Prayer Guide for Christian Educators and Schools



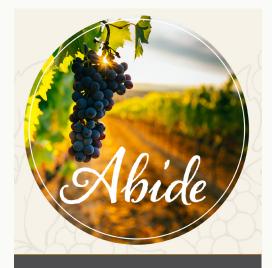


2025 DAY of PRAYER

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. – John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

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–John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

15 Maintaining Momentum

Thank you for downloading the 2025 Prayer Guide.

The ACSI Day of Prayer is an annual global event that advances Christ-centered education by advocating through prayer. This is a great day for educating your students about the importance and value of prayer, along with the privilege of praying for Christian schools in other countries as well as petitioning for needs you personally face.

This year's theme is Abide. Our theme verse is John 15:4–5 (NKJV): "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Time and time again throughout the New Testament, Jesus uses relevant examples to teach His followers how to live. No doubt, they were familiar with gardening! As He begins to speak, Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15:1). Unlike other gospel parables using imagery of vines or vineyards, Jesus is teaching that spiritual fruit comes through a personal relationship with Him, which is an overflow of time spent with Him through God's Word and presence. Over time, God, the vinedresser, ensures more fruitfulness by removing dead branches or undesired parts through pruning (John 15:2).

What an opportunity to model for our students what abiding in Christ means! As you share what your personal relationship with Jesus means to you, and students witness your testimony of faith, they will be drawn to wanting that deep connection too. Through this Day of Prayer theme, you can show students that abiding is not a one-time event, but a day-by-day connection to the true vine, Jesus Christ!

Teaching concepts such as talking and listening to God through prayer and having moments of solitude just as Jesus did (Luke 5:16, Matthew 14:13 and 26:36, along with Mark 6:46) will help students deepen their personal relationship with Him as they see God at work in their own lives. Devotion to Jesus yields obedient fruit, shaping disciples who actively spread His message, disciple others, serve well, and persevere through hardship.

I encourage you to pray for your school community and for Christian schooling around the world during the ACSI Global Day of Prayer on March 4, 2025. Please find helpful ideas and resources inside this prayer guide to plan your participation.

Stay Connected to Jesus!



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Larry Taylor, Ph.D. ACSI President & CEO

Day of Prayer Theme: Abide

This year's theme for the ACSI Day of Prayer is "abide." In John 15:4–5, Jesus says, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Jesus' words in John 15 clearly describe the essence of the relationship between the Lord and His people. As a branch relies on the vine as its source of life, followers of Jesus must be fully dependent on the Lord, as He is the source of all life, ministry, and fruitfulness. Jesus' call to abide means that we are to remain in a state of dependence and connectedness to Him, for apart from Him we can do nothing.

The beauty of an abiding relationship with Jesus is found not in what we do, but in who we are. He is the vine, and we are the branches. Jesus' command is not to produce fruit, but to remain connected to Him. It is from this place of abiding that Jesus is at work in us to produce fruit to the glory of God and for the benefit of others. So, at the heart of the Christian walk is a call to prioritize being with Christ as we seek to serve and obey Him.

One of the greatest ways that we experience an abiding relationship with the Lord is through prayer. In prayer, we find intimacy and fellowship with our heavenly Father. In prayer, we admit our daily and continual need to be nourished by the Spirit. In prayer, we are fueled for the work of ministry. In prayer, we surrender our will to the will of God, asking Him to have His way in and through our lives. As one writer says, "Intimacy with God is the source of our power to do great work for God."

Even Jesus understood the importance of abiding in prayer. He would "often" withdraw to desolate places

where He would commune with His Father in prayer (Luke 5:16). If the very Son of God prioritized being with the Father, then wisdom would call us to emulate His ways.

As we unite together all over the world to pray for one another, to pray for our schools, to pray for our students, and to pray for the advancement, advocacy, and access of Kingdom Education, may we be reminded that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing. The work of Kingdom Education is too great a task to be accomplished apart from Him.

We pray that this theme is an encouraging reminder to sit at His feet, learn from His Word, meet with Him in prayer, connect with His people, and rest in His presence. Jesus will meet us in these ordinary rythms of grace, resulting in an overflow of fruitfulness and blessing to the glory of God and for the benefit of others.



It's easy to get involved with these simple steps:

PARTICIPATE

Let us know that you are a part of this global day of prayer at <u>www.</u> <u>acsi.org/day-of-</u> <u>prayer</u>. You'll have access to additional resources, ideas, and support.



You can make this day as simple or elaborate as you want by praying personally or creating an experience for you and others.



Whether you are planning a Day of Prayer event or praying on your own, help us promote this day through social media or through your community.



Pray on March 4, 2025, by concentrating on abiding in Christ as we proclaim, serve, disciple, and persevere, for the glory of His Name and the blessing of others.





Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. —John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

Theme-Related Bible Verses

Abide in Christ

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

(Psalm 1:2–3, ESV)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:8–11, ESV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6–7, ESV)

Abide to Proclaim Salvation in Christ

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

(John 15:16 ,ESV)

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3, ESV)

Abide to Serve One Another

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:23–24, NIV) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:15–16, NIV)

Abide to **Disciple** Those in Our Care

But whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (1 John 2:5–6, ESV)

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." – Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" ... he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:17, ESV)

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16, ESV)

Abide to Persevere Together Through Hardship

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7–8, ESV)

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:17–21, ESV)

Ways To Make This Day Special For Christian Educators and Schools

Timeline for Planning and Promoting the Day of Prayer

STEP **1** : As You Begin

- □ Pray for what your school should do.
- □ Appoint a prayer coordinator (or form a committee) to champion your school-wise DOP.
- □ Review and download event materials at www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer.
- Delegate responsibilities and assign task deadlines.

STEP **2** :

Now - February

Plan Day of Prayer Activities

- □ Plan your day's event experience. Use ACSI prayer guide and resources to assist you! Sample ideas: (*see Additional Resources at www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer*).
 - <u>School Wide Plan</u> determine how you'll use the ACSI prayer guide and prayer prompts (or create your own), choose age-appropriate engagement activities, elevate and communicate your plan with staff and students, plan a school-wide event (All School Worship, Prayer Walk, use ACSI Interactive Prayer Map).
 - <u>Divisional Plan</u> plan a chapel with a prayer emphasis; designate prayer activities in the classrooms or in advisory groups.
 - Utilize the **Day of Prayer Map** to input prayer needs and pray for other schools.
- □ Seek support and approval for any activities from your administration.
- □ Gain support and involvement from your leadership, staff, and families by communicating details about the day. Sample email ideas: (*Templates included in Additional Resources at* <u>www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer</u>).
 - Leadership and Staff Email describe and elevate the importance of prayer and the prayer theme; include the day of prayer guide, details for all-school event and/or divisional plans, engagement activities, interactive prayer map, and parent at-home participation guide.
 - <u>Student Email</u> describe and elevate the importance of prayer and the prayer theme; include a tool in which students can submit prayer requests confidentially, the day of the event schedule, the prayer guide and engagement activities, and an explanation of the parent athome participation guide.
 - <u>Parent/Guardian/Grandparent Email</u> describe and elevate the importance of prayer, the prayer theme, and the school plan for students; include prayer prompts or a guide and quetion prompts for discussion at home.

Promote Day of Prayer Activities

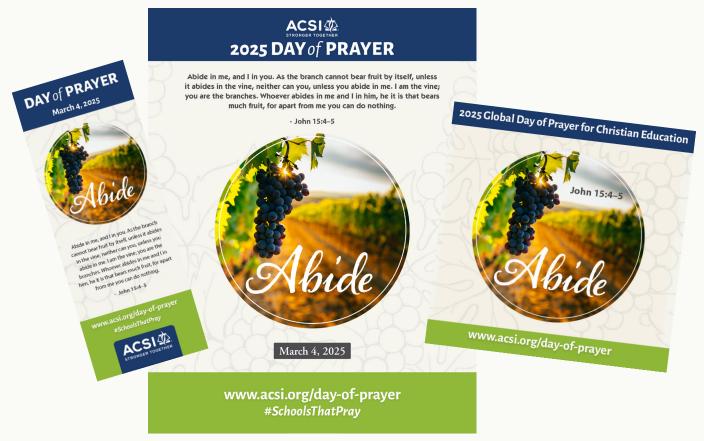
Once you have an internal plan, consider the following ways to let your external school community know about the day:

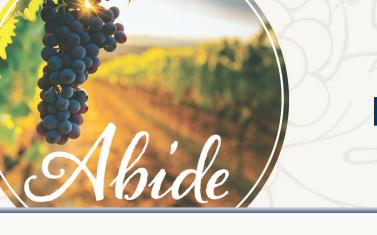
- □ Encourage teachers to weave the concept of prayer throughout the day's academic activities by providing a plan and resources.
- Download and print promotional and event materials as needed to help you promote and prepare for this day within your school community. Resources include posters, bulletin inserts, social media graphics, a bookmark, videos, and presentation slides.
- □ Gather local prayer requests.
- □ Consider how to include local churches, parents, or alumni in the promotion and involvement of this day.
- □ Be prayerful as you plan details.

STEP 3 :

Day of the Event – March 4, 2025

- □ Consider ways to make the day special, such as showing school unity by dressing in school colors.
- Utilize the <u>Day of Prayer Map</u> to input prayer needs and pray for other schools.
- □ Document the day through social media using the hashtag #SchoolsThatPray.
- □ Collect testimonials on what the day means to each person. Post those with permission at <u>www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer</u>.





Day of Prayer Guide

Prayer is the most intimate communication with God, our Father. Consider these areas in which to pray:

Adoration: Praise God for who He is – His attributes, His name, and His character

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:4–5)

- Take a few moments and praise God for His promise to produce fruit in and through our lives as we abide in Him.
- Praise Him for the work that He is doing within you, within your school, and within the world.
- Take a few moments to rest in His presence and the power of His Spirit.

Confession: Silently confessing your sins to the God who forgives and restores

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

- Take a few moments to silently confess your sin to the Lord, knowing that He promises to forgive and cleanse you of all unrighteousness.
- Ask the Lord to create in you a clean heart and to renew a right spirit within you.
- Ask the Lord for His forgiveness for the moral decay in our world.

Thanksgiving: Thanking God for what He has done in and around your life

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

- Take a few moments to thank God for His promise and grace to never give up on you as He powerfully works in you to conform you into the image of His Son.
- Thank Him for the promise that the work He has begun in you at salvation will be brought to completion at the day of Jesus.
- Thank Him for the work He is doing in your school and community.

Supplication: Praying for concerns and needs in our lives and in our world

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. (Philippians 4:19–20)

- Take a few moments and pray for any personal concerns or needs in your own life. Pray for God to meet the needs of your school and your community.
- Reflect on the promise of this verse that He will supply every need of yours in His timing and according to the promises of His Word.

Here are some specific ways that you can pray for your school and other ACSI schools around the world:

- Ask God to **<u>advance</u>** the Kingdom of God through Christian education:
 - Opportunities to transform the hearts and minds of children around the world.
 - Help educators to provide education that is grounded in biblical truth.
 - Raise up godly leaders and educators to train up the next generation to follow Jesus Christ.
 - Strategic planning and vision for opportunities to advance Christian education.
- Ask God to provide **access** to Christian education for every child:
 - Global outreach.
 - Poor/needy children to have the ability to attend a Christian school (i.e., scholarships funds, etc.).
 - Christian education to flourish through resources, removed barriers, increased opportunities, etc.
 - Creativity of education through new/innovative delivery.
- Ask God for **advocates** for Kingdom education:
 - · Local churches to support Christ-centered education in their community.
 - Legislative support and resources to defend and protect freedom of education.
 - Community leaders to support Christ-centered education.



Day of Prayer Classroom Engagement Ideas: Lower School

Designed for teachers to use with their students in Preschool – 3rd/4th grade. Middle and Upper School Prayer Guide activities are also available if needed to meet the developmental ages of your students. We encourage you to utilize the ACSI Prayer Wall with your students so you can pray for Christian Schools across the globe.

Fruit of the Spirit Prayer Tree

Explain that just like fruit needs a tree to grow, we need Jesus to help us grow in love and kindness. Talk about the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) and how they come from abiding in Christ. Provide fruit cut-outs and have the children choose a fruit shape and write or draw a picture of a way they can show one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Attach the fruit to a tree poster and say a short prayer together, asking Jesus to help us grow and show these fruits in our lives.

Vine and Branches Circle Time

Use yarn or something like it to symbolize a vine. Sit in a circle and talk about how a vine helps branches grow strong and that without the vine, the branch can't grow or produce fruit. Pass around vine and let each child hold it while saying a short prayer like, "Jesus, help me stay close to you like this branch stays on the vine." Give each child a paper leaf, branch, or fruit cut-out, and have them draw a picture of themselves on it. Attach these to a "Vine" board to show how we are all connected to Jesus.

Abiding Actions Song

Teach the children a simple song about abiding in Christ or the fruit of the Spirit. Use actions like stretching arms to form a vine and moving like branches. Encourage them to think of ways they can be like branches that depend on Jesus, and use the actions as a prayerful expression of this idea.

Songs: Abide in Christ Fruit of the Spirit (Slugs & Bugs) Fruit of the Spirit w/ Motions (3W Church)

Vine and Branches Journal

Give each child a piece of paper or have them use their notebook to decorate with vine and branch themes. Have them write or draw ways they can stay connected to Jesus in their daily lives (prayer, Bible reading, singing worship songs, fellowship with other Christians, etc.). Allow time for them to write personal prayers asking Jesus to help them abide in Him and produce fruit in their lives.

Fruit Bearing Prayer Chain

Discuss the idea of abiding in Christ and bearing fruit as good actions we can do with Jesus' help. Have each child write a prayer request or a good deed they want to do on a paper strip. Link the strips together to create a prayer chain. As you add each strip, say a short prayer asking Jesus to help with those requests and deeds.

Vine Connection Craft

Have the children write their names on leaf or fruit cut-outs with different colors. Punch holes in the cutouts and use yarn to connect them to a central "vine" string hung across the room. Pray together, thanking Jesus for being our vine and asking for help to grow in Him.

1. Adoration

- Provide paper to draw on and listen to a song such as "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music and have students draw something that reminds them of the goodness of God.
- Provide letter tiles and have participants spell out words that describe who God is. Have them praise God for that attribute.
- Print out promises from God found in the Bible. Fold up each individual promise and place in a jar. During prayer stations, have students take one out, read it, and reflect on how that promise is true in their personal life.

2. Confession

- Draw out a cross on the board or lay out a cross on the floor. Tell students to share different ways that we sin against God and others. Have a simple discussion on how sin keeps us from following Jesus. Have each student write out a sin on a sticky note to put on the cross. Share that Jesus died on the cross to wash us clean of our sin. Direct students to go to the cross, take their sticky note and rip it in half, then throw it away as a symbol of Jesus removing our sin when we confess to Him. As you take the note down, pray, "God, please forgive us and take away our mistakes."
- Give students pieces of red and white construction paper and have them cut out a heart in each color. Explain that when we make mistakes or do something wrong, we can tell God about it, and He helps make our hearts clean again. Using a marker or crayons, encourage students to draw a sad face on the red heart and a happy face on the white heart. (Or, have students write different sins on the red heart and a cross on the white heart.) As they glue or tape the white heart over the red heart, say a simple prayer like, "Dear God, I am sorry for what I did wrong. Please make my heart clean and happy."

3. Thanksgiving

- Create a vine on a wall using green construction paper or yarn. Talk about how Jesus is the vine and we
 are the branches that grow when we stay close to Him. Have students write or draw something they are
 thankful for on a paper leaf or a paper fruit cut-out. Attach the leaves or fruit to the vine to create a "Vine
 of Blessings." Stand in front of the vine and say a prayer of thanksgiving for each blessing represented.
- Use bubbles. As you blow a bubble up to the sky, thank God for something He has done for you. Name a way He has been faithful to you.
- Sit in a circle and explain that we're going to share things we're thankful for while staying connected to Jesus. Pass a ball or object around the circle, and when the child receives it, they say one thing they're thankful for. After all have shared, hold hands and say a group prayer, thanking Jesus for all the blessings shared.

4. Supplication

- Create a space using maps or a globe. Print the prayer cards from the ACSI event resource file. Pray for the needs listed for each region of the world. When you have prayed for a region, set a colored stone or some type of marker on the map. You can also use the online prayer globe wall and pray for prayer requests listed there.
- Hang pictures of Christian educators and leaders in your area to pray for. Have a card prepared that says "We prayed for you today" and have participants sign it. Send the card to the educator/leader after the Day of Prayer.
- Display beautiful green plants. Talk about that when we abide in Christ, He helps us to flourish like the plants or flowers in a garden. Have participants pray for Christian education to flourish.
- Display global flags, the American flag, your state flag, and the Christian flag. Ask participants to pray for global, national, and state government leaders; local schools; and Christians everywhere.

Day of Prayer Engagement Ideas: Middle and Upper School

Designed for teachers to use with their students in 4th–12th grades within their classroom or small group time. We encourage you to utilize the ACSI Prayer Wall with your students so you can pray for Christian Schools across the globe.

Teach Students to Pray (ACTS)

Use the "ACTS Prayer Guide" to lead students in a time of prayer. As you move through each section of the prayer time, have students call out attributes of God in adoration, give students a moment for silent confession, ask them to celebrate things they are thankful for, and encourage them to share their concerns, ask God to supply their needs, and make petition to the Lord. Read the verses in the guide as you introduce each section of the prayer time. Read the prayer prompts aloud and give students time to pray silently and/or ask for volunteers to pray aloud. This can be a teacher-led or student-led activity.

Guided Prayer Time

Use the abide theme-related Bible verses to have a time of guided prayer and reflection in your classroom. Give individual students a verse, have them read it aloud, then pause for a time of prayer and reflection in response to the Scripture. Lead your students in thinking and meditating on the verse. Have a few students pray according to the Scripture that was read. We would encourage you to utilize the ACSI Prayer Wall with your students so you can pray for Christian Schools across the globe.

Prayer Groups or Partners

Split students into pairs or small groups and have them pray together, for one another, and for their school. Provide some of the Abide theme verses in this guide for them to use as they pray. Provide the specific needs from the "Supplication" section of the "Abide ACTS Prayer Guide" to aid them in their prayers.

Songs:

<u>Abide in Christ</u> <u>Fruit of the Spirit (Slugs & Bugs)</u> Fruit of the Spirit w/ Motions (3W Church)

Prayer Corners

Split students into pairs or small groups and have them pray together, for one another, and for their school. Provide some of the Abide theme verses in this guide for them to use as they pray. Provide the specific needs from the "Supplication" section of the "Abide ACTS Prayer Guide" to aid them in their prayers.

Practice Silence, Rest, and Worship

Teach students the importance of turning off distractions and being silent before the Lord, allowing His peace and His presence to give them rest in the midst of the busyness of their lives and daily routine. Take a time within your class routine to practice being silent. Read aloud the Abide theme verses and give time for students to silently meditate on the truth of God's Word and His steadfast love toward them. Play some worship music like "Abide in Me" by Andrew Marcus or "Abide" by Aaron Williams during this time and direct students to listen and reflect on the truth of the songs.

Songs:

Abide | Aaron Williams (Worship Initiative) Abide in Me | Andrew Marcus (Lyric Video)

Abiding in Christ Prayer Journal

Have students use a Bible to write out one or more of the following verses on a sheet of paper, journal, or notebook: John 15:4–5, Psalm 1:2–3, Jeremiah 17:7–8. (You can also write out some of these verses on the board.) Have students observe the verses and facilitate a discussion on the importance and the benefits of abiding in Christ. Ask the question, "What kind of fruit or good works do we experience as a result of being connected to Jesus?" Direct students to write out a list of spiritual fruit that they would like to see produced in their lives and ways that they desire to grow in Christ. Using the list, have students write out a prayer asking God to produce these things in their life through the power of His Spirit. Ask for volunteers to share their prayers for the purpose of encouraging one another to abide in Christ. Finish the activity by praying aloud for your students in class.

Maintaining Momentum

It's exciting to build anticipation and participation for a single day of prayer. Our desire at ACSI is that this would be a catalyst for ongoing commitment of prayer. Here are some ways to continue maintaining momentum:

- Develop prayer partners within your school.
- Sign up to participate in the ACSI Online Community. We will connect you with another school to pray for in the coming year.
- Set a particular day of the week or time each day to pray for Christian education.
- Share your stories, ideas, and testimonies on the ACSI Facebook page.

Keep up-to-date on our social media.



Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ACSIUSA Twitter: @ACSIUSA Instagram: acsi.usa #SchoolsThatPray

Be sure to check out our Day of Prayer Community Group:

your.acsi.org/prayercommunity



www.acsi.org 1-800-367-0798

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