

God's Word inspires prayer. It always has. Here's what the Israelites prayed after Ezra the priest read the Bible to them (from Nehemiah 9 NLT):

May your glorious name be praised!
May it be exalted above all blessing and praise!

You alone are the Lord.

You have done what you promised,
For you are always true to your word.

Our ancestors were proud and stubborn.
They refused to obey.
They committed terrible blasphemies.

**But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful,
Slow to become angry and rich in unfailing love.**
You did not abandon them.

You were patient with them for many years.
What a gracious and merciful God you are!
You sent your Spirit, who warned them through your prophets.
But still, they wouldn't listen!

And now, great trouble has come upon us.
We have sinned greatly.
You gave us only what we deserved.

**God, the great and mighty and awesome God,
Who keeps his covenant of unfailing love,**

Do not let all the hardships we have suffered seem insignificant to you.
We are in great misery.

**Notice that they praised God for who He is, remembered what He had done,
and trusted that He cared about their suffering.**