Next Steps**:

- **SERVE.** Explore opportunities to volunteer with organizations in Dallas serving people in recovery.

themenofnehemiah.org | nexusrecovery.org

- **INTERVENE.** Reach out and offer to attend a recovery program with a friend or family member who is struggling.

debtorsanonymous.org | www.aa.org | www.na.org

The Christian recovery programs below minister to any kind of addiction and emphasize the need for a thriving relationship with God to discover the roots of the problems that lead to addictions.

regenerationrecovery.org | celebraterecovery.com

- **LEARN.** Pornography is devastating and extremely addictive.

fightthenewdrug.org/get-the-facts/

- **TELL.** Tell your friends, family, co-workers, and followers about organizations working to combat addiction. Look at these resources below so you can prepare yourself to share helpful information with people God puts in your path:

drugfreedallas.org | www.shatterproof.org

www.facingaddiction.org | www.drugabuse.gov | drugfree.org

- **HOTLINE.** www.samhsa.gov has a national 24/7 addiction hotline:

1-800-662-HELP



ADDICTION PRAYER GUIDE

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13

This prayer guide’s topic is **Addiction**.

All of us have been wounded and have wounded others. The temptation to turn to distractions and comforts apart from God to deal with these wounds can get anyone stuck in addiction. Drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, consumerism, addiction to video games and technology, workaholism, people-pleasing, and co-dependency can lead to destroyed families, job loss, overdose, and homelessness.

An injury can put people at risk for addiction. Of patients who were prescribed opioid pain relievers, at least 8 percent develop an opioid use disorder and many more engage in behaviors that indicate they have become dependent. Of the top 25 cities in the nation for opioid abuse, 3 are in Texas.

The connection between homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse is heart-breaking and complex. Another growing epidemic in Dallas is K2, a synthetic marijuana. The Dallas Morning News reports zombie-like, erratic, uncontrollable behavior by users (many of whom are homeless). The number of calls to 911 because of K2 in the first 9 months of 2017 was 271, a 177 percent increase from the year before. May these crises call us to our knees in prayer for our city and country.

Please prepare your heart before you begin to pray through the AP4C categories, so that these Scriptures and your time with God can renew your heart for the Metroplex.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NIV translation.

unitethechurch.org/ap4c



AP4C model was established in collaboration with
Movement Day Greater Dallas and is facilitated by Unite



SALVATION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:16-17

- Pray for the repentance of those alienated from Christ and also for the repentance of the church for the hidden attitude of believing that some people are too far gone to turn back.
- Pray that people in desperate situations will cry out to God and turn to Him.
- Pray that people will come to the point where their addiction no longer offers any satisfaction and pray for them to discover that Christ offers them freedom and hope.
- Continue to pray for the salvation of people within your sphere of influence.

THE CHURCH

“But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:24b-27

- Ask for repentance for the times that people have felt they have to hide their struggles at church. Pray that every church would be a place for people to come to find support and heal, not hide.
- Pray for the endurance and fruitfulness of church programs dealing with addictions.
- Pray that Christians will use their gifts and resources to partner with and support families whose loved ones are struggling with addiction.

OUR COMMUNITIES

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:10-11

- Pray for God’s mercy to surround the families that have been devastated by addiction. May they find true community instead of feeling isolated and stigmatized.
- Pray for people with chronic pain, whether physical or emotional and those who have suffered from trauma and abuse, that they would get the help they need before they turn to addictive coping behaviors.
- Pray for our communities to recognize that pornography is extremely damaging. It rewires the brains of users and becomes an addiction to the detriment of the person’s family, work, and life goals.

TRANSFORMATION

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.” 1 Peter 5:10

- Pray for addiction to be treated as a disease instead of a crime and that rehab centers will be successful in helping their clients.
- Pray for more high schools and colleges to be devoted to recovery and support of people struggling with addiction.
- Pray for police officers, correctional officers, and everyone involved in the court system to have wisdom as they make decisions and interact with people caught in addiction.
- Pray for breakthroughs in research in medical and psychiatry fields that will lead to a greater understanding of how best to fight addiction.
- Pray that city leaders will take a stand against businesses that fuel addiction such as strip clubs, pay day and title loans, and networks of drug dealers.