



# Pray4Croatia Small Group Prayer Guide, vol. 1

## VISION

We long to see God raise up disciples in Croatia who multiply; making disciples who make disciples. This month we are asking God for fresh vision for the year ahead.

~Below you will find a suggested amount of time for each segment of your meeting, but don't feel bound by these suggestions. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer time together.

### **10 Minutes- Mix and Mingle / Video**

Use this time to catch up and get settled before your time of prayer. Then show the video "[What are Disciple Making Movements.](#)" This will serve as a great transition from 'mingling' to prayer.

### **10 Minutes- Praise**

Before taking time to intercede, praise God for who He is and how He has recently shown Himself to you.

Speak His names out loud (God, You are Savior, You are King, etc.), and His character (God, Your love is unconditional, You are always present).

Praise God for the ways He has been working in and through You. (God, thank You for providing for my family, Thank You for giving me patience yesterday, etc.)

### **10 Minutes- Personal Surrender and Confession**

#### *Personal Surrender*

Before interceding on behalf of the people of Croatia, surrender the worries of your life that may distract you during this prayer time. Take a moment to write down on a piece of paper any concerns that are on your mind. Is it your finances? Is it a relationship? Jot that down. Then in your heart, give these concerns over to the Lord.

#### *Confession*

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any disbelief or sin that you have been giving in to. Take a moment in your heart to confess these to the Lord and receive His grace and forgiveness.

## **\*15 Minutes- Prayer through the Word**

### **THEME: VISION**

This month we are asking God to give believers/disciple-makers fresh vision for His plans for Croatia.

*Habakkuk 2:14*

*“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”*

### **PRAYER POINTS FOR CROATIA**

- God, we ask that all of Croatia would be filled with the knowledge of Your glory!

*2 Peter 3:8-9*

*“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

- God, we pray the believers in Croatia would be filled with patience for those around them who do not yet know You.
- God, we pray believers would have Your desires that not one person in Croatia would perish, but all would come to repentance.

*Revelation 7:9-10*

*“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”*

- God, give believers in Croatia vision to reach all the people groups around them and beyond.
- God, we ask You to bring salvation to each of the ethnic groups in Croatia.

## **\*15 Minutes- Intercession for Croatia**

Below are some cultural insights into the people of Croatia. Please read the text out loud and then pause so participants can pray as God leads.

## CULTURAL INSIGHTS

### **Ethnicity**

Croatia is inhabited mostly by Croats (90.42%), while minority groups include Serbs (4.36%), Bosniaks, Hungarians, Italians, Albanians, Slovenes, Germans, Czechs, Romani people and others (5.22%). Tensions remain between Croats and ethnic groups from neighboring countries.

Would you pray for peace between the different ethnic groups in the region and for key leaders to emerge from each of the ethnic groups to lead their people to Jesus?

### **Religion**

The population is predominantly Roman Catholic, although there are Christian Orthodox, Muslim, and Jewish minorities, mostly living in Zagreb.

The Catholic Church plays a large role in Croatian society. Estimated at 90 percent Catholic, Croatia is one of the most Catholic nations in the world. But being Catholic in Croatia means something entirely different. In Croatia, as in Bosnia and Serbia, being Catholic is more of a “nationality” than a religion. In a 2009 Gallup poll, 70% answered yes to the question “Is religion an important part of your daily life?”. However, only 24% of the population attends religious services regularly. Atheism is on the rise along with what one author described as “functional godlessness.”

Would you pray for a spiritual awakening in Croatia and that the people of this nation would know the love of Jesus in a new way? Would you pray that faith would be more about a relationship with a living God and less about religious behavior?

### **Spirit of Nationalism**

Croats are extremely proud of their heritage and culture and are thus staunch nationalists. They call their country “Our Beautiful Homeland” (“Lijepa naša”), which is also the title of the national anthem. The sense of nationalism comes both from their long and rich culture as well as a legacy of foreign invasion and control.

Folklore plays a key role in preserving the culture. Life experiences are translated into verse, poetic songs, melodies, fairy tales, symbolic rituals, music, dance, costumes, and jewellery.

In many ways, to be Croatian is to be Catholic. Protestant groups are often labeled sects and viewed with suspicion, which sometimes prevents believers from sharing their faith.

Would you pray that Croats who have accepted Jesus would be bold enough to share their testimonies? Only the truth will break down the stronghold of these misconceptions.

## **Family-Oriented**

The family is still the basis of the social structure. The extended family is the norm and relatives remain quite close with both the mother and the father's sides. The family provides its members with a social network and assistance in times of need. Even though it is becoming increasingly common for the nuclear family to have its own house, Croatians will take in elderly parents rather than send them to a nursing home. Children live with their parents until they are just over 30 years old on average. Weekends are considered family time. Few Croatians will allow business concerns to interfere with this important part of their lives.

Would you pray that entire households would come to faith in much the same way as the Roman jailor?

## **10 Minutes – Listening Prayer**

On a blank piece of paper, ask the Lord the following questions. Be still and listen. Write down any words or thoughts that come to mind.

- God, which of Your promises do you want to speak over the believers in Croatia?
- God, is there anything stopping believers in Croatia from growing in unity and faith?

After jotting down these thoughts, share them with a partner or your group. Now spend time praying to God for the things He has put on your heart.

## **5 Minutes- Closing**

We want to hear from you. Take a moment to debrief your prayer time. Are there themes, thoughts or passages that God has laid on your heart for the people of Croatia? Take a moment to write these down as a group and give them to your small group facilitator. (Small group facilitator- please email these to your contact person in Croatia.)

*\* NOTE: To use this guide for 30 minutes of prayer versus 60, focus your time on the two, 15 minute sections.*