

Prayer ideas on Eric Liddell

1. A Prayer from Sports Chaplaincy Scotland

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the tremendous example that Eric Liddell is to all of us.

Thank you for those immortal words that Eric is renowned for: *"I believe that God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."*

We acknowledge, as Eric did, that you gave him the gift of being a fast runner but we thank you that he worshipped the Giver rather than the gift.

We thank you for his selflessness, compassion, integrity and tireless dedication to improving the lives of others. And we acknowledge that it was his personal relationship with You that motivated and inspired him to do all the amazing things he did – whether on an athletics track, in Scotland or elsewhere. We thank you for his calling to use his gifts in sport and mission and serving others.

Thank you Lord that you have made each one of us for a purpose too. And thank you that like Eric, we too can enter into that personal relationship with You, through the same means - making Jesus welcome into our lives as Lord and Saviour, and see that purpose for our lives unfold. May we have the grace to run a good race for you just as Eric did. Amen

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2. A prayer from Mission of St. Clare: Online Daily Office, Episcopal Book of Common Prayer

God whose strength bears us up as on mighty wings: We rejoice in remembering your athlete and missionary, Eric Liddell, to whom you gave courage and resolution in contest and in captivity; and we pray that we also may run with endurance the race set before us and persevere in patient witness, until we wear that crown of victory won for us by Jesus our Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

3. *Take my life and let it be*

Listen or sing this song as a prayer, reflecting on the life of Eric Liddell and your life

1

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,

Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

4

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

4. China Prayer

Groups of all ages where each person prays one part in the China prayer:

Come Jesus into our group and homes, come into our land and China. Come Holy Spirit and give us fast feet to share the goodness of Jesus, give the Christians in China strong faith and kind hands.

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating China and building your Kingdom there, bless the Kingdom builders with plans from heaven so the believers have trust in you that is stronger than steel.

I don't know everyone in China, but you do God. People need food and water, they need safety and jobs, they need you. Bring them what they need for their bodies to be strong, minds to be healthy and souls to be saved, to be with you.

Never leave China Lord Jesus, never forget about them we boldly ask this because you say you will never leave us or forget about us so we trust you will always be at work in China. Help us be willing to work with you and serve you wherever that may be, here or in China, wherever your Spirit is, that is where we want to be.

Always we trust in you with your endless love and incredible power, able to transform lives and countries. God, we thank you for China, all that you have done through people like Eric Liddell and other people sent there. Through the people who live there and are loving others with the love of Jesus. And thank you for the

amazing followers of Jesus who are coming from China to the rest of the world to help us know you more. Bless us all as we all pray in your name Jesus, Amen.

Active Prayers for all

1. Read the verse from the hymn *Take My Life*.

- a) How does this hymn apply to the life of Eric Liddell? How might it apply to our lives?
b) *Take my hands, and let them move*

*at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.*

Invite people to draw round their hand and their feet. Cut these out. write on them how God might take your hands and use them – what you might DO for God? and on the feet – where you might GO for God. This could be your street, school, or further away...

Read the prayer together again holding your cut out hands and feet.

2. Prayer stations

Sport – Write down some of your gifts and things that you are good at on a Rugby or Football. Thank God for the gifts he has given you and pray that he will help you use them well

Mission – China – write prayers for churches in different countries to grow on a map of China

Living your Faith – On a Star outline – write or draw what you might do to SHINE and live your faith and share God's love

Suffering in time of war – on a newspaper, write short prayers for those suffering from war, or pray for countries where there is war

3. Prayer Circuit!

- a) Teams at different end of the room. On 'Go' one runs to the other and when they meet, they hold hands, thank God for one thing not mentioned by others and 'release' the person they met for their turn to run and give thanks!
- b) Squat and ask (When everyone has had a turn of running) Stand in a circle as a team and when the leader says everyone squats down and as they come back up each person asks God for something for the group, Church, community they are in.
- c) Hands in. At the end of the squat and ask, team put their hands in the middle, on top of each other and all say 'God release your power, amen!' as they throw their hands up and out.

4. Body Praying

Eric Liddell knew that his body was a living sacrifice to God. Using the song head, shoulders, knees and toes we take time to pray for our physical bodies;

Head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, ears, chin, mouth, nose.

Prayers also contributed by Rev Ruth Kennedy – Sanctuary First and Isobel Booth-Clibborn – Church of Scotland