

# Devote 21 21 days of devotion

Psalm 24:3-4

[3] Who may climb the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? [4] Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



**Congratulations** on your willingness and commitment to join Lighthouse for Devote 21. This is a seasonal time of fasting and prayer for our church family. Fasting without devotion & prayer is just a diet!

Whenever a fast is recorded in scripture, it is followed by a season of growth and blessing. As you will discover over the next few weeks, your commitment to fast with usher in some of the great opportunities to take hold of the blessings of God in your life. We look forward with anticipation to the great things God is going to do in your life and in the life of our church community. We will grow in Him!

Let's unite as a church family for the next 21 days to position ourselves for what God has prepared for all of us!

Pastor J

#### **FASTING FOCUS**

Fasting is a spiritual discipline designed to help our spirits submit to our Heavenly Father. It's all about removing distractions to align our will with His. We are fasting together to deepen our relationship with God as well as to get in step with His plan and purpose for us during the coming year.

Over the next 21 days, we will substitute our regular food and entertainment intake with disciplines that help us better connect with God - reading the Bible, praying, and meditating on Him. The goal is to experience a genuine hunger for God so that His voice can become clear in our life.

Remember, the idea is to be realistic, not legalistic. Focus more on the relationship with God than the menu details, and then you will discover the blessing of fasting.

#### **FASTING SCHEDULE**

#### Week 1: MEDIA FAST (Entertainment)

As we enter our 21 days of fasting, the mental discipline of a media fast will prepare us to graduate to a complete fast.

Week 2: SELECTIVE fast (Daniel or other elimination fast)
Begin removing certain foods from your diet. Typically this
would be meat, sugar, and processed foods.

#### Week 3: COMPLETE fast\*

Endeavor to go a day or more without food, but remember to drink plenty of water.

**PSALM 113:6** 

6 Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! Ps. 11:4
7 He raiseth up the poor out of the

4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

772 Tremble at the Presence of the Lord

8 They that make them are like unto

A Gracious Lord mto me, therefore will I call upon him

s long as I live.

3 The sorrows of death compassed and the pains of hell gat hold upon

I found trouble and sorrow.

4Then called I upon the name of te LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, teliver my soul

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righlous; yea, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: t low, and he helped me.

nto thy rest, O my soul; o hath dealt bountifully Ps. 13:6; Matt. 11:29 hast delivered my soul nine eyes from tears, and Ps. 56:13 s before the LORD in the ing. Ps. 27:13 d, therefore have I spo-atly afflicted: Ps. 27:13

my haste. All men are nall I render unto the nis benefits toward me? se the cup of salvation, the name of the LORD. ay my vows unto the the presence of all his Ps. 22:25 in the sight of the LORD

his saints. truly I am thy servant; nt, and the son of thine nou hast loosed my

Ps. 86:16 r to thee the sacrifice of and will call upon the ORD. Lev. 7:12 y my vows unto the the presence of all his Ps. 116:14

ourts of the LORD's nidst of thee, O Je-ru'ye the LORD.

PSALM 117 1 O praise the LORD, all ye

praise him, all ye people 2 For his merciful kindnes toward us: and the truth of t endureth for ever. Praise LORD.

#### PSALM 118

1 O give thanks unto the L he is good: because his men eth for ever 1 Chron. 16: 2 Let Is'-ra-el now say,

mercy endureth for ever. 3 Let the house of Aa'-ron that his mercy endureth for e

4 Let them now that fear t say, that his mercy endureth 5 I called upon the LORD in the LORD answered me, and a large place.

6 The LORD is on my side; fear: what can man do unto

7 The LORD taketh my p them that help me: therefore see my desire upon th hate me. 8 It is better to trust in the

than to put confidence in ma 9 It is better to trust in the than to put confidence in pri 10 All nations compassed i

but in the name of the Lor destroy them.

11 They compassed me at they compassed me about: t name of the LORD I will dest

12 They compassed me a bees; they are quenched as t thorns: for in the name of the will destroy them. Deut. 1:44 13 Thou hast thrust sore a

I might fall: but the LORD he 14 The LORD is my stren song, and is become my salva

#### The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.

St. Augustine

We believe the Story of God in the Scriptures was always meant to be read in community, and we're excited to dive into the Word together as a church family. It is important that we engage purposefully with the Word of God so we can grow in our faith and relationship with Him.

Statistics show that most people professing faith in Jesus have never completely read their Bible. Many people start reading the Bible but then become overwhelmed by the number of chapters (1,189) and verses (31,102) there are. What we don't realize is that we can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day.

There are also some amazing additional resources that we encourage you to take advantage of. Scan the QR code on this page to connect to more resources. On the following page, you will find a great method for making the most of your Bible reading time.

The simple discipline of Bible reading will help you draw closer to God in ways you never imagined. God wants to talk to you. His Word is the first step in opening that conversation with Him.

Whether you have just discovered the Word of God or are a seasoned student of the Bible, we invite you to join us as we read the Word together. Find a plan, grab a partner, and make this your season of going deep in God's Word!



### **FASTING**

The goal of fasting is to draw nearer to God. Biblical fasting always has to do with eliminating distractions for a spiritual purpose; it hits the reset button of our soul and renews us from the inside out. It also enables us to celebrate the goodness and mercy of God and prepares our hearts for all the good things God desires to bring into our lives. Remember, your personal fast should present a level of challenge, but it is very important to know your body and your options, and most importantly, to seek God in prayer and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do. There are several types of fasting. The one you choose is between you and God. He will honor your best sacrifice. Prepare to experience the power of a refreshed perspective for what He has in store for your life over the next months and years!

#### **Types of Fasts**

Media Fast (Entertainment - Movies, games, etc.) This fast is a great option if you do not have much experience fasting food or if you have health issues that prevent you from doing so. It can also be used to simply refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance. During a media fast, you will stop using social media, playing video games, watching movies or shows, or listening to music that does not glorify God. Basically, cease all none work-related media consumption.

#### Selective Fast (Daniel fasting)

This fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example of a selective fast is the Daniel Fast, during which you remove meat, sweets, and bread from your diet while consuming water and juice for fluids and fruits and vegetables for food.

#### Partial Fast\* (Intermittent fasting)

This fast is sometimes called the "Jewish Fast" and involves abstaining from eating any type of food in the morning and afternoon. This can either correlate to specific times of the day, such as 6:00 am to 3:00 pm, or from sunup to sundown.

#### Complete Fast\*

In this type of fast, you drink only liquids, typically water, with light juices as an option.

Remember, the details are not as important as the spirit in which you participate.

\*If you have any known medical conditions or suspect such conditions, consult your doctor before beginning the fast.

# **Timing of a fast**At Lighthouse, we

encourage corporate fasting for at least 21 davs yearly. This season of devotion is a time of focused prayer and fasting both personally and as a church family. We encourage vou to also fast at other times during the year for your own spiritual development. It's verv typical to fast a single meal, a whole day, or three days or more. The timing of your fast is not as important as the strength of your focus on God as you fast. It is the will of God that we seek a deeper relationship with Him.

#### **Scripture References**

Matthew 6:16-18 Matthew 9:14-15 Acts 13:2-3 Acts 27:33-37 Nehemiah 9:1-3

# FREQUENTLY ASKED FASTING QUESTIONS

# Can I have salt, pepper, seasonings, milk, whole grains, soy products, eggs, protein drinks, vitamins, or butter?

Fasting is a private discipline. It is not something that is meant to be unattainable. Decide what is feasible for you and do your best.

#### Can children fast?

If they want to participate in fasting or if you want to have a family fast, consider giving up desserts or soft drinks. In addition to giving up an item of food, you could also give up television as a family and spend that time reading and discussing Bible stories.

#### What if I have a medical condition?

Consult your doctor before starting any fast. Decide together what is possible. If your health condition prohibits you from fasting food, try fasting something else and concentrate on prayer and Bible study.

## What if I start and can't finish the fast ... Have I fasted for nothing?

Seeking God through prayer and fasting is never a waste of time. When you make the effort, God takes notice. Just determine within your heart that you will make an even better effort next time. Or try finishing up with a partial fast.

# I forgot and ate something that wasn't on my fast... Do I need to start again?

No, think of fasting as a marathon, rather than a sprint. Don't give up! If you fall down, get up and keep trying. Conquering "king stomach" is difficult, but you'll make it.

#### Do I continue to exercise while fasting?

Moderate exercise is good. But it is best to always consult a doctor about fasting and exercise. If you are on a complete fast, you may not have the energy for a high level of exercise.

#### What if I have a manual labor job?

If you have a job that requires you to expend much physical energy, you may want to consider a partial fast that allows you to receive enough nutrition to perform your job.





# Foods to Eat

# Foods to Avoid



#### **WHOLE GRAINS**

Brown Rice, Oats, Barley, etc.

#### **LEGUMES**

Dried Beans, Pinto Beans, Split Peas, Lentils, Black Eyed Peas, etc.

#### **FRUITS**

Apples, Apricots, Bananas, Blackberries, Blueberries, Cantaloupe, Cherries, Cranberries, Figs, Grapefruit, Grapes, Kiwi, Lemons, Limes, Mangoes, Nectarines, Oranges, Papayas, Peaches, Pears, Pineapples, Plums, Prunes, Raisins, Raspberries, Strawberries, Tangerines, Watermelon, etc.

#### **VEGETABLES**

Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Ginger Root, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Okra, Onions, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Scallions, Spinach, Sprouts, Squashes, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Turnips, Zucchini, etc.

#### **SEEDS, NUTS, SPROUTS**

Almonds, Cashews, Hazelnuts, Pecans, Pistachios, Pumpkin Seeds, Sunflower Seeds, etc.

#### LIQUIDS

Water, Unsweetened Soy Milk, Herbal Tea, Honey, Natural Fruit Juice (no added sugar), etc.

- ♦ Meat\*
- ♦ Poultry\*
- ♦ Fish\*
- Refined Sugar or Sugar Substitutes
- ♦ White Flour
- ♦ White Rice
- Dairy (milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- ♦ Fried Foods
- ♦ Carbonated Beverages
- Foods Containing
   Preservatives or Additives
- ♦ Margarine
- Shortening
- High Fat Products
- ♦ All Bread

<sup>\*</sup> If you have young children or students, consider adding turkey, chicken and fish to the approved list of foods.



#### THE SOAP STUDY METHOD

The SOAP method is a unique and organized way to study the Bible. This method encourages us to dig deeper into Scripture and see more than if we were to simply read. The word "SOAP" is an acronym that stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. We will use these four key terms to enhance our time in God's Word.

#### WHY DO THIS?

It's one thing to simply read Scripture, but when you interact with it, when you learn to slow down to REALLY read it, suddenly, words start popping off the page. By SOAPing your verses, you can dive deeper into God's Word and "see" more than just quickly reading the verses. The SOAP method can take as little as 15 minutes or as long as you need. Try and see for yourself!

#### S - SCRIPTURE

#### Physically write out the Bible verse

You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you when you slow down to write or meditate on what you are reading!

#### O - OBSERVATION

#### What do you see in the verses you're reading?

Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you? What is the main lesson or theme?

#### A - APPLICATION

#### When God's Word becomes personal

What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my life? Are there any changes I need to make?

#### P - PRAYER

#### Pray God's Word back to Him

If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life. Take time to thank Him for His goodness in your life.





We have set our hearts to be people of prayer. In every situation, whether good or bad, we try to pray before we act. People often act first and then want God to bail them out of that situation, but prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough. For it to become a part of our lives, it needs to become something we look forward to. While prayer does take commitment and can require discipline to develop into a daily habit, we also want to remember that we get to pray; we don't have to pray. It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer.

Most people don't enjoy prayer because they have never been taught how to pray. With this in mind, we have many prayer plans that can help. Using several prayer models from the Bible and having some guides to make prayer more personal, we want you to find joy in your time with God. When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him, you'll experience the presence of God that will change your life. A list of prayer resources are available in the foyer; add them to your Bible!

We don't have to follow a specific formula to talk with God, but practicing different ways to pray can help us find a deeper purpose and connection to Him through our prayer time. You can make your prayer time even more meaningful if you write notes and prayer requests and play worship music. The most important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer.

Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life. And then...

Before the day begins ...

Before you go to bed ...

Before you go to work or school ...

Before you send that text  $\dots$ 

Before you react ...

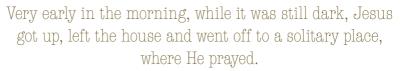
Before bad things happen ...

Before you eat, drive, or travel ...

In every situation — PRAY FIRST!

### Prayer changes everything!

# CREATING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER



Mark 1:35

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

#### **HAVE A CERTAIN TIME**

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

#### **HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE**

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

#### **HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN**

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for regularly connecting with God.

#### PRAYER:

"God, I am in awe of You. Your name is a strong tower, a place of protection and safety for me. I praise You as my Healer, my Shepherd, and my Banner of Victory. You are my Peace, my Provider, my Righteousness, and my Sanctifier. Your name is areat, and I worship You."





Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Domans 12:1

Let's begin 21 days of devotion together. This is a time of sacrifice in our lives. Do you want to see the fire of God? Do you want to walk in the glory of God? Do you want to see your life transformed? Do you want to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit? Then it will require a sacrifice, and there is a simple Biblical principle for this to happen. The following three sacrifices are principles we can apply to our daily prayer life.

- **1. Sin Offering:** Repent Live in a state of repentance (Hebrews 10:1-12)
- **2. Burnt Offering:** Surrender Position your mind to say, "not my will, but Your will" (*Galatians 2:20*)
- **3. Peace Offering:** Praise Walk in praise or in the Spirit (*Psalm 27:6*)

As you make these daily "sacrifices," God will speak to you. He sees, responds, and honors your sincere devotion. You will never be disappointed when you hunger and thirst for His presence. His glory will appear in our church, in our homes, and indeed our lives! Let's go forward in unity as we sacrifice together.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

For clarity & direction

To hear His voice more clearly

For focus & help to put His kingdom first

For a greater understanding of the Bible

For grace for the next 21 days

For personal growth

#### **ACTION**

Meditate on Hebrews 13:11-16. Write down some personal prayer requests that will be a point of focus over the next three weeks. Also, you may find it helpful to have a prayer partner to connect with, encourage, and motivate during this time.



Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

Joshua 3:5

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Help me live fully surrendered to you

Create in me a pure heart

Help me know Your will for my life

Show me if there is anything in my heart that pulls me away from You

Help me forgive and let go of past hurts

When you consecrate yourself to God, He will do things in you, with you, for you, and through you, that will amaze you.

We want to do amazing things for God, and that seems noble. But we've got it backward. God wants to do amazing things for us. That's His job, not ours. Our job is consecration. And consecration is more than attending church, keeping the Ten Commandments, tithing, sharing your faith, volunteering for a ministry, and raising your hands in worship. All those are good things, but that isn't consecration.

The utensils used in temple worship were considered "consecrated." In other words, they were set apart for the exclusive use of God. They were devoted to His service. Consecration means dethroning yourself and enthroning Jesus as Lord of your life. It's giving God veto power. It's surrendering all of you to all of Him. It's a simple recognition that every second of your time, every ounce of your energy, and every penny of your money is a gift from God and for God.

Consecration is an ever-deepening love for Jesus, a childlike trust in your heavenly Father, and blind obedience to the Holy Spirit. So the word for you today is—consecrate yourself to God.

#### **ACTION**

What are a few things you've held back from God? What is preventing you from fully surrendering to God?



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, seek, knock. Wow, what an invitation to us! This is an open invitation to come to God with all our requests! We don't know what you desire from God at this time in your life that you have not yet seen the answer to, but we want to encourage you... don't give up!

Sometimes we can get so discouraged by the fact that God hasn't broken through for us yet in a certain area. You may need a breakthrough in your marriage, you may need healing, or you may be praying for a backslidden child. God knows the need and wants you to prosper in every area of your life, both physically and spiritually.

Matthew 6:33 tells us to "Seek first the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously; then He will give you everything you need".

When we take time to pray, read the Bible and dwell in His presence, we allow God to do what only He can do in our lives. He provides abundant grace, peace, hope, faith, deliverance, mercy, and forgiveness. He offers abundant power, provision, and protection.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Put in me the desire to seek You daily

I trust You with all the circumstances of my life

I have faith You are working all things for my good

Help me have a breakthrough in every area of my life

I will claim Your promises and walk in victory

#### **ACTION**



Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

Today's trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6:34

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

For my faith to continue to increase

To put my trust completely in God and not the world

To have a faith that defeats all fear and worry

That my faith would lead to a greater understanding of God

That I would obtain perfect peace

Where we place our faith and trust is like the currency of our hearts. We have a limited amount of faith and trust to invest and real returns to gain or lose, depending on where we choose to invest them. Scripture is clear that we cannot place our faith and trust in both God and the world.

We cannot choose money and God as our anchors of hope. We cannot choose both the opinion of man and God's opinion. We cannot choose our own will and His. We must, moment by moment, choose where we will invest our limited, valuable currency of faith and trust.

If we, as children of God, truly believe that His Word is truth, a vast reservoir of peace and joy is available to us today. The Bible is clear about what we get in return for placing our faith and trust in God alone. Jesus said in Matthew 6:30, "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

#### **ACTION**

Do you have faith in God to the level that you really don't worry about tomorrow? What cares, burdens and stresses of this world do you have to put on the shoulders of the almighty, all-loving God?



If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.

Exodus 15:26

The Bible describes God as Jehovah-Rapha more than 60 times. Jehovah means "God," and Rapha means "to restore, to heal, or to make healthful."

"Healer" is an integral part of God's character. God cares about every area of your health - your physical health, your mental and emotional well-being, and your spiritual vitality. Psalm 103:2-3 says, "Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases."

When we understand that God is Jehovah-Rapha, the Great Physician, we recognize that no healing happens apart from Him. Only He can provide lasting healing from our brokenness.

God also wants to deal with the source of our pain, the rejection, the hurt, or perhaps betrayal. His healing goes beyond the surface; He touches the depths of our hearts and soul. Our Healer never has and will never change (Malachi 3:6). He still heals!

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Heal every physical sickness, disease & pain according to Your

Bind up the broken hearts & mend the deep emotional wounds

Pour out your peace, strength & comfort

Bring spiritual healing & restoration

Heal, renew and transform my mind

#### **ACTION**

When you think about your overall health, where do you need God to do a healing work? What are you grateful to God for regarding your health today?



And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

1 John 5:14-15

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Let Your kingdom come and your will be done

Let there be a spiritual awakening in our homes, churches, cities, and nation

Give me wisdom and discernment in prayer

Pour out your power & anointing in our daily prayer meetings

Put a love and hunger for prayer in every heart

Have you ever been frustrated by prayer? I think we can all admit to feeling disappointed when things don't go our way or when our requests seem to remain unanswered. After all, doesn't the Bible say what we ask of God will be given to us?

John 15:7 says, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." It is extremely important to ensure we walk in step with the Lord so His will can be revealed to us. This means we must fully submit ourselves to the Lord and His timing. Rather than holding onto our own wants and desires, we must be open to God's plan for us. While we may think we know what is best for us, our Creator in heaven has a purpose for each of our lives that is beyond what we could imagine.

When we decide to truly live for Christ, we pray according to His will, rather than our own. Then, we can experience the power of prayer and grow in our faith in God. In times when you may feel discouraged, remember that God works through our lives when we give our hearts to Him. This a very powerful thing.

#### **ACTION**

Challenge yourself to add 10-15 extra minutes to your daily prayer time this week, and we encourage you to join with others - meet up at the church to pray or access the ZOOM link on the Family page for prayer happening during Devote 21!



So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer

Egra 8:23

Do you desire closeness with God that you can't seem to find? Fasting is the answer. In fasting, we go without something in our lives to draw near and experience God in a greater way. Fasting allows you to invest time in building a deeper relationship with God.

Fasting is an important part of the disciple's habits, just like giving or prayer is. It sharpens you spiritually, allowing you to be more effective in every aspect of your life.

God wants to reveal His strength in our weakness. He wants to show us mercy in our state of vulnerability. He wants us to see our need for Him.

True fasting isn't a self-righteous or manipulative way to gain God's favor. It's a way to humble ourselves, awaken spiritual cravings, and bear good fruit. In this season of fasting, make sure that you're listening to His voice and allowing Him to lead you in the right direction. He will make springs in the desert and cause blessings to overtake you.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Let there be a desire in me to dwell in God's presence and know His heart

To be more sensitive to Your Spirit and the spiritual realm

Help me take dominion over the flesh and resist temptation

Give me the mind of Christ and impart Your wisdom and understanding

#### **ACTION**

As we enter week 2 of our 21 days of devotion, consider adding something else to your fast. As you deny yourself, will you increase the time you spend with God?

For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses

Matthew 6:14

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Help me forgive my enemies, those who have hurt me or betrayed me

Forgive me for my failures, my lack of faith, or the times I disappointed You

Show me any unforgiveness in my heart

I thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me new life

When you read that scripture, how did it make you feel in your heart and soul? Who or what came to mind? In the privacy of your own thoughts, what does the dialogue around forgiveness sound like? Are you struggling to extend forgiveness to someone who is longing for it, or are you longing for someone to forgive you? Perhaps the offender is completely unaware of the hurt they caused and your struggle to forgive them—or even worse, they know but do not care.

Forgiveness can be complicated, but it does not have to be.

Simply, Jesus expects us to forgive as He forgives. Throughout His teaching, this is reinforced. Consider the words of Jesus as He showed His disciples how to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12).

Jesus was teaching us that forgiveness is also something that we must do. He was teaching His disciples how to live out His teaching in the world. Forgiveness will bring completeness and wholeness to us, our homes, our communities, and our world.

#### **ACTION**

Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? Do you need to forgive yourself for things you have done in the past? Is there someone you need to apologize to and ask for their forgiveness?



Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Dhilippians 2:3-5

Humility means "to make low, bring low, to level, reduce to a plain, to have a modest opinion of oneself, devoid of all haughtiness."

To humble yourself does not mean to have low selfesteem or suffer from rejection. Rather it means to submit your heart and ways to God. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

Put another way; humility embraces the reality that I am not God. Pride led to humanity's fall when Adam and Eve desired to "be like God" (Genesis 3:5), contrary to his command. Humility would have trusted Him and obeyed His command. Humility is the choice to follow God's Word, follow His way of doing things, and let His pattern establish your path.

With humility, you not only realize your own worth but also see and appreciate the inherent value of others. Just as Jesus humbled Himself unto death on the cross, let us reflect on our lives and adopt the attitude and actions of Jesus and follow His example of humility!

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Help me walk in humility like Jesus

Bind the spirit of pride, and give me a humble heart

May I have a heart and passion for serving others

I give God all the glory for the success, accomplishments, and gains in my life

May I be reminded daily that I can do nothing without Jesus

#### **ACTION**



Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Ephesians 5:2

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Jesus, teach me to love as you do

Let there be an outpouring of love in the church

Let the love of God sustain us through difficult times

Help me to love myself as You love me

Help me to recognize the steadfast and everlasting love of Jesus in my life We want to love like Jesus. Why? Because we know it's the best way to live. When we love like Jesus, we're lifted outside of ourselves. We shed self-interest with our spouse, kids, friends, and everyone. His brand of love sees beyond the normal range of human vision — over walls of resentment and barriers of betrayal. When we love like Jesus, we rise above petty demands and snobbish entitlement. We loosen our tightfisted anxiety and relax in a surplus of benevolence.

Most of all, Jesus' model of love inspires us to follow the best way to live, "the most excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31). We want to love like that.

But can anyone really love like Jesus? After all, He raised the bar of love to extraordinary heights. Love your enemies? Walk the extra mile? Turn the other cheek? Seriously? This is love beyond reason, isn't it? Of course. And that's the point.

To love like Jesus, we need to think and feel. We need reason and emotion. Both head and heart work together. It's the only way to bring perfect love into our imperfect lives.

#### **ACTION**

Show someone the extraordinary love of Jesus this week. Do a small act of kindness to a stranger, bring in treats to your co-workers, or give a compliment to the cashier at the store.



Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We have all heard the phrase "divide and conquer." In war, this strategy forces the enemy to divide their defenses and leaves them vulnerable. Satan uses these same tactics against the body of Christ. He seeks to divide and conquer because he knows that a disunified church is weak.

But what is unity? Unfortunately, many think that unity means "sameness." This is not true. Unity is not uniformity. Instead, unity can be defined as any group of people who are characterized by a shared purpose, vision, or direction. It's not about being the exact same but about advancing toward the same goal. Think about a football team. There are different positions on the field. Each position has different skill sets, roles, and responsibilities. But all players on the team must work together to move forward and score because their goal is the same.

The church is the place where all distinctions should no longer cause any divisions because of our unity in Christ. Our common goal is advancing God's Kingdom through sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. When believers from every race, tribe, and nation unite and operate in biblical unity, we will no longer be divided or conquered. We will be victorious.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That unity would grow among our church family

That as the body of Christ, we would break down all barriers that create division

Love, peace, and unity would prevail in our church services

The spirit of unity would work in our families, workplaces, and community

#### **ACTION**



I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That the seed we scatter would land in good soil and that God would provide the increase

That God would give us a burden for lost souls

That we would have boldness and walk in Kingdom authority

That we would be sensitive to open doors and opportunities to share the Gospel This generation expects everything to come fast. We're on the edge of a nervous breakdown if our barista takes longer than two minutes or if we have a weak Wi-Fi signal. And regarding evangelism, we can get discouraged if we don't see quick conversions. But don't worry! It's okay if they don't pray with you during your first conversation.

As we see in Scripture, evangelism and conversion are a lot like farming, with a process of planting and watering that leads to the growth that comes from God. This is always a process that requires us to put our faith into action and trust that the Lord will do His part.

When we feel intimidated or inadequate in sharing our faith, we must remember that the very presence and power of God are within us. It is His power that enables us to be witnesses.

This understanding gave the apostle Paul the confidence to say, "My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:3-5) The power and presence of God within you are greater than any of the difficulties before you.

#### **ACTION**

Take a step of faith this week and invite someone to church. Ask God for the opportunity to share Jesus with someone. Actively look for a moment to let the light of Jesus shine through you.



And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

Acts 5:42

Relationships take time and intentionality. If you don't have time with others, you won't experience the level of relationship that will transform your life. The Bible says that we are lively stones joined together, and Jesus prayed that we would be one even as He is one. Not only are we to be connected to Jesus, but we are also to be connected to each other.

We must come together in the name of Jesus and not forsake the assembling of ourselves. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to reach out to one another with love, seek fellowship, and support one another in prayer. We are connected not only by our need for Jesus but also by our need for one another.

Paul states, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'" (I Corinthians 12:21). What an incredible statement! Paul tells us that Christ will never say to any member of His body, "I do not need you." Jesus willingly connects with each of us and says that we are all important and necessary to the functioning of His body.

As SmallGroups develop around the South Plains, let us love God, love people, and make disciples. Let His kingdom come to our region.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

For SmallGoups to be developed in the South Plains

God would lead people into SmallGroups, and they would grow in faith

That love and unity would abound in SmallGroups

That God would protect SmallGroups from attacks of the enemy

#### **ACTION**

If you are not part of a SmallGroup consider joining one. If you are part of a SmallGroup reach out to your fellow members and let them know you are praying for them. Consider becoming a leader to share the love of Jesus.

Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:6

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Revelation and peace would be upon homes and workplaces

That we welcome
Jesus in our
neighborhood and the
land would be blessed

That love, forgiveness, healing, and the light of Jesus would be manifested

That strongholds in the community would be broken

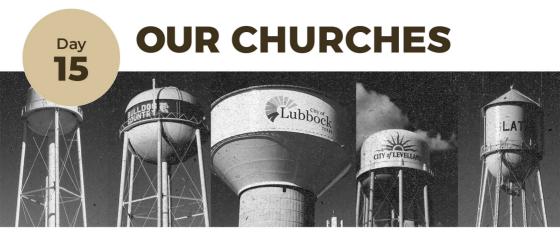
Jesus and the Apostles did much walking. Jesus and the Apostles did much praying. And if Jesus said that we "ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1), then we must assume they did much praying as they walked. Prayer walking involves taking our prayers to the very places where we desire to see God's presence manifested and our prayers answered. Prayer walking is the powerful dynamic of praying on-site with God's sight. Prayer walking uses sights, sounds, and even smells to engage both body and mind in the ministry of prayer.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- 1. Begin your walk by asking the Holy Spirit to make you aware of what He wants you to see and hear.
- 2. Greet anyone you meet along the way. Whisper a blessing upon them.
- 3. Pray for your neighbors as you pass their homes.
- 4. Ask God to speak to you about your community as you walk.
- 5. Make room for silence as you make room for the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
- 6. Pray for any schools, government buildings, and businesses. Release blessings upon them.
- 7. As you walk, remember the basics of prayer. ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

#### **ACTION**

If you already walk for exercise or recreation, why not turn it into prayer walking this week? If you are not walking, how about going for some walks just for the sole purpose of praying?



Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Jeremiah 29:7

In the Bible, battle after battle was won by prayer and not by swords. Through prayer, diseases were healed, people were raised from the dead, jail cells were opened, and miracles took place. If prayer can do all of that, just think about what the power of prayer could do for our church, other churches, and future works!

God has His hand upon **Lighthouse**. We are entering a season of blessing, demonstration of the power of God, and revival across **the South Plains**. Revival is the restoration of the relationship between God and His people, and prayer is the key component to making it happen.

The Bible tells us to pray for our leaders. We should pray for the pastors and spiritual leaders across **our region** that they would stand strong in the faith, unwavering, and always guided by God as they cast vision and direction.

Here is a list of our churches in **our area (Section 2)**. Let's unite in prayer for them!

SLATON, LUBBOCK, LEVELLAND, BROWNFIELD, PLAINVIEW, LAMESA, LITTLEFIELD, DENVER CITY, CLOVIS, POST, PORTALES, HEREFORD

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That our churches in Section 2 would be blessed

For an increased burden to see souls saved

For the love of truth, holiness, and the anointing of God to be upon us

Divine protection and wisdom for our leaders

#### **ACTION**

Reach out to someone from another church in our area and let them know you are praying for them. Pray for them to have wisdom, favor, and anointing.

Declare the blessings of the Lord over them.



And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Pray for anointed, wise, willing workers

For the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength of our team members

Pray for the unity of mind and spirit in our teams members

For our team members to have a greater hunger and a burden for souls If you are a fan of any sport, you've heard the deafening noise of adoring fans speaking as one. While watching on the couch might give you a better view of the game, it's never as exhilarating as cheering on your team from the stands.

Special energy comes from being part of a shared mission, whether that mission is to win a game or to bring heaven to Earth. When we ask Jesus into our lives, we give Him permission to reshape our values and our perspective. That's what it means to make Jesus our Lord. We put Him in charge of how we live today and where we spend eternity. We join His team, His mission.

Rather than fielding a select few, Jesus sends all His people out to share the good news that He has set us free, and He will set things right forever. We might not be perfect, but when it comes to this mission, we all have a place on the team. No one is too old or too young. No matter our background, we have something of value to add.

At times, we will get tired and want to give up. But in the same way a team feeds off the energy of its fans, we can draw strength from one another. We are in this together and on the same team!

#### **ACTION**

You are a vital and important part of LAC. Your faithfulness is important and appreciated. We need YOU! Today, consider finding a way to serve your church.

There are opportunities for everyone to join the team!



Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Droverby 17:6

One of the most direct examples of the kingdom of God on earth is the family unit. God longs to use the love between family members to tell the world of His love as the Creator and Father of all. As believers, we must choose to continually love, forgive, help, and pursue strong relationships with those God has given us as our family.

Psalm 139:13 says, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." God formed you perfectly for your family. He had plans for you and your family before the formation of heaven and Earth. He has placed your family on the earth intentionally and purposefully. He has incredible plans for families to pursue love for each other and walk in His eternal purposes.

Your heavenly Father knows the faults of your family. He knows their weaknesses, trials, and temptations. He knows that loving them can be difficult at times. But he is calling you to a lifestyle of grace-filled love for those he has specifically given to you. He will provide you with all the courage, strength, power, and grace you need. He longs to help you love your family.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That God would reveal Himself and His salvation to every member of our families

Restoration and healing for broken families

That God would protect our families and cover them with His blood

That our children would be protected and live their lives for Christ

#### **ACTION**

Today, take some time to be with your family and pray for them. Tell them what God has done in your life and how you love them. If you no longer live with your family, give them a call and catch up.



..This son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.

Luke 15:24

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Help me live fully surrendered to You

Create in me a pure heart

Help me know Your will for my life

Show me if there is anything in my heart that pulls me away from You

Help me forgive and let go of past hurts

There's no passage of Scripture that better illustrates the heart of God than the parable of the prodigal son. The life-changing core of the gospel is that when we feel far from God, He is never far from us. Even if we turn back toward Him, He runs out to meet us. The moment we humble ourselves in response to our sin, He exalts us, calls us His child, and throws a party in our honor.

Some of us are the prodigals in Luke 15:11-32. We've wandered far from home and far from our Father. Sometimes 'life' gets the better of us, and we recklessly pursue the pleasures of this world. But when the emptiness of it all sinks in, we find ourselves completely alone. Without options, we swallow our pride and prepare our hearts to return to our Father's house.

Our compassionate Father embraces and celebrates the prodigal who feels so unworthy. And so should we. There was no condemnation, shame, or resentment - just pure joy.

If you have been struggling, run toward God with humility and allow your heart to be raised up as He exalts you. Humble yourself in light of His majesty. God has every reason to condemn you, but out of His overwhelming love, He has chosen to call you His beloved child.

#### **ACTION**

We can all think of precious people that are no longer serving God and have walked away from their faith. Let's take time to connect with them, and continue to love and pray for them. This week reach out to someone that you have not seen at church in a while.



Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

As Christ walked the earth, He never ceased helping and showing love. He taught His disciples many mysteries of the faith and gave them instructions to follow. One of them was to love God and love others as themselves. He told them to make disciples of all nations and spread the gospel to the world.

The Church of the 1st century mirrored Jesus' behavior and obeyed those commandments. They loved God, loved others, and made disciples wherever they went. Miracles followed them, and people gathered to hear the good news. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah! Their obedience to Christ brought revival. Their message brought restoration to the relationship between God and man.

Lighthouse Church continues the commands of Jesus given to the 1st-century church. When we, the Church, gather and lift up the Name of Jesus, we will see people drawn to Him! The work that Jesus started continues with us!

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That God would increase our love for Him and for others.

That God will protect the Church as we exalt His Great Name

That God will help us follow His will and spread His love to the nations

That God will help us to make disciples

#### **ACTION**

What is one thing you can do this week to help promote the vision of LAC? Get connected. Find a place to serve. Find a SmallGroup to join. Commit to being faithful. Let's see His kingdom come in Slaton and His will done among us!



Select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

Act 8 6:3-4

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

That God anoints our leadership, protects them, and strengthens them

That God would give them grace to be patient and humble in their ministry

That the Lord would bless them as they serve like Christ

That our leaders would walk in wisdom as they lead the church Self-sacrifice is the image of true leadership that the Bible gives us. In Jesus, we have the ultimate servant leader. He came into the world by being born in a barn, not a palace. His birth was announced by shepherds, not a royal messenger. His earthly family was poor, not rich.

Not only did Jesus start His earthly life in humble beginnings, but Jesus consistently took the route of self-sacrifice. He identified with the lowly and the outcasts. Jesus was always willing to give His reputation away for the sake of serving those around Him. Often the social outsiders were trapped by their culture and society, but Jesus humbly offered a new way.

Jesus was never consumed with obtaining earthly stature or reputation. It's not like He didn't have the opportunity because He did. Instead, Jesus remained obedient on earth to the heavenly purpose He was called to. He gave away abundant, never-ending love to all.

Even Jesus' final days here on Earth hardly looked like a king's. He was killed as a criminal in a torturous, humiliating manner. Jesus entered the world humbly and exited the world humiliated. Yet, God exalted Him.

As a church, our calling is to follow in the footsteps of our Teacher, Savior, and Lord—Jesus Christ. May we choose to lead the way by sacrificially serving others in love.

#### **ACTION**

Find a way to honor, show love, and appreciation to those who serve sacrificially at Lighthouse and in the Kingdom of God.



Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

Joel 2:28

Over the past 21 days of devotion, we have set aside some things to fill our lives with something better. It is impossible to spend time seeking the Lord and not see something happen - because God is faithful. His Word promises that He responds to the prayers of His people.

The book of Acts records what happened in the upper room as people fervently called on God. In Acts 2, Peter addresses a crowd and quotes the prophetic words of Joel, declaring its fulfillment as the Spirit was being poured out on people.

One of the most powerful prayers we can pray is for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives, in our cities, in our nation, and throughout the world. God's desire is always to answer that prayer, but it begins with His people crying out for more.

"A revival may be expected when Christians have a spirit of prayer for a revival. That is, when they pray as if their hearts were set upon it. When Christians have the spirit of prayer for a revival. When they go about groaning out their hearts desire. When they have real travail of soul."

~Charles Finney~

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Jesus would revive the Church and awaken our nation to His greatness and truth

That unbelievers would be saved, and people would be added to the church daily

That there would be repentance and forgiveness for the sins of our nation

For a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Slaton, the South Plains, and across the world

#### **ACTION**

Take a moment right now to pray. Pray for the gospel to spread and for the church to be strengthened and revived. Pray for the South Plains to turn to the only One who can bring revival: Jesus.

Revival is here, and the best is yet to come!

