



**Walk with
the UK**

Money talk

- Not a taboo anymore, it's on everyone's minds, and in most conversations and news bulletins... credit crunch, recession, redundancies, deficit, spending cuts... have been the buzz words of our headlines ever since August 2007.
- Read the facts and figures, look at the images, and take a moment to gather your new thoughts together with your other memories of information and statistics you have seen over the last couple of years.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our leaders, financial institutions and businesses in wisdom and truth so that they rebuild the economy on sound and righteous principles, and with different priorities.
- You might find it helpful to take on or two of the coins, and lay them on the dove as a symbol of this change in outlook that you are praying for.





Strip headers:

Homeless people, or people at risk of being homeless – every two minutes someone in the UK faces losing their home. (2011 Shelter)

People who cannot afford to heat their homes, including the elderly. Around one in six of all UK households are experiencing fuel poverty. (2010 www.guardian.co.uk)

People who are in debt, or are anxious about possible redundancy or repossession. The average household debt in the UK is nearly £8,480 (excluding mortgages) and 1,732 people are being made redundant every day. (2010 Credit Action)

Hidden poverty

- What does poverty look like to you? What images come to mind? How widespread do you think it is as a problem in the UK?
- Poverty in the UK is largely hidden, but it is still a big problem.
- Look behind the facades of these 'normal' houses and pray for the people groups you find there.
- Ask for God's mercy on all those living in poverty in the UK, and pray for homelessness and elderly care services, and for national charities such as Christians Against Poverty and Credit Action – working to help people from debt.
- Pray also against the fear of poverty that is crippling many people facing redundancy, or simply worried about the future, as a result of the current economic situation.

Redeeming history

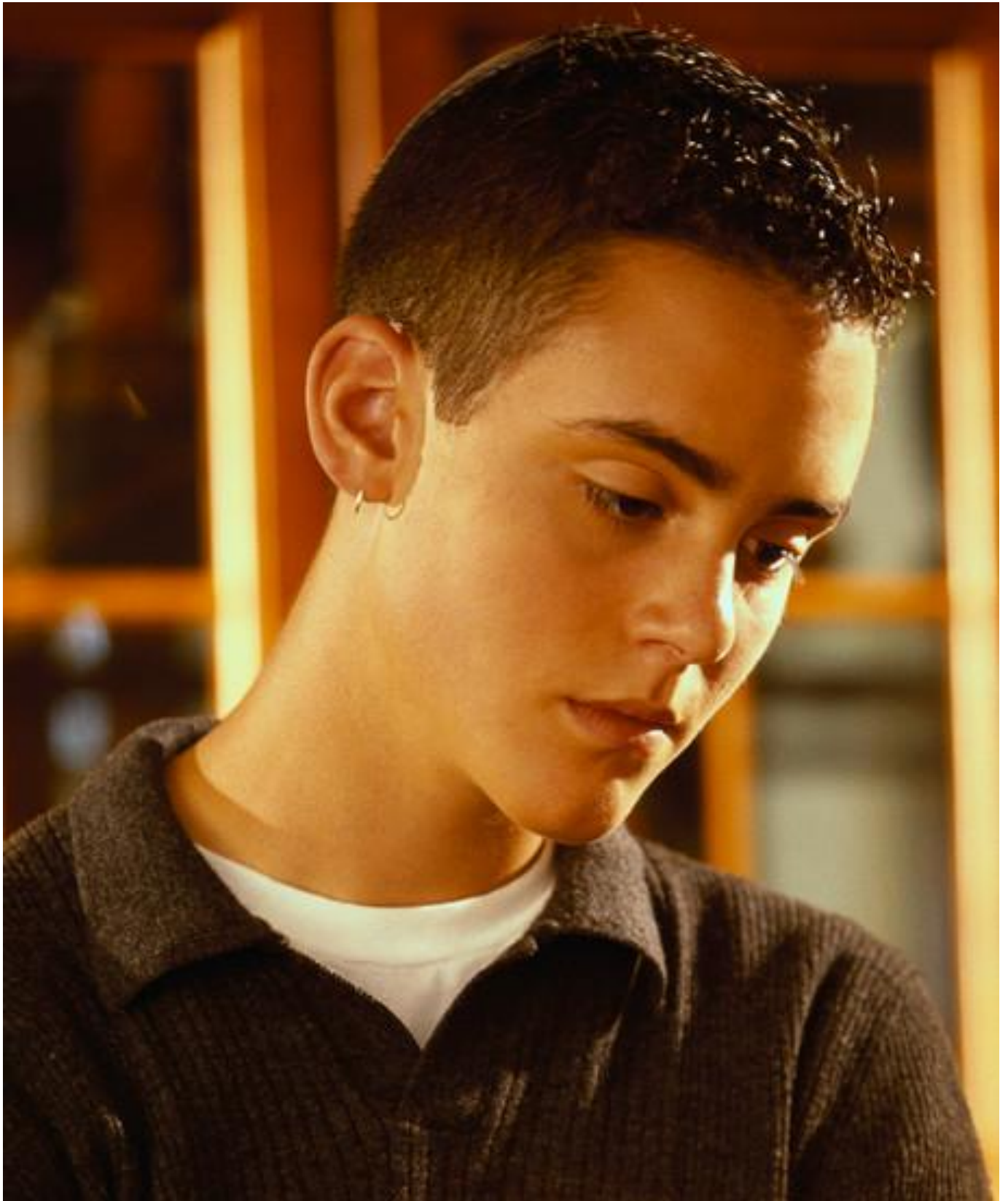
- The UK is a small island nation, but it has had a huge impact on world history – particularly in the last two hundred years. Much of this has been positive, but a great deal has been destructive.
- Bring to mind any ‘national sins’ – whether recent, or in history – where the UK has used its power to oppress, manipulate, or control other weaker nations.
- Jot these down on the flip chart.
- How about closer to home? Are there ways in which we behave as a nation which neglect or overlook the poor or vulnerable amongst us in order to increase the power of the rich?
- Jot these down too.
- Look at whatever is on the flip chart and pray for our nation to change, and the consequences of its wrong actions to be mitigated.
- If it helps you, kneel down on the map as a sign of repentance – ask God to forgive our nation, and lead us to act in more godly ways.

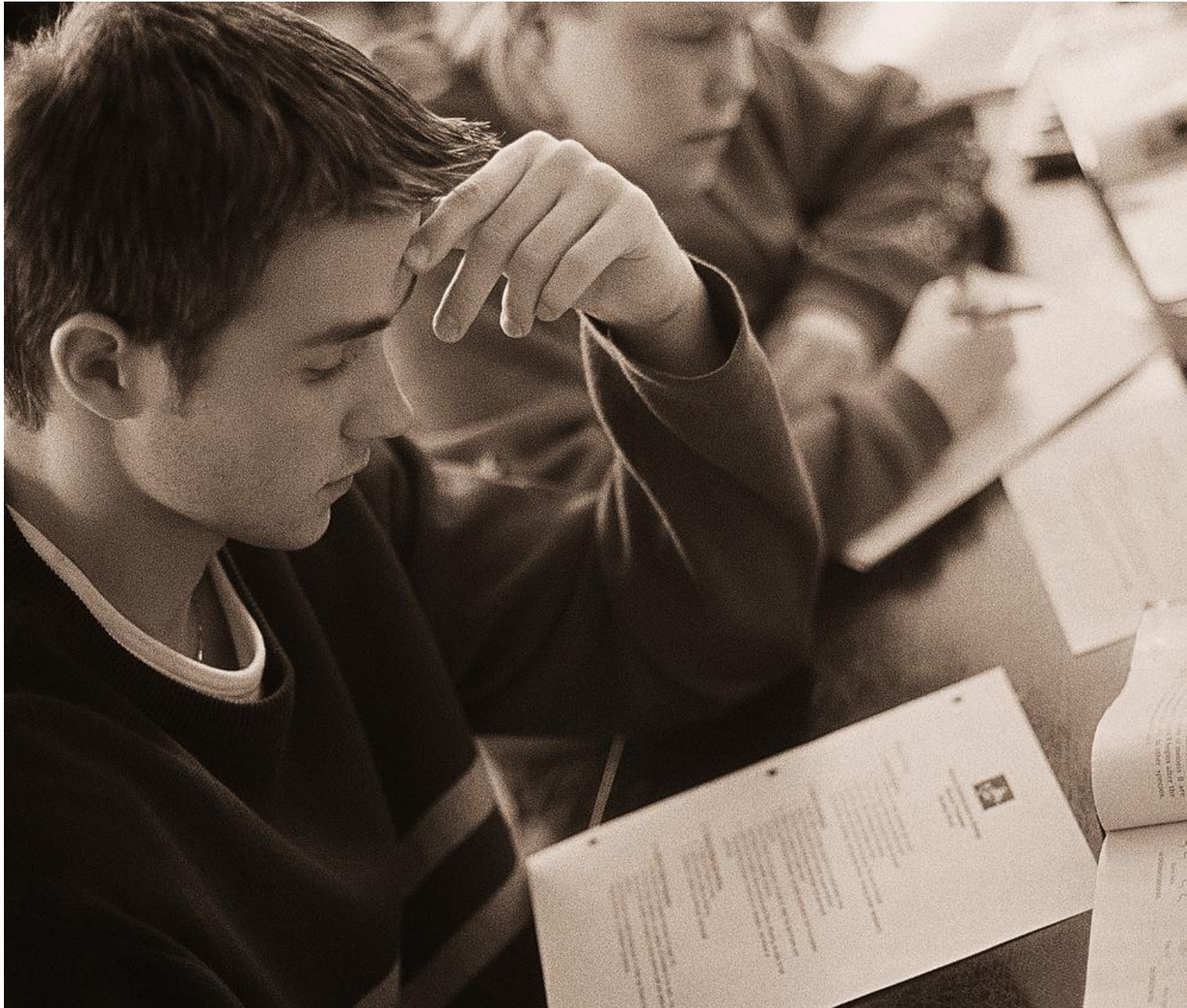
Re-opening ancient wells

- The UK has a long history with Christianity, from Celtic saints through to emerging and fresh expressions of church. It has sent missionaries all over the world, and experienced a number of re-awakenings and revivals.
- Our nation needs to return to God.
- We must pray for the practical transformation of society, and act to be part of the answer, but nothing will restore or help the UK as much as a widespread return to Christ.
- Pray for a new move of God, like rivers of living water, to flood through our dry and thirsty land.
- Take a cup of water and pour it into the 'UK's well' to seal your prayers.









Today's youth – tomorrow's leaders

“You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit... Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you... before I'd even lived one day.” (Psalm 139, *The Message*)

- The UK's young people are facing huge pressures... think through a few that you are concerned about – whether they affect young children, teenagers, or students... loss of childhood; abuse; insecure homes; divorce; increasing tuition fees; less jobs; drugs; alcohol; gang culture; violence...
- Choose one of the young people cards for the age group which you want to pray for.
- Start at one end of the rope, which represents a timeline. Pray for this age group now and the challenges they are facing.
- Now move forward a couple of steps and pray for them in five years time, and again for ten years later, and again... thank God that he has their whole futures in mind, and pray that he would lead them to him, and the plans he has for them.
- Take a moment to pray for any young people you know who are particularly struggling – ask God if he is asking you to do anything to help.

Thinking globally

- The UK has considerable influence in the world. Thank God for the times in history when it has stood up for the powerless, and used its influence to lead other countries to follow its example in reform.
- Stand on the map, and lift the UK's global role to God.
- Pray for its roles in:
 - Climate change negotiations
 - Peace keeping efforts in trouble-spots
 - Wars
 - The United Nations
 - The European Union
 - The G8 and other groupings of powerful nations, particularly in relation to discussing issues which affect poorer nations – such as trade reform, carbon emission reductions, debt cancellation and aid provision.
- Pray that leaders would be wise and righteous, acting in the best interests of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- Pray for supernatural insight for politicians and leaders so that new solutions may be found, and new systems established, which help the UK to lead in a positive light.

Closer to home

- How do the UK's problems affect our community?
- Use the articles, and flip chart to remind you of key issues in our area... jot down any extra things that need prayer.
- Spend some time responding to these needs in prayer, and making space to ask God whether he is asking you to do anything practically in response as well.
- If it helps you, face in front of you, to the left, the right, and then behind... and pray in turn for the areas and issues of need in our community in each direction.

Regions and divisions

- Take a map and cut it into six pieces (Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Wales, northern England and southern England).
- Sit or kneel and lay these pieces out in front of you, with some space between them.
- Use the different pieces of the map to pray in turn for the four nations that make up the UK, and for the Republic of Ireland.
- Pray for the national assemblies, governments, and relationships between these different nations, and against the long-held divisions, hostilities and resentments that exist between them where relevant.
- Take the two halves of England in your hands, and pray for increased understanding and unity between the north, and the south of England.
- Take your nations away with you and stick them up somewhere, or keep them in your Bible, to remind you to pray over the coming days and weeks.

Multi-coloured culture

- The UK is a bit like a window to the world – so many different nations, races and communities are represented here.
- Pick up the kaleidoscope and look through it. Ask God to help you see the beauty and diversity in people who are different to you, and reveal to you the unique parts of his image that they all bear.
- Pray for the different communities represented here – and pray for relationships between different communities.
- Pray for genuine tolerance, understanding and partnership, and against groups and political parties which stir up prejudice and hatred.
- Pray for Christians to reach out to people from different backgrounds, and to remain distinct, free, and able to share the gospel.

Standing united

- Fifteen per cent of the UK attend church at least once a month* and these people are spread over a wide range of different denominations and networks.
- The body of Christ in the UK is diverse, but sometimes it is also disunited and divided – causing great pain, and compromising their Christian witness to many people in the UK.
- Take your stand for unity by spending a few moments in each groups' shoes... pray for their witness, work and relationships with other parts of the church at a national level.
- Fix your eyes on the cross and pray for all churches to define themselves by Christ alone. And also pray for them to concentrate on what they have in common.
- Also pray for the different churches in your area – for more joint witness, understanding and unity. Ask God to bless all the Christians you know, and take a few moments to consider if there is anything you feel led to do or pray as a result.

(* 2007 Tearfund *Churchgoing in the UK*)

Renewed minds

- Many people in the UK are struggling internally with issues of depression, addiction and loneliness.
- 25 per cent of the UK's population will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of just one year and about ten per cent of children have a mental health problem at any one time.*
- And 23 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women are heavy drinkers.**
- Place your hands on your forehead and pray for the renewing of minds.
- Pray for those experiencing isolation, depression or addiction to get the help they need from Christians, their communities, and charities and government situations.
- Pray for the root issues in our society which exacerbate these problems, and God's power to renew these too.

(*2011 Mental Health Foundation **2008 Office of National Statistics)