



# How to Write Your Own Collect

Adapted from <https://buildfaith.org/clothesline-collects/>

1 a. **Title** • What is this prayer for?

1. **Address** • What do we call God?

2. **Attribution** • What has God already done?

3. **Petition** • What would we like God to do?

4. **Purpose** • Why would we like God to do this?

5. **Closing Praise** • How do we end our prayer?

*Remember: the prayer doesn't have to be long! If it's more than 120 words, try to trim it down*

## **Title:** What is this prayer about?

*You can talk to God about anything!*

- For peace in anxious times
- For growing closer to God
- For guidance while facing decisions
- For healing (physical, spiritual, mental, emotional)
- For someone else
- For wisdom before studying for a test
- For your children before they go to school (or while they are in school!)
- For before driving in the car

## **The Address:** How do we want to call God in this prayer?

- Almighty God
- Light of the world
- Creator of all that is good
- O God our shield
- Loving God
- God of peace
- God of all grace
- Holy One
- Shepherding God
- God of patience and steadfast love
- Gracious God

## **The Attribution:** What has God already done and/or who do you know God to be?

*This generally starts with "who" but it doesn't have to; it could have to do with a characteristic of God.*

- Who fills the world with life and love
- Who knows us better than we know ourselves
- Who healed the sick and fed the hungry
- Who promises never to leave or forsake us
- Whose peace surpasses all understanding
- Who sent Jesus into the world
- Who is our source of hope
- Who is the source of all wisdom, justice, and truth
- Whose hand of justice has been seen again and again
- Whose way is love Who has shown us the way to freedom

**The Petition:** What do we want God to do?

*This is connected to the attribute or action we just named. It begins with an action verb. For example:*

- Grant...
- Enable...
- Keep...
- Empower...
- Come...
- Show...
- Comfort...
- Forgive...
- Help...
- Speak...
- Save...
- Listen...
- Take...
- Fill...
- Dwell...
- Teach...
- Send...
- Renew...
- Bless...
- Accept...
- Provide...
- Give...
- Make...
- Strengthen...
- Create...
- Protect...
- Prepare...
- Defend...
- Cleanse...
- Enlighten...
- Place...
- Direct...
- Inspire...
- Lead...
- Encourage...
- Quiet...
- Break..

**The Purpose:** What is the desired result?

- So that...
- That we may...
- That those who...
- That You might...
- That I...
- That...

**Closing Praise:** The fancy phrase for this is “doxological conclusion”

*This is the part that reminds us that God has the power to help us.*

- Through God the Father's love, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
- Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- In Jesus' (Christ's) name we pray. Amen.
- We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.
- For Your love's sake. Amen.



# Write Your Own Collect!

**Title** • What the prayer's about

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**Address** • How do you want to call God

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**Attribute** • Who or what is God?

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**Petition** • What are you asking for?

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**Purpose** • Why?

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**Closing** • Reminder of God's power and provision

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# A simplified version of writing your own collect:

Title

**For** \_\_\_\_\_

*Start with who you know God to be — attributes of character or past actions*

**O God, You are** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Keeping in mind who God is, make your request in line with that knowledge*

**We ask** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*What for? What are you hoping will result?*

**so that** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Part of our confidence in approaching God comes from remembering that Jesus connects us*

**through** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_