



Standing in the Gap



Standing in the Gap (in prayer)/Intercessory Prayer

(Recommended format)

GATHER in quiet/silence. Find your space where you will be most comfortable (perhaps a place where you can have a visual focus when you desire).

LEADER signals “start” (quiet knock. **ALL** make the *Sign of the Cross* deliberately, and in silence).

EMPTY YOURSELF. You are here because God has called you to “stand in the gap” for others so that they may draw closer to the Lord and His Church. You are here to be their mind, heart, body, soul, quiet voice in prayer (*intercede*), so you are called to **empty** your heart so that it may be joined with **God’s** heart, who will make it God’s own and who will reach the hearts of those you are praying for. *In quiet, begin to empty yourself of your concerns.*

Pray in silence, “PRAYER(S) OF ABANDONMENT

Prayer of Abandonment – Brother Charles De Foucauld

*Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.*

(Optional) Prayer of Abandonment – drawn from the writings of Saint Therese of Lisieux (“Way of Spiritual Childhood”) and the diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (“The Divine Mercy in My Soul”), as compiled by Fr. William Patrick Casey, C.P.M. (The Fathers of Mercy)

“Jesus, I Love you.... Jesus, I trust in you....

Lord, teach me not only to accept, but to truly love my littleness and my inner poverty, and to place blind trust in your infinite goodness and mercy, that I may be entirely dependant upon your protective, fatherly care and experience the transforming power of your grace in my life...

My Lord and Savior, I know that you love me more than I can *ever* imagine, and that you have a plan for my life that will end in eternal glory if I but surrender my heart and soul to you, entrust myself completely to you, and allow you to lead me always, especially through the darkest hours of my life....

My loving Jesus, let the fire of your Holy Spirit purify my soul, my senses, and my entire being to remove from my life anything that might stand as an obstacle to my ability to enkindle that flame of pure love – the love that you desire to receive from me....

Lord, teach me to be not only resigned to your holy will, but to always seek your will, embrace your will, and truly, lovingly abandon myself to it, with joyful confidence that you desire my happiness far more than I do my own. Let my faith response be to give thanks *and* praise to you always, even when you will that I bear the cross of suffering. With the holy and immaculate Virgin Mary, let me say “yes” to your divine plan for my life, knowing that great things happen when we say “yes” to you....

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, let me love you with all my soul and all my strength. Grant me the grace to adore you with every beat of my heart and with every fiber of my being, that I may love you with the same passionate intensity with which you have loved me....

My Lord and my God

I am the stone ...You be the sculptor

I am the clay You be the potter

I am the instrumentYou be the composer and the musician

I am the canvas You be the painter ...the Master Artist of my life .. .

Jesus, show me what you want me to do.... Jesus, I trust in you.”

(Optional) Prayer of Abandonment

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (This can be repeated over and over again, in a rhythmic patten as you breath . . . in . . . then out . . . in then out . . .)

BE BOLD. Approach the container with the names of those you/we are “standing in the gap in prayer” with/interceding for, reverence the Lord present in the Tabernacle, and ***lay hands*** on the box for a time of quiet, asking the Holy Spirit to come upon all you/we are “standing in the gap in prayer” with/interceding for; thanking the Lord Jesus for His abiding presence in the Blessed Sacrament; giving your hear, mind, body and soul over to God so that God may use it for God’s purpose.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (who is THE intercessor, and has “stood” in the gap and continues to “stand” in the gap, in prayer, for you/us/others – John 17:1-26. *(This may be prayed slowly and deliberately in silence by each person interceding; as a group, in silence; as a group, softly and deliberately spoken, taking one phrase at a time. After completing the Prayer of Jesus – praying His words – being His voice, take some quiet time to reflect on the power of His prayer that YOU prayed with Him).*

When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him.

(pause . . . call to mind why you are praying; who you are standing in the gap/interceding for)

Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

(pause . . . call to mind how you have revealed God’s name to others; in what ways have you done this; how have you handed on God’s words in love, in truth and in charity)

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them.

(pause . . . call to mind, again, why you are praying; who you are standing in the gap/interceding for . . . perhaps . . . move silently to the tabernacle area and once again, place your hands on the box for a few moments of fervent, silent prayer, then, continue)

And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.

(Remember . . . this is WHY you are standing in the gap in prayer/interceding for others)

When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely.

(Remember . . . this is WHY you are standing in the gap in prayer/interceding for others. As the voice of Jesus, you want these people to share HIS joy . . . your joy . . . completely)

I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

(pause . . . this is why you are here . . . Jesus is praying through you!)

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

(pause . . . let your heart now join God’s heart and become one)

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

(pause . . . celebrate the joy of knowing how much God loves them . . . how much the Lord Jesus pursues them . . . how you are “standing in the gap”/interceding in prayer)

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

(YOU have, in prayer, prayed as Jesus Christ and made known God’s name)

BE STILL. *Take time to absorb what Jesus, through you, has just done; is doing; will do.*

JESUS WAS CONTINUALLY PRAYING; STANDING IN THE GAP; INTERCEDING FOR HUMANKIND. *Take time to reflect on the numerous scripture passages that speak of Jesus, in prayer . . . place yourself with Him; speak His words . . . quietly. Let your heart and your body **feel** these words.*

He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)

(Matthew 6:5-15)

Leader: “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

The Lord’s Prayer. *(pray this softly; deliberately; slowly. Allow yourself to feel the vibration of your words through your body as you speak these words. While a “prayer”, it is also a “pattern” for praying . . . try praying the “pattern” on occasion).*

“This is how you are to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and do not subject us to the final test,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

BE STILL. *Take time to absorb what you have just prayed.*

CONCLUDE.

(Luke 10:21-22)

Praise of the Father. (Your prayer of thanksgiving for this time, once again, in the very words of Jesus who is praying through you. Prayer softly deliberately; slowly.)

At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

LEADER signals “end” (quiet knock. **ALL** make the ***Sign of the Cross*** deliberately, and in silence; reverence the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle and then leave quietly).