

God Bless South Africa

Words and music by Luke Powell



Group discussion

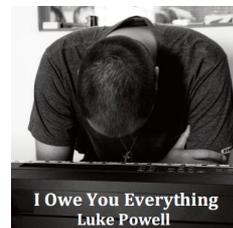
I started to pray for South Africa regularly, particularly asking for rain and praying for our leaders to come to know Christ. One day while praying on the train, I started repeating one line over and over, "God bless South Africa". It felt like the only words I had to say! The next morning I kept praying that same line, and before I knew it a song came out. I started singing it at my home church, and realised that this song had a big opportunity to become a communal prayer for our country's Christ followers. I pray that "God Bless South Africa" will become a prayer that you pray daily.

Listen to the song, and then work through the discussion questions below:

- Chorus:
 - God bless South Africa
 - First line of our anthem!
 - Read Psalm 33:12. What does "blessed" mean to you? What blessings do you have in your life?
 - How can God bless our country at this time? How are we already blessed?
 - Lord heal our land
 - How has God already healed South Africa?
 - How can God heal our country at this point? What brokenness needs healing?
 - God save South Africa, we're in Your hands
 - This is a statement of trust and faith. *Lord, we believe that You are in control. We're in Your hands.*
 - Do you feel this way? Do you believe that ultimately God has South Africa in His hands?
 - We are Your children, You are our God
 - We know that *individually* we are His children. But think for a moment about this truth: that we as a nation are His children
 - He is the God of South Africa. No longer just the God of Israel, but the God of all who call on Jesus to save them.
 - Protect our nation, God bless South Africa
 - In what ways do you pray for protection in your personal life?
 - What do we as a country need protection from? What physical dangers? What spiritual dangers?
- Verse 1
 - Holy Spirit hear our prayer
 - Focus here is the word *our*. This is a communal prayer. To be prayed together.
 - How is praying together a different experience from praying by yourself?
 - Do you have someone whose prayers you enjoy hearing?
 - We need You to intervene
 - What does the word "intervention" make you think of?
 - How might God intervene in our situation?
 - Let God's people rise as one
 - Why is there so much division in the local church
 - How many churches can you name in your town?

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- How can you network with these churches so that we as God's people can "rise as one"?
- To take a stand, to save our land
 - How can we as God's people take a stand for Him to help our country? Prayer?
- Chorus 2
- Verse 2
 - This is our country, this is our home
 - What do you love about South Africa?
 - What about South Africa makes you feel at home? Boerie rolls, rainstorms, hadedas, vuvuzelas etc
 - We need Jesus to wash us clean
 - Repent on behalf of the nation.
 - Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. This links back up with the line in the chorus "Lord heal our land". How can we as South Africans follow the instructions in this verse?
 - Let Your mercy rain on us
 - Double meaning:
 1. Shower us in mercy and grace
 2. In Your Grace and mercy, send us some rain please!
 - We need You now
 - This is a cry for help. Lord, *we need You, and we need You NOW.*
 - Make it a habit to express your desperation for God in your prayer life.
- Bridge
- Chorus 3

Listen to the song again, paying attention to the words.

Spend some time in prayer, lifting up our nation in the ways you spoke of.

Challenge: make praying for South Africa a part of your daily prayer life. Even if it is just saying "God Bless South Africa" a few times.

Challenge: find some other local churches that you can partner with in praying for our country.