

## Seven Tears for Seven Days of Prayer

Tears of Intercession for the Middle East

*Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.  
He who continually goes forth weeping,  
bearing seed for sowing shall doubtless come again  
with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.*

Psalm 126:5-6



Tears in Scripture play a unique role in spiritual breakthrough. These verses in Psalm 126 reveal that the planting of seeds along with a spirit of brokenness will not only give a spiritual harvest, but will also impart the one sowing with a spirit of rejoicing in the process. Charles H. Spurgeon termed the “ministry of tears” as “liquid prayer.” May we also engage with God’s heart for the places in the Middle East with tears of intercession.

## DAY ONE

### Tears of Sorrow for Aleppo, Syria

The story of Hagar in the desert

*Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy.*

*She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.*

*When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.*

*Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought,*

*“I cannot watch the boy die.”*

*And as she sat there, she began to sob.*

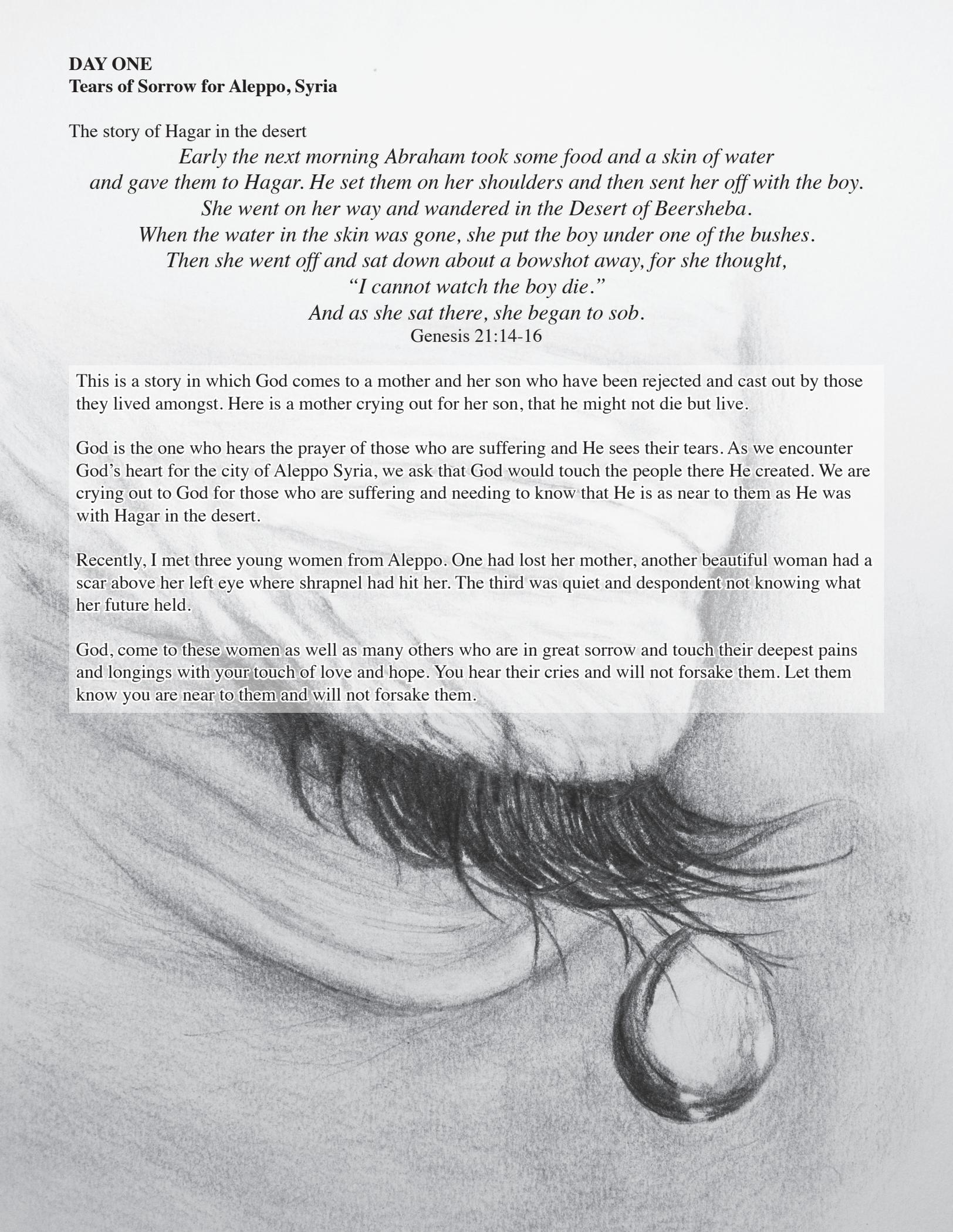
Genesis 21:14-16

This is a story in which God comes to a mother and her son who have been rejected and cast out by those they lived amongst. Here is a mother crying out for her son, that he might not die but live.

God is the one who hears the prayer of those who are suffering and He sees their tears. As we encounter God's heart for the city of Aleppo Syria, we ask that God would touch the people there He created. We are crying out to God for those who are suffering and needing to know that He is as near to them as He was with Hagar in the desert.

Recently, I met three young women from Aleppo. One had lost her mother, another beautiful woman had a scar above her left eye where shrapnel had hit her. The third was quiet and despondent not knowing what her future held.

God, come to these women as well as many others who are in great sorrow and touch their deepest pains and longings with your touch of love and hope. You hear their cries and will not forsake them. Let them know you are near to them and will not forsake them.



## DAY TWO

### Tears of Joy for Mafraq, Jordan

The story of Esau and Jacob

*“Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men.*

*So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives.*

*He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. Then Jacob went on ahead.*

*As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him.*

*Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.”*

Genesis 33:1-4

When we think of families being separated from one another through war, displacement, and terrorism, this story becomes very meaningful as we see Esau embracing Jacob and weeping together. Today, many families in Mafraq Syria have had an experience of losing or being separated from family members. Yet, in the midst of this pain, some are crying tears of joy as they are miraculously reunited with family they thought they would never see again.

“When I left Syria, my son remained to fight in the war. I hoped I would hear from him and waited for him to call. One day, after months of waiting, a woman visited my home. I told her about my son and she said, “Let’s pray in Jesus’ name that God will have him call today.” After she left my home, my son called me and told me he was coming to be with me in Mafraq!” Soon after he returned to where I was staying and we wept together and gave thanks to God for this miracle.”

We pray for many families who have been disconnected from those they belong to. We rejoice for those who have been reunited but we continue to ask that many more would have the experience of embracing sons, daughters, fathers and mothers who have been separated from each other amongst the Syrian refugees in Mafraq, Jordan.

## DAY THREE

### Tears of Compassion for refugee children

*Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*  
John 11:35-36

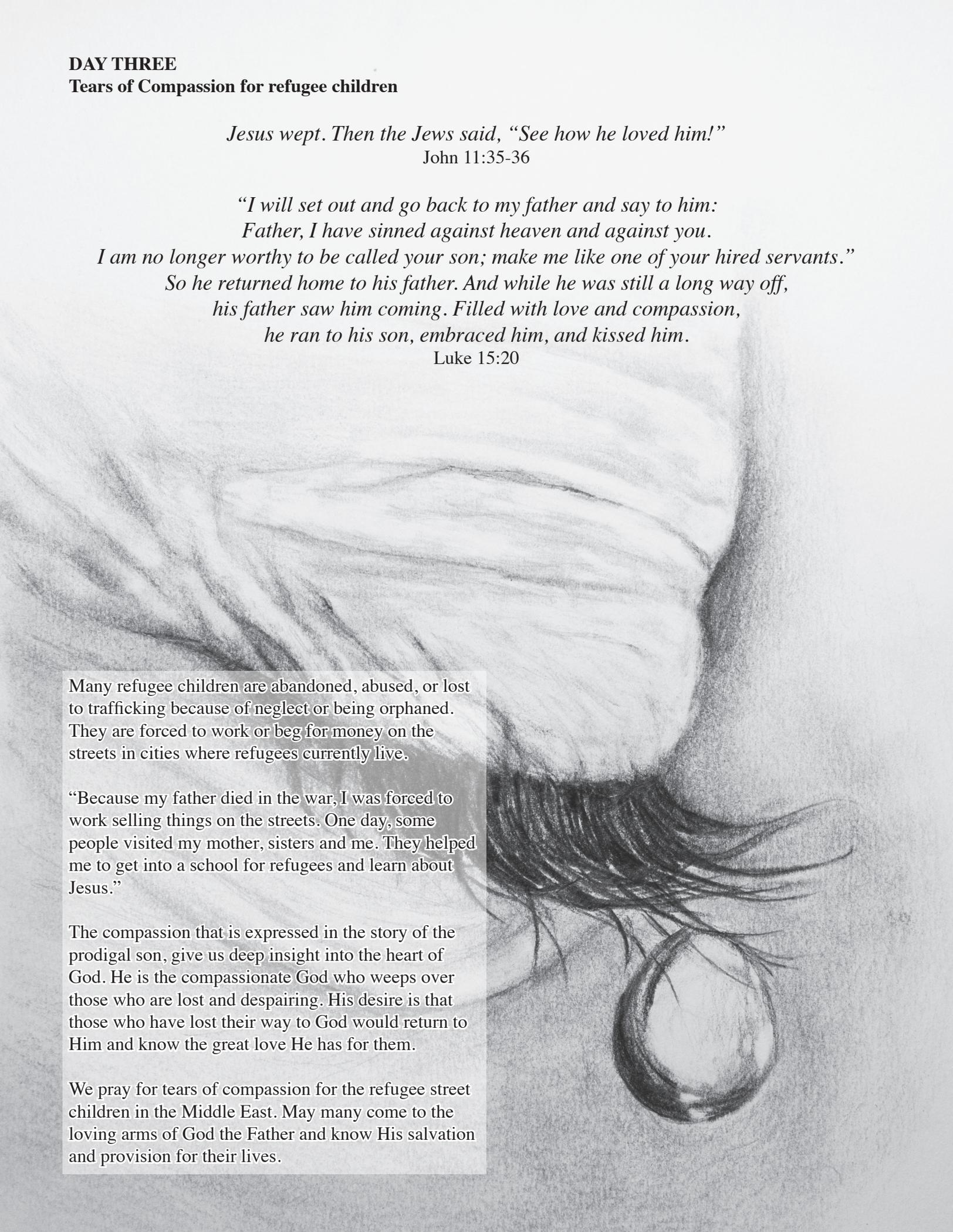
*"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."  
So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off,  
his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion,  
he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.*  
Luke 15:20

Many refugee children are abandoned, abused, or lost to trafficking because of neglect or being orphaned. They are forced to work or beg for money on the streets in cities where refugees currently live.

"Because my father died in the war, I was forced to work selling things on the streets. One day, some people visited my mother, sisters and me. They helped me to get into a school for refugees and learn about Jesus."

The compassion that is expressed in the story of the prodigal son, give us deep insight into the heart of God. He is the compassionate God who weeps over those who are lost and despairing. His desire is that those who have lost their way to God would return to Him and know the great love He has for them.

We pray for tears of compassion for the refugee street children in the Middle East. May many come to the loving arms of God the Father and know His salvation and provision for their lives.



## DAY FOUR

### Tears of Desperation for Mosul, Iraq

*When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.*

*But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

Esther 4:1-3

This story shows the identification of Mordecai with his people and his cry of desperation for God to intervene. God did have a plan to prevail despite the works of evil that tried to destroy. God used the tears and prayers of His people to see a great deliverance for His people.

“I could not sleep with the torment of the blood upon my hands from the many people I had killed on behalf of a religious cause that I had known for many years. One night, Jesus appeared to me and told me He died so that I didn't have to live with torment and shame for what I had done. His blood was shed for me that I could be free and know His compassion and mercy.”

We ask you Lord that we would be touched by tears of desperation for those in Mosul, Iraq today. Many are weeping as they have lost family and home and seen their city destroyed. Come Lord Jesus to these you died for and touch them with the tears of Your people calling out to intervene for them today.



## DAY FIVE

### Tears of Travail for Sana'a Yemen

*He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.  
A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.  
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice...*

Isaiah 42:14

Today, we see the city of city of Sana'a, Yemen weeping for God to deliver them from oppression and injustice and for God to rescue those who have no where to turn.

“We feel our land is forgotten and that the world doesn't know what is happening to us in Yemen. We cry night and day for things to change and for the great suffering of people here to end.”

We are turning to you God for the city of Sana'a Yemen. May the tears of travail that are falling from the prayers of Your people. Water the ground of hardness that will open the soil for the seed of the Gospel. Make a way Lord, where there is no way. May a great witness come out of this city for your Name sake. Bring justice and restore what has been destroyed.

## DAY SIX

### Tears of Devotion for the church in the Middle East

*As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

Luke 7:38

*“Even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”*

Joel 2:12

This is a time when God is visiting His people, His church in the Middle East. He longs for a pure bride, one who will love Him with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. He longs for pure devotion from His people. He is calling many to fast and pray and call out to Him in this difficult time of pressure and obstacles that face the church today.

“Many Christians are leaving the Middle East due to fear of what will happen to them in the future. They are choosing to move to the West and live in places where there is more freedom.”

“We have decided to stay and trust the Lord that He will keep us safe and provide for us. We want to be faithful witnesses for Him in this land. We want to live as people who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

There is a remnant of God’s people that are crying out to God, weeping for His Kingdom to come, His will to be done in the Middle East. As they look to the Lord, may He give them hearts fully devoted to Him committed to His eternal purposes.



## DAY SEVEN

### Tears of Reconciliation for Palestinians and Jews

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers

*Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.*

*Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.*

*Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."*

Genesis 45:1-5

When we look at the Palestinian/Israeli situation we wonder if there is any hope for change. But God is able to do all things! As we cry out to Him with tears for reconciliation on behalf of those that are divided and living in unresolved pain over broken relationships, we recall Joseph. The enemy meant things for evil but God turned it all for good.

"Our generation wants to be a bridge for reconciliation in this region. Our desire is that both Jews and Palestinians will stop the cycle of violence and hate and come together. We are asking God to make the way for us although it is difficult."

May the God of peace and reconciliation make a way to restore the relationships that are broken and heal the wounds that have existed between these two groups of people that Jesus died for. We cry out with tears of reconciliation for now and for the future that will be a testimony of the power of God's heart of love through Jesus the Messiah.