



CONNECTION POINT CHURCH

90-DAY CHALLENGE GUIDE



Blessed is the one who does not walk In step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

PSALM 1: 1-3

WELCOME TO THE CONNECTION POINT CHURCH 90-DAY DEVOTIONAL LIFE CHALLENGE!



We are so excited to have you on this journey of going deeper with Jesus and hope to provide you with resources to help you - wherever you may be on your journey!

In this challenge guide, you will find several things to help you day-by-day and week-by-week as you work your way through the next 90 days, including:

- **Weekly Prayer Models** to help you build a life of prayer centered on the Word of God
- A **Bible Reading Plan** to help you engage with the Word of God as you work through the challenge
- **Encouraging words and themes** to highlight various aspects of a vibrant devotional life
- Additional links and resources to help you

We can't wait to see what the Lord does in and through you as you commit to spending time with Him in this season! We are praying for your hearts to be strengthened as you encounter Him through His Word and your conversations with Him!

If you desire to be placed in an accountability group to help you along your journey, please email spirituallife@connectionpointchurch.org and we will connect you with a group of 3-4 people.

Prayer Model

HEBREWS 4:14-16

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

THANK HIM:

- You sent Your Son, Jesus, clothed in human flesh so that we might have access to You and Your Kingdom
- You know exactly how it feels to be human, so You understand my weaknesses and temptations
- You are alive and You ascended to Heaven where You continually speak to the Father on my behalf

ASK HIM:

- Give me wisdom to know how to combat the trials and troubles that come in to my life through the brokenness of the world, my own flesh, and from the enemy
- Help me to cling to what I know to be true through Your Word
- Help me to not sin (especially in these areas where I struggle...)
- Knowing that You understand everything that I am facing, I bring these cares to You...

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

THANK HIM:

- I have the privilege of approaching You on Your great and precious throne of grace
- You extend mercy to me and to fallen humanity

ASK HIM:

- Give me confidence to approach You
- Strengthen my heart through troubles and trials
- Open my ears to hear Your voice, and move on my heart to respond
- Grant me favor in these specific ways/areas of my life (health, relationships, finances, ministry, work, etc.)

Song for the Week:

I AM YOUR BELOVED
(Jonathan David & Melissa Helser)

WEEK ONE



PRAYER MODEL TIPS

READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE IN YOUR PREFERRED TRANSLATION

Start by reading through the prayer model passage. The New Living Translation is one that many people find easily readable.

READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE IN A SECOND TRANSLATION

The second translation can give you a different insight into the verses and give you different words to help you pray. The YouVersion app (found in your device's store) is awesome for this because you can easily switch between translations on the same passage.

THANK YOU - SHOW ME MORE

Spend a few moments thanking God for the truths that you find in the passage and ask Him to show you more/teach you through His Word. You can also narrow in on a verse that is "jumping out" at you that day and write it in a journal.

PRAY THROUGH THE PRAYER MODEL

Read each verse - out loud if you can - then simply use the words of the verse as a jumping point for your prayer time.

This is such a great way to let the Word speak to you and use the Word to fuel your prayers. It helps me to move from praying over your own felt needs into praying for things on God's heart. You can take one passage and pray through that passage/model for the entire week. This practice can help you to dig into a passage and let the Lord give you deeper revelation. Give it a try and see if it's helpful to direct you during your devotional time!

Week 1, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 1, Genesis 1-2, Matthew 1



We live in a world where our time often does not feel like our own. At any given moment, there are numerous people or things that vie for our attention. We are easily distracted and our attention spans are short. This is not surprising, knowing that **the Lord created us to be ones who gaze upon His beauty** (His personality and His character) in order to gain strength and hope. The enemy will stop at nothing to fasten our gaze on this fading world, taking our eyes off the only One who can truly strengthen us and infuse joy into our circumstances.

It takes an act of spiritual violence to set aside time daily to quiet our hearts and our minds and listen for the voice of the One who knows us best and loves us most. **One of the best things you can do today, as you begin your 90-day journey, is to schedule your devotional time into your calendar.** Treat it as you would your job – like it's the most important part of your day – because it is. It's your daily time in the presence of God – there is no task more important, no need more pressing, and no opportunity more fruitful than hearing the words your creator wants to speak to you in this moment of your life. Protect this time fiercely and see what He will do with your heart and your life over the next 90 days!

Week 1, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 2, Genesis 3-4, Matthew 5



As we get started, we want to make sure that you are aware of several resources we have for you and your spiritual life. Each of these are designed to help you strengthen your walk with the Lord and are available for you to view, download and print as you need them. There are also versions for teenagers and ways that you can incorporate each with your family.

- Reading the Word
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Apostolic Prayers (prayers from Scripture prayed by Jesus and the apostles of the early church)

**You can find all of these on the Connection Point Church website
(www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life-resources).**



Week 1, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 3, Genesis 6-9, Matthew 6



The Lord never intended us to walk through our life as His followers alone. He created the Body of Christ, and placed you within this specific spiritual family, for the purposes of encouraging you, strengthening you, exhorting you, and helping you to grow. When you try and walk through your spiritual life alone, you can easily get discouraged – and when that happens, you are more likely to give up or only stay committed half-heartedly.

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to **motivate each other to acts of love and good works...to encourage each other as the day of His return draws near**. We want to make sure that you have a body of believers around you, cheering you on and holding you accountable to your devotional commitment. If you do not already have 1-2 people who you connect with regularly to talk about what the Lord is doing in your life and hold one another accountable, we would love to help you find that.



Email spirituallife@connectionpointchurch.org and we will get you placed into a group, as well as give you some resources to help you build a strong accountability relationship.

Week 1, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 4, Genesis 11:1-8, Matthew 9



As we dive in this week, take a moment to ask the Lord for grace to keep your devotional commitment. Matthew 5:6 teaches us that **those who hunger for righteousness will be satisfied**. When we ask the Lord to give us grace to spend time with Him, it's one way of showing Him the hunger in our hearts to know Him more. It also conveys to Him that we **recognize our inability to draw near to Him without Him first provoking our hearts**. It is also a prayer that He loves to answer.

Psalm 119:18 gives us a picture of this when the psalmist prays, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law!" **Asking the Lord to open your heart to hear His voice and inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth are prayers that He loves to answer**. Asking Him to help you prioritize meeting with Him daily postures your heart to seek the Kingdom of God above all else (Matthew 6:33) – and He will be faithful to lavish His grace on you to keep your commitment to Him!

Week 1, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 5, Job 1-2, Matthew 14



Here are some practical tips to help you over the next 90 days:

1. SCHEDULE YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME.

Prioritize your time for the things you want to have first place in your life. If you don't schedule your devotional time into your day, something else will bump into that place.

Set an alarm as you develop your habit of meeting with the Lord consistently.

2. REMEMBER THAT DISCIPLINE TAKES TIME.

Think about the things in your life that are habitual. In all likelihood, there was a process that you had to embark on to make them habitual. If you regularly exercise, it likely took several weeks before you developed a steadfast habit that can withstand small disruptions to your schedule. Your devotional life will be the same. Expect there to be some bumps in the road but stay committed to the road. With time, you will develop consistency in your devotional life and reap the fruit of time spent with the Lord.

3. IF YOU ARE BORED, IT'S OK TO MIX IT UP.

Don't be afraid to get creative! Try a new Bible translation, a new time of day, a devotional book to help you focus. Maybe it's Bible journaling or coloring books with a Scriptural focus, or time in nature. He is a creative God – let Him create a beautiful devotional time with you that is uniquely yours!

4. WRITE THINGS DOWN.

When the Lord shows you something amazing in His Word – or you hear the Holy Spirit whisper something as you are listening to Him – make a practice of writing it down. It doesn't have to be a long journal entry, but something to help you remember what He showed you. Over time, this can be an incredibly powerful tool to use in seeing how the Lord is directing you and encouraging you through seasons of your life.

5. TELL SOMEONE WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING.

How many times have you heard something during a sermon and thought it was going to change your life – only to have forgotten it later that day? We can hear something and our heart may respond, but when we turn around and say what we have learned to someone else, a different part of our brain gets involved, and our brain begins to hold onto that truth. Make a practice of telling someone else what you are learning. Not only will it help your brain to hold onto what the Lord is showing you, but more often than not, the Lord is speaking similar truths across the Body of Christ. In sharing with each other, it builds our confidence to draw nearer to Him and continue seeking His truth.

Week 1, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 7, Job 42, Matthew 24



Week 1, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 8, Genesis 12:1-8, Matthew 26



AN INVITATION TO *relationship*

**WE ARE INVITED TO COME INTO
HIS PRESENCE WITH CONFIDENCE.**

**WE ENTER BY PERMISSION,
NOT BY PERFORMANCE.**

**A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD BEGINS NOW.**



Prayer Model

JOHN 15:1-8

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

THANK HIM:

- You are the One who nurtures and tends to the vine
- Thank You that You have not given up on me, that You call forth life and fruit out of me
- Thank You for the depth of truth that You show me in Jesus, my true vine

ASK HIM:

- Holy Spirit tend my heart and nourish my soul.
- Feed me with the truth of Your Word
- Knowing You are the source of life, forgive me for not plugging myself into You – forgive me for seeking help, power, hope, and strength from people and things instead of You

He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

THANK HIM:

- You have made me a part of your vine so that I will bear fruit
- Thank You for the fruit You have borne in my life

ASK HIM:

- Show me the limbs that are strained, the branches that are broken, the leaves that are withered in my life, and give me the strength to endure Your pruning
- Prune the relationships and things in my life that are hindering me from abiding in You
- Help me to heal from this pruning process so that I will come out stronger and not wounded or feeling like a victim

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

THANK HIM:

- Thank You that You nurture me with Your Word
- Thank You for the joy of fellowshiping with You

ASK HIM:

- Keep me connected to You so that the life You give flows from me to others
- Help me to accept Your correction in my life
- Forgive me for trying to do things in my own strength

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

THANK HIM:

- Thank You that You partner with me to produce fruit in my life
- Thank You that I can rest in Your love, abide in You, and allow You to live Your life through me

ASK HIM:

- Let me bear good fruit
- Multiply the fruits of the Spirit in my life so that You may be glorified
- Help me to submit to your guidance so that I can produce much fruit, to Your glory

Song for the Week:

THERE IS ONLY ONE
(Brandon Hampton & Misty Edwards)

WEEK TWO

Week 2, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 9, Genesis 15-16, Mark 2



Have you ever stood at a doorway of a room full of people who seem out of your league? There may have been doorways where you have stood in where you are on the outside looking in – longing to be accepted by the people in the room, yet also wanting to turn around and leave because you feel like an imposter.

The thoughts in your head tell you that you won't be accepted...you don't know enough...you're not good enough...you don't belong there - so don't get too close or they'll realize who you really are.

This is the normal bend of our human minds when we don't have confidence, and we can experience the same hesitation when it comes to entering into God's presence.

Yet He invites us to come to Him with confidence that we will be received. He invites us to come into His presence with confidence. **We enter His presence by permission, not by performance.**

There is not one thing that you can do that will cause Him to love you more, because He has already decided in His mind that He loves you. It's His love for you that awakens your heart to want to turn toward Him and learn to love Him back.

As you dive into your devotional time this week, keep this truth at the forefront of your mind: **God wants a relationship with YOU.** As you are, right now, in this moment.

You don't have to clean yourself up to get started.

You don't have to prove yourself to Him.

You don't have to know anything.

Your deeper relationship with God begins now!



Week 2, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 11, Genesis 18:1-15, Mark 4



One thing that can throw us off quickly in our devotional time is forgetting Who you are spending your time with. It's easy to do because the room is empty, you may not feel anything, or you may not hear anything.

As you read your Bible, remember that **the Bible is designed to reveal who God is**. Rather than getting caught up in learning information (which isn't bad!), **the main purpose of reading your Bible - of everything about your devotional time - is to grow in your knowledge of who God is**. You don't just want to learn new information or behaviors, though both are good. You want to be transformed into the image of Jesus.

As you start each day, spend a few moments reflecting on Who you are building a relationship with.

- **Picture Jesus sitting across the room with you.** When you are feeling "dry" in devotions, try pulling up a physical chair next to you so that you won't forget that you are spending time with an actual person.
- Try **reading Revelation 4 and 5 to picture the Throne Room** and remember that the powerful One depicted in those chapters is the same One who has turned His ear to your voice.
- **Listen to a worship song** that describes who God is.

Starting your devotional time with a quick reminder of Who you are spending time with will help to fuel your desire to spend time with Him again.



Week 2, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 14, Genesis 21-22, Mark 8



When you view God as a tender Father, Jesus as a Bridegroom King, and the Holy Spirit as your Helper - you are energized to seek Him and experience new delight in your relationship with Him. This changes your devotional life because instead of approaching Him with shame or hesitation, you come before Him with confidence that He loves you and enjoys spending time with you (John 17:23).

A correct view of God also allows you to approach Him with the honor He is due. It is usually easy to agree with the *idea* of meeting God each day. You long to come out of your prayer times with your face radiant, like Moses after he met with God on the mountain (Exodus 34:29- 35).

But Moses wasn't radiant because he discovered the meaning of a Bible verse or spoke an eloquent prayer. **Moses was changed by simply being in the presence of God.** What you behold is what you become (2 Corinthians 3:18).

If your eyes are on the beauty, glory, and majesty of God - these things captivate you and draw you closer. We want to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and be with Him (Psalm 27:4), to be conformed more and more into His image.

It's not your effort that changes you, it's the power of His presence, and you can't get this without making time to spend with Him daily.





One way to center your heart, as well as allow the Lord to show you more of Himself, is by beginning your devotional time in adoration and worship. We adore Him because of Who He is and what He has done for us. Sometimes it can feel like your mind is blank when you try to do this – so try using Scripture to help you.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Choose a verse to read and meditate on.

Personalize it by changing the names/pronouns.

Read it out loud, journal, or even sing it as a prayer to God.



HERE IS AN EXAMPLE USING PSALM 27:4:

Verse: One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Prayer: God, being with You is the one thing that I want more than anything else. I want to dwell in Your house all the days of my life. I want to walk with You and enjoy You. I want to gaze upon Your beauty and worship You because there is no one more beautiful than You. There is no one who compares to You, God! You are more beautiful and glorious than I can even imagine. I want to know You more. I want You to be the thing that most satisfies my heart. Let this be true in my heart – that the one thing I am seeking after is You. Holy Spirit, help me to love You, enjoy You, see You, know You, ask of You, and find refuge in You. Of all of the things that my heart can seek after – You are the One that I want most.

THERE ARE MANY SCRIPTURES YOU CAN DO THIS WITH!

- ***The Apostolic Prayers listed in the CPC Prayer Guide*** - “Apostolic Prayers” is just a fancy way to describe the prayers that the apostles prayed! These are great to pray because you know they have been inspired by the Holy Spirit, so you know God wants to answer them!
- ***The Psalms***
- ***Here are some others:*** Exodus 15:11-12, 1 Chronicles 16:23-34, 1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 18:30-33, Psalm 30:1-5, Psalm 33:10-12, Psalm 86: 8-13, Psalm 90:1-2, Psalm 103, Psalm 119:89-91, Proverbs 2:6-8, Isaiah 40:28-31, Jeremiah 32:17-19, Micah 7:18-19, Colossians 1:15-17

Praying the Scriptures like this takes some time to feel comfortable with – so don't give up! Remember that every word out of your mouth is so pleasing to Him – it doesn't have to sound eloquent!

Week 2, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 16, Genesis 27-28, Luke 11



Another way you can help your mind and heart to reflect on God during your devotional time is to learn more about the character of God through names that He gives to Himself in the Bible.

HERE IS HOW TO DO THIS:

- Pick one of the names of God.
- In a journal or notebook, write that name along the top of a page, then make three sections with these headers:
 - This Name Means
 - Examples I've Found in Your Word
 - Ways I've Seen You as ___ in my Life
- Over time, begin to add to your journal when you read about this name or experience God showing up in this way in your life.

Immanuel

Means: "God with us"

Examples I've found...

- Isaiah 7:14

- John 1:14

- Exodus 33:14

- Psalm 46:7

Ways I've seen You as Immanuel...

- In how You comforted me when...

- When you led me to...

You can start a "Names of God" journal that is specifically for this practice. Start with the names below, then add new names as you come across them. Add to the examples/experience as the Holy Spirit shows you these. This journal can be great to look at when you are weary, as a way to remind yourself of Who God is!

HERE ARE SOME COMMON NAMES OF GOD:

Yahweh	Elohim	Comforter
Immanuel	El Roi	Jehovah Jireh
Abba Father	Friend	Rock
Jehovah Rapha	Redeemer	Savior
Advocate	El Shaddai	Jehovah Nissi

There are MANY books, and even internet articles, that outline the many ways that God describes Himself to us. You can use these resources to expand your list and make it your own – showcasing all of the ways the Lord has shown Himself to you!

Week 2, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 18, Genesis 29-30, Luke 15



Week 2, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 19, Genesis 32:22-31, Luke 19





WE MUST MAKE A STUDY OF OUR GOD:

what He loves,
what He hates,
how He speaks and acts.

**WE CANNOT IMITATE A GOD
WHOSE FEATURES AND HABITS
WE HAVE NEVER LEARNED.**

We must make a study of Him if we
want to become like Him.

We must seek His face.

(Jen Wilkin)

Prayer Model

MATTHEW 16:24-28

So Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

THANK HIM:

- Your Kingdom is everlasting and will not be shaken
- You give me the grace to follow You
- Your ways are better than my ways, even when I don't understand them fully
- You are the God of life and you bring life to everything You touch
- This world holds nothing of value for me - You are my great reward
- You give me life through the cross of Jesus

ASK HIM:

- Help me to disown my own life and choose You
- Help me to surrender to Your ways
- Help me to deny myself, take up my cross daily, and identify with Jesus
- Help me to live for You and not for myself
- Forgive me for the ways I have sought after the things of this world (be specific in your confession here).

Song for the Week:

LET MY WORDS BE FEW

(Matt Redman)

WEEK THREE

Week 3, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 20; Genesis 37; Luke 22



Setting aside consistent time to spend with the Lord is easily the biggest challenge believers face in their devotional lives. **The difficult part of this is that we are the only ones who can decide to prioritize our devotional times, but the encouraging part is that we can decide to prioritize our devotional times!**

In order to create space and prioritize your devotional time, you must make it a priority and fiercely protect it. Think of your favorite athlete/President/celebrity...if you had the opportunity to meet with that person, you wouldn't let anything interfere with that meeting. How much more is God?

When you set apart time and protect it as something that is sacred to you, you show that it is a priority in your life. Unless your devotional time is at the top of your list, it will quickly fall off your schedule.

What changes do you need to make this week to prioritize your devotional time?

What things have you found to be helpful in protecting your devotional time?

Week 3, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 22; Genesis 39-41; Luke 24



How many times have you sat down to read your Bible, only to struggle to figure out what to read, so you just give up? Or you read the same books over and over because they are familiar and the rest feels intimidating?

When it comes to reading your Bible, following a reading plan can help! It gives you something to follow so you don't have that, "I have no idea where to start" feeling when you sit down. This is not to say that the Holy Spirit can't (or won't!) lead you to linger in a particular book for a time or take you completely off of your plan.

There is a 90-day plan that you can find in the Connection Point Reading the Word Guide (it's also broken up by day in this guide!). It takes you through some **highlights of the Old and New Testaments and has a Psalm to start each day.**

Each day is listed along in this guide, or if you would like a pdf version to print off, you can find it on page 12 of the Reading the Word Guide, which is posted on this page:
www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life

Week 3, Day 3

BIBLE READING

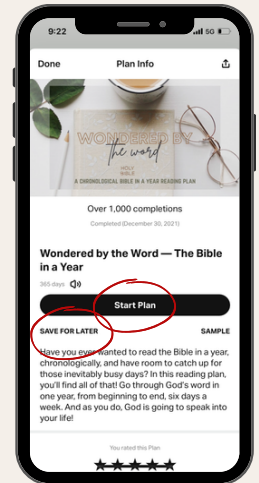
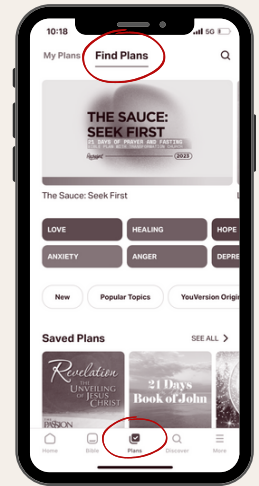
Psalm 23; Genesis 42-43; John 3



Another great place to find Bible reading plans is on the YouVersion (Bible) app. You can find this free app in your device's store or online. When you are in the app there is a PLANS button on the bottom-center. Click on this and then FIND PLANS at the top and you'll see the thousands of plans available.

You can search by topic, book of the Bible, length of plan, women's plans, men's plans, parenting, youth, kids...you get the picture! Once you find one that looks good for you, you can click on START PLAN to start the plan, or if you want to save it for later, click on SAVE FOR LATER.

You can do these plans by yourself or you can even do them with friends! When you do one with friends, you complete the plan together – reading the same content each day – and there's a place at the end of each day where you can share what you learned or how God is speaking to you that day. It's a great way to build in some accountability to your devotions!



Week 3, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 24; Genesis 44-45; John 4



Through years and years of formal education, most of our brains have been trained to read quickly and to find information. Because of this, **it's easy to sit down to read your Bible and quickly read through so that you can check it off your list for the day.**

But **Paul challenged Timothy to show himself approved to God by UNDERSTANDING the Word** (2 Timothy 2:15). While you can certainly gain surface-level understanding by reading the Bible like you would a novel, you also want to remember that you are meeting with the Creator of the universe as you read His words on these pages.

When you slow down and read more contemplatively, over time the Word becomes alive in your spirit. It's this practice of reading over time that allows you to begin to understand more complicated sections and concepts. It also gives space for the Holy Spirit to speak directly to you and give you the wisdom and direction you need for that particular day.

Today when you read, take a moment to **ask the Holy Spirit to open up the Word to your heart as you read** (Psalm 119:18)!

Week 3, Day 5

BIBLE READING



Psalm 25; Genesis 46-47; John 11

Another challenge you can encounter in reading your Bible is reading therapeutically rather than prophetically.

Oftentimes we come to the Word and look for something that is going to make us feel better about our current situation – this is called therapeutic reading. Certainly, the Bible is meant to bring us comfort, peace, and even direction in what we are encountering each day, but we must use caution in *only* reading the Bible in this way.

The Bible, in its essence, is the story of the Gospel. From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, we find the story of a God who desires relationship with His people and the great lengths He will travel to bring us to Himself. **The Good News is found in the Garden, at the cross, and as King Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom fully on the earth.**

Reading the Bible prophetically helps you to encounter God in this story of His Gospel. It gives the space for Him to read you and use His words to strengthen you. It removes your weak tendency to only look for the things that make you feel good – and possibly miss something the Lord wants to reveal that could be painful.

You don't just want to approach the Word to help you feel better. **You want to approach the Word to let it speak to your heart and transform you into the image of Jesus.** He knows better than you do the words that you need to strengthen your heart and sustain you for each day. He knows the understanding you need to endure the days coming as we near His return. **Reading the Bible prophetically allows the Holy Spirit to speak exactly what we need – not what we think we need.**

When we study the Bible,
we are seeking to be **CONTROLLED BY THE INTENT** of the author.

We are determined to **HEAR WHAT HE IS SAYING**,
not what we want Him to say.

We want **LIFE-TRANSFORMING TRUTH** not just good feelings.

(Richard Foster)

Week 3, Day 6

BIBLE READING



Psalm 26; Exodus 1-2; John 13

Week 3, Day 7

BIBLE READING



Psalm 27; Exodus 3-4; John 14



Prayer Model

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

THANK HIM:

- Your words and Your promises are true and worthy to be glorified in the earth
- You have revealed Yourself to us and given us hearts that desire to honor You

ASK HIM:

- The gospel of the Kingdom will spread throughout the earth
- God's word will be honored and celebrated throughout the earth

Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

THANK HIM:

- You are faithful to place us on a firm foundation through your Word
- You guard us from the unproductive and sinful ways of our past

ASK HIM:

- He will guard and protect His children from the evil one, his works and his accusations
- The Church will be strengthened by the truth of the Word

May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.

THANK HIM:

- The Holy Spirit directs our hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness and patience of Jesus
- You desire that we would have understanding of who You are and of Your ways

ASK HIM:

- Give unbelievers a revelation of Your Son, Jesus, and of His work on the cross
- Endurance among those who are partnering with the Holy Spirit to tell others about Jesus and His Kingdom

Song for the Week:

SIMPLE GOSPEL
(United Pursuit)

WEEK FOUR



The Bible is the primary way that God speaks to you. That's not to say that God will not use other means to communicate with his beloved ones (that's you!) – the Bible tells us that He speaks through your brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-18), through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26), and even through creation itself (Psalm 19:1-2). But **the gospel story that He has penned to us through the Bible is the primary way that He speaks** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

It's not surprising that so many people struggle to spend time reading the Bible. **The enemy loves when you neglect reading the Word because he knows that the Word is the offensive weapon that God has armed you with** (Ephesians 6:17).

John tells us that Jesus is the eternal Word – present in the beginning, creating, and giving life and light throughout the earth. He tells us that the Word (Jesus) became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:1-18). **What a treasure you have to know Jesus, the Word who became human, through the words of your Bible!** You have the opportunity to fully interact with God as you read His words to you!

This week we are going to focus on different ways that you can engage with God through reading the Bible. Each of these are different ways that you can read the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to make it come alive in your heart (Hebrews 4:12). Each of them allow you to follow a reading plan to keep you on track, but allow the Holy Spirit to pull out specific truths that He wants to highlight to you each day.





SOAP is an easy to remember method to settle in on a passage and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the words you are reading. Here's how you do it:

S = SCRIPTURE

Choose a specific verse or passage from your reading and write it out in your journal. Take time to read over the passage a few times, pausing in between to give space for the Lord to speak to you.

O = OBSERVATION

Write down what you observe from the passage. What is standing out to you? It could be a word or a phrase, or even a new understanding you have from reading that day.

A = APPLICATION

As you continue reading the passage and writing down observations, what do you think God is wanting to teach you from the reading? **How does this passage apply to your life?** Sometimes this is super-specific and you know exactly what the Lord wants you to do. Other times it's more general. Whatever drops into your mind here, write it down.

P = PRAYER

Lastly, pray. **Speak or write out a prayer to God based on the passage and what He has shown you.** Make a commitment to Him. Ask Him for the grace to do what He has asked you to do. Don't forget to pause here, too, and give the Lord time to speak!

A quick note: The number of people who have heard the audible voice of God is a lot smaller than you probably think! Most believers hear the Lord through what seems like our own thoughts, which is why it can feel confusing as you learn to know and trust His voice. You can also hear Him through an impression that you have, an idea that pops into your mind at just the right time, or a new understanding of a passage or situation that you didn't have before.

In whatever way the Lord is speaking to you as you work through SOAP, be sure to write it down. **These journal entries can become a beautiful picture of themes that God is highlighting to you through specific seasons of your life!**





Let's talk about meditation! It's a word that has hefty cultural connotations, but **God told Joshua to mediate on the Word, day and night** (Joshua 1:8) so you can be confident that this is something the Lord wants you to do!

Meditating on Scripture is a form of worship and prayer, as well as a way to actively engage with the Lord. When you meditate on Scripture, you are simply saying God's word back to God. There are many different ways that you can do this - and there is evidence of several types of meditation in the Bible:

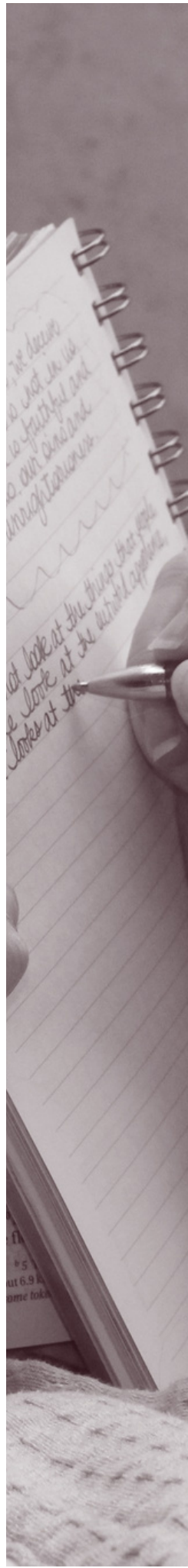
- **READ THE WORD** (*Nehemiah 8:8; Isaiah 29:12; Jeremiah 38:15; Mark 12:10; Acts 8:30; Acts 13:15; 2 Corinthians 3:14; Ephesians 3:4; Colossians 4:15; Revelation 1:3*)
- **WRITE THE WORD** (*Exodus 34:27; Deuteronomy 10:2; Deuteronomy 17:18; Deuteronomy 27:3; Jeremiah 30:2; Jeremiah 36:2; Habakkuk 2:2-4; Revelation 19:9*)
- **SAY THE WORD** (*Ezekiel 6:3; Ezekiel 20:47*)
- **SING THE WORD** (*Psalms; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16*)
- **PRAY THE WORD** (*Joel 2:17; Matthew 6:9*)

Each of these are ways that you can say God's Word back to Him and in the process root these words into your heart.

Here is a simple way that you can do this:

- Start by praying and asking the Lord to show you something new about Him as you meditate
- Write out the verse at the top of a page
- Isolate a phrase or a word of the verse that is sticking out to you in that moment - read, write, say, sing, and pray that phrase
- Take notes on what goes through your mind, write down questions you have, or even draw pictures as you do this
- Make a task list on the side of your page to write down any distractions
- Make a small section at the bottom of the page for any Scripture references that pop into your mind (this can be literal chapter and verse references or phrases that you remember from another Scripture)
- As you read, write, say, sing, pray, draw...give space for the Holy Spirit to speak to you

End with a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for whatever He revealed to you in that day's meditation.





One of the best ways to integrate your Bible reading with prayer is to turn what you are reading into a conversation with the Lord. Some people call this pray-reading the Word and it's a beautiful way to talk to the Lord as you are reading.

Pray-reading is simply turning the Word of God into a dialogue with Him.

- You can talk to God about **promises** you see in the Bible – thank Him for the truth of the promise and ask Him to reveal that truth to you in a deeper way
- You can talk to God about **commands** that you see in the Bible – declare your resolve to obey the command and ask Him for the power to obey it
- You can talk to God about **praises** that you see in the Bible – engage with the words in a psalm and turn the praises from the psalmist into your own by changing the pronouns
- You can talk to God about **things you don't understand** – again in the psalms, there are so many prayers of anguish and struggle that you can turn into your own

One very simple way to use this pray-read approach is by using the phrase, **"THANK YOU, SHOW ME MORE."** The Bible tells us that the Word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12). It's why you can read a passage five days in a row and see something new every time! **When you learn something new – or see a new truth in the Word – thank Him for that truth. Then ask the Holy Spirit to show you more about that truth and ask Him how to apply it to your life.**

Here's an example out of Ephesians 3:16.

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Father, thank You for the unlimited resources that You have promised to me. Show me the resources that You have entrusted me with.

[pause for a few moments to listen]

Show me the resources I have right now that I am not using in the way You want me to.

[pause for a few moments to listen]

I want to use the resources that You have given to me for Your glory, but I also want to be strengthened by Your use of them in my life. Strengthen my inner man, Holy Spirit, and give me wisdom to know how to steward what You have given to me.

thank you - show me more

Week 4, Day 5

BIBLE READING



Psalm 32; Numbers 11-14; John 20

While reading the Bible individually is vital to the health of your spirit, you also want to remember that the Lord designed the Church to be a body (Colossians 1:18).

When you read and study the Bible together with other believers, you gain new insight and deeper revelation of God than you can get on your own.

Think about a body – the eyes see, the ears hear, the tongue tastes, the fingers feel, the nose smells...each part has a place. When we consider a banana – the eyes see a yellow skin surrounding white fruit, the ears hear the ‘crack’ the skin makes as you open it, the tongue tastes the sweet flavor, the fingers feel the differences between the skin and the sticky fruit, the nose smells the sweet scent. Collectively our body’s sensory organs give our brain information about that banana – and each part is helpful in our brain understanding it.

The same is true in studying the Word with other believers. **Each person in the Body of Christ is designed to know Him in a unique way – so each person will bring unique revelation of who He is and how He acts.** When we collectively bring those experiences and revelations together, we get a clearer picture of His beauty and majesty that we could not get on our own.

If you do not have a group of brothers or sisters in Christ to study the Word with, I encourage you to plug into a Connect Group, grab a group of friends to do a YouVersion plan together, or make Bible reading with your family a priority. Every time you study together with your brothers and sisters in Christ, you will learn new things about God because He designed you to need others in the Body to fully know Him!



Week 4, Day 6

BIBLE READING



Psalm 33; Deuteronomy 12; Acts 2

Week 4, Day 7

BIBLE READING



Psalm 34; Deuteronomy 8-10; Acts 6

WHATEVER

fascinates you

WILL GUIDE YOU,

SO PRAY THAT
THE ONLY THING THAT
WILL FASCINATE YOU IS

God

AND HIS MARVELOUS GLORY.

(AW TOZER)

JOEL 2:12-13

That is why the LORD says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

THANK HIM:

- You draw my heart to You
- You open my heart to turn to You
- You desire that none should perish
- You remove every barrier and restore broken fellowship
- You show us the true condition of our hearts
- You are merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and full of unfailing love
- You are faithful to Your covenant with Your people
- You always keep Your promises

ASK HIM:

- Give me the courage to turn my heart fully to You
- You allow us to turn and come to You in genuine repentance
- Turn the hearts of Your Church back to You
- Turn the hearts of the Greater Lafayette community to You
- As I rend my heart, will you rend the heavens?
- Give me the strength to fast
- Reveal to Your Church the ways we have turned from You and give us the grace to repent and turn back
- Give Your Church the courage to return to You
- Help us to extend Your mercy and compassion to the Greater Lafayette community
- Show those in the Greater Lafayette community that You are filled with love
- I repent of these ways that I have turned away from You...

Song for the Week:

LEAN BACK
(Capital City Music)

WEEK FIVE

Week 5, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 35; Deuteronomy 11-16; Acts 8



One of the first steps in building a life of prayer is cultivating a right view of God. **How you view God determines how you will approach Him in prayer, and having a correct understanding of Him causes you to want to spend more time with Him.** If you see God as an angry taskmaster who forces you to pray so that you can prove your devotion to Him, or as this higher power who really has no interest in you or in your life, you will certainly not want to spend time with Him regularly.

A foundational point of prayer is understanding that God is a tender Father who deeply loves His children, and Jesus is a Bridegroom King filled with desire for His people (Isaiah 62:4-5). When you understand these truths at the heart level, you become energized to seek God and experience new delight in your relationship with Him. **It helps you to approach your prayer times with confidence that He loves you and He enjoys spending time with you** (John 17:23).

If seeing God this way seems foreign to you, seek out the truth of the Word to show you how He feels about you. Ask a trusted believer to pray with and for you, asking the Lord to give you a new revelation of His desire for you. Write down the lies that you believe about yourself and seek out biblical truth to replace those lies and begin to transform your thinking. Press in to the way He loves you and allow Him to develop a holy confidence as You approach Him!





Consider this picture of what you are doing each day that you choose to meet with the Lord and let it fuel your desire to meet with Him in the busy, challenging seasons and days.

Often when you meet with the Lord, it's like dragging a log across the ground and stacking it into a pile. Each log does not feel like much, but in the larger picture it is accomplishing something. Some days the log feels heavier than others. Some days the log feels splintery and broken. But every day that you come and drag another log and add it to the pile, your pile is growing. Even the days where the log feels small and insignificant and it doesn't feel like you are making much progress, your pile is growing.

On the days where the log feels heavy and burdensome, your pile is growing.

Then, one day, God gives you an insight, a new revelation or understanding about Himself, His Word, or His ways. These are the days that He shoots a flaming arrow at your pile of logs and bursts it into flames.

God is a kind God. He desires to make Himself known.

He will always send flaming arrows - but they won't come every single day.

If you only have one or two logs on your pile when the arrow comes, your fire will not burn very brightly or for very long. But when you diligently spend time with the Lord so that your pile is ready - He sets your heart on fire!



Week 5, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 37; Joshua 1-4; Acts 12



Having a life connected to God won't happen on the run, and it won't happen while you are sitting in church once or twice a week. It takes an intentional (and sometimes violent!) act of your will to sit down, quiet your spirit, and commune with Him so that you can receive His daily bread for your life (Matthew 6:11).

God know that you are busy. He knows that you have many things that legitimately need your attention. But in His kindness, He continually invites you to meet with Him (Matthew 11:28; Revelation 3:20). Because of the many demands on your time, you must be *intentional* about developing your prayer life.

IF YOU DO NOT SET YOUR SCHEDULE YOURSELF, OTHERS WILL SET IT FOR YOU, AND THE RESULT WILL ALWAYS BE VERY LITTLE TIME FOR PRAYER.

Setting regular prayer times, and putting them into your daily schedule, is not an attempt to earn God's love – it is a reflection of your desire to take control of your schedule in order to make prayer a priority (Galatians 5:13). Scheduling time for Him is an expression of both your love for Him and your hunger for more of Him (Matthew 5:6).

You will not keep your prayer schedule 100% of the time – but by diligently scheduling and protecting your prayer time, you will keep it more often than not. At times it will be necessary to tweak your prayer schedule based on what is happening in your life during a given season. **Ask the Holy Spirit to help you know the best way to spend your time in *this* season of your life – it's a prayer that He loves to answer!**

One of the most violent things you will ever do is
wrestle down all the competing elements in your calendar
and consistently carve out the time to shut
yourself into the secret place.

(Bob Sorge)



Two common challenges with starting (or re-starting) to prioritize your devotional life are feeling like you don't have enough time/you are too busy and not beginning with a realistic goal. **Start with 15 minutes.** Fifteen minutes is usually a short enough amount of time that it doesn't seem too difficult – and even with the speed of information in our world, you usually have the attention span to eek out 15 minutes. Over time this can, and usually will, grow – but it helps you to establish a consistent schedule and build from there.

HOW CAN YOU SPEND THAT 15 MINUTES?

- Enjoy the simple presence of God in silence, without the need to offer words.
- Some people find that listening to or singing a worship song to start helps to switch from a busy mind to a quiet(er) one that is ready to hear from the Lord. If you have received the gift of speaking in tongues, this is also a great time to pray in your prayer language for a few minutes. Then sit in the quiet and listen.
- Listen to God's word for you in this particular moment through Scripture by reading the Bible. You can follow your reading plan if you have one, or try reading 1-2 Psalms, followed by a Gospel passage or a few verses of an epistle. **The volume that you read isn't the point here – it's reading to hear the right now word that God has for you through the Holy Spirit!**
- Thoughtfully express to God the thoughts and feelings of your heart and mind as you contemplate what you have read.
- This is a great time to use some of the strategies we have covered this week (SOAP, pray-read, thank you-show me more, etc.). Write out a prayer in a journal or simply speak about what is in your heart. Ask Him to show you more about what you have just read – how does He want you to apply it? Ultimately turn what you have read into a conversation with Him!

In just 15 minutes – you have engaged with the Creator of the universe!
If you have a goal of 60 minutes a day, but that seems daunting to you – try doing four 15-minute breaks with the Lord through your day!

With all of these varied strategies, **the most important thing isn't how you do it – but finding what works for you and engages your heart with His!**



Week 5, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 40; Joshua 7-8; Acts 14

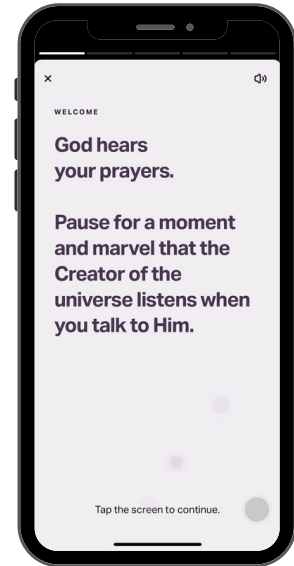


Have you ever wanted to talk with God but you don't know what to say? **Another great tool you have available to help you pray is the Guided Prayer feature on the YouVersion app.**

This uses the Lord's Prayer as a model to give prompts to help you reflect on Scripture, draw closer to God, and talk to Him about what is on your mind.

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
MAY YOUR NAME BE KEPT HOLY.
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME SOON,
MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY THE FOOD WE NEED,
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS,
AS WE HAVE FORGIVEN THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.
AND DON'T LET US YIELD TO TEMPTATION,
BUT RESCUE US FROM THE EVIL ONE.**

(Matthew 6:9-13)



The Guided Prayer process walks you through a prayer time beginning with honoring God and ending with aligning your heart with His Kingdom purposes. The app uses Scripture and guided questions to help you ponder the verse and turn it into a conversation with the Lord.



Week 5, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 42; Joshua 10-12; Acts 16

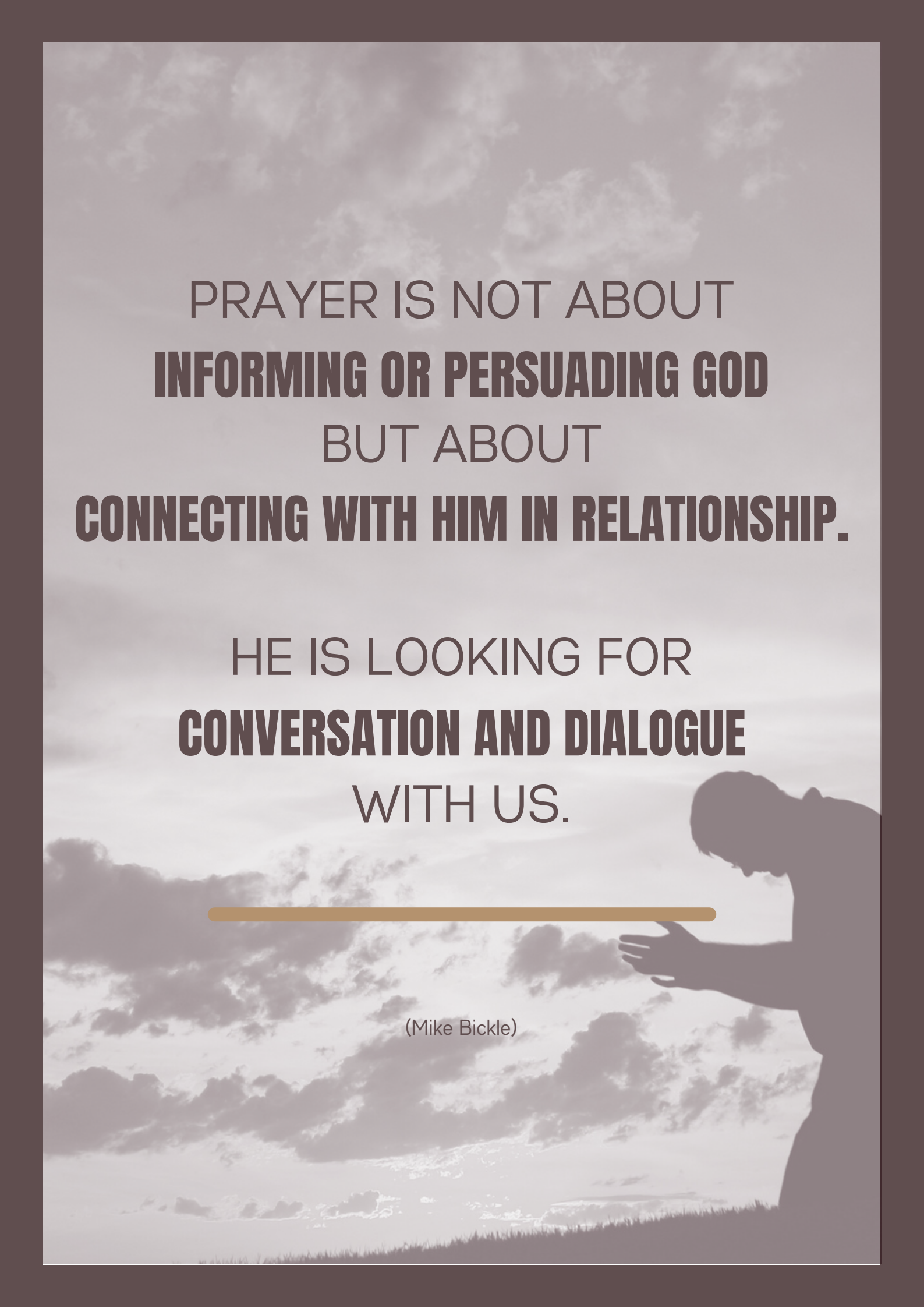


Week 5, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 43; Joshua 13-15; Acts 19





PRAYER IS NOT ABOUT
INFORMING OR PERSUADING GOD
BUT ABOUT
CONNECTING WITH HIM IN RELATIONSHIP.

HE IS LOOKING FOR
CONVERSATION AND DIALOGUE
WITH US.

(Mike Bickle)

HOSEA 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

THANK HIM:

- Your loving mercy and kindness that grows fruit in my life
- You exchange my hard heart for a new soft heart that responds to You
- You are the righteous One
- You long for us to seek and search for You

ASK HIM:

- Help me to choose righteousness, to sow it into the soil of my heart and tend to that seed to bring forth fruit
- Show me the unplowed ground in my heart so that I may give you access to break it up
- Show me where I need to root out bitterness, unforgiveness, legalism, disinterest, distrust, and unbelief in my heart
- Give me a hunger to seek You, to waste my life in searching for more of You
- Shower Your righteousness on me

Week 6, Day 1

BIBLE READING



Psalm 44; Joshua 16-19; Romans 5

It's not uncommon to sit down to pray and either distractions, or feeling like you don't know what to pray for, leave you feeling frustrated from the get-go.

One way to help your brain to engage is by using a prayer list.

A prayer list can help you to know what to pray about, so you can move past the distractions or the unknowing feeling. It is important to understand that you do not have to limit your prayers to the things that are on your list - the list is simply a starting place for you.

You can dedicate several pages at the beginning of a journal to keep your prayer lists, then add to them as new things arise. You can also cross things off when God has answered them to help build your faith to believe He will continue to answer!

This week we will work on building your own prayer list so you can make it a helpful tool in guiding your prayers.

Week 6, Day 2

BIBLE READING



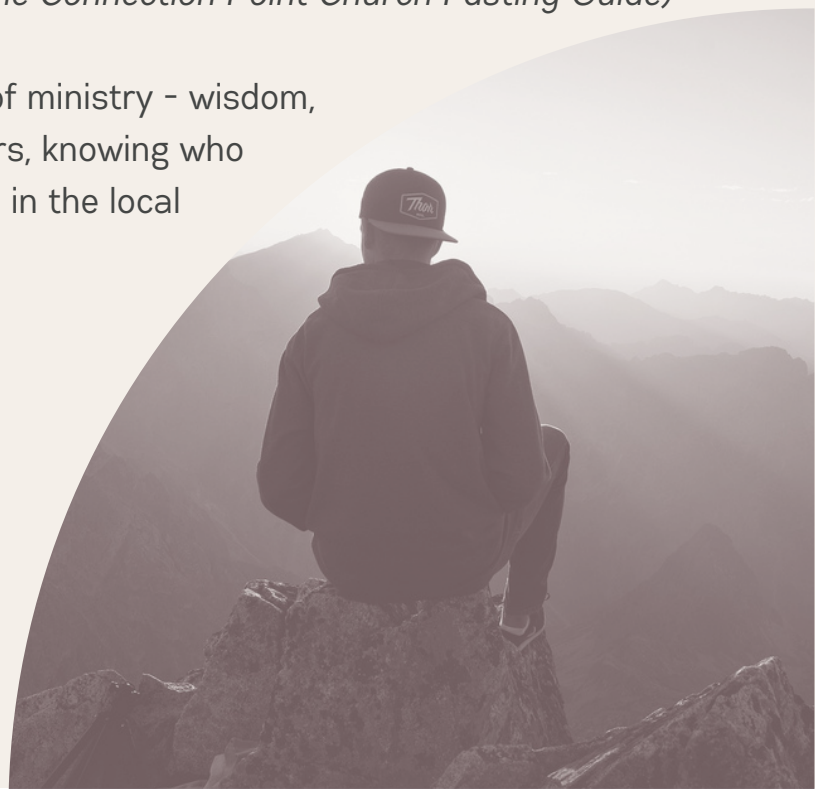
Psalm 45; Ruth 1-4; Romans 8

PRAYER LIST: PERSONAL LIFE

Perhaps the easiest prayer list to build is one for your personal life. This includes praying for your own heart, ministry, and circumstances.

- **Your Heart** - Use the acronym FELLOWSHIP when praying for your heart (*you can find this acronym and how to use it in the Connection Point Church Fasting Guide*)
- **Your Ministry** - praying for your areas of ministry - wisdom, strengthening your heart to serve others, knowing who to serve, etc. (workplace, neighborhood, in the local church, in your community, etc.)
- **Your Circumstances** - praying for your physical, financial, and relational needs

Remember, these are simply guidelines to help you start building your list. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in creating one that is helpful for you!



Week 6, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 46; Judges 3; Romans 10



PRAYER LIST: PEOPLE & PLACES

Next up is a list of people and places that you want to remember to pray for. Keep a list of individuals, ministries, and cities that you want to pray for regularly.

- **Individuals** – family, friends, co-workers – anyone you want to pray for, or specific prayer needs of individuals that you know of



- **Ministries** – Connection Point Church, community organizations, missionaries or missions endeavors, etc.
- **Cities** – Lafayette/West Lafayette, other cities the Lord has endeared you to, the destinies of specific cities, nations in great need. Include Jerusalem here as Scripture exhorts us to do so (Psalm 122:6; Isaiah 62:6)

Week 6, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 47; Judges 6-7; Romans 12



PRAYER LIST: LEADERS

Paul instructs us in 1 Timothy 2:2 to pray for people in authority over our city and nation. Here you can have a list of specific people over these areas:

- **Connection Point Church** – pastors, deacons, ministry leaders
- **Lafayette/West Lafayette** – mayors, city councils, school leaders, other community leaders
- **Indiana** – Governor, senators, state representatives, state legislative boards, other state leaders
- **Nation** – President, Vice President, Congress, Supreme Court, national legislative boards, other national leaders



Week 6, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 49; Judges 13-16; Romans 15



PRAYER LIST: JUSTICE ISSUES

This last section is a broad topic that includes governmental and social issues such as the ending of abortion, human trafficking, unfair educational systems, economic injustice, water rights, civil unrest (terrorism, riots, etc.), natural disasters (hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes, drought), disease (AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.), social crises (famine, genocide, etc.), and many more.

Remember, the beauty of a prayer list is to help keep you focused and give your mind something to get started with. As your prayer life grows, and you begin to learn the Holy Spirit's voice in your life, you will find yourself departing from the list any time that you feel led to pray in a different direction.

Enjoy traveling with the Holy Spirit in creating and using your own lists!



Week 6, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 50; 1 Samuel 1-4; Romans 16



Week 6, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 51; 1 Samuel 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12



The *Word of God*
is the fulcrum upon which
the lever of *prayer*
is placed,
and by which things are
mightily moved.

(E.M. BOUNDS)

Prayer Model

EPHESIANS 4:13-16

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

THANK HIM:

- For the equipping power of the Holy Spirit through His gifts to the church
- For the pathway provided to us so we can all be whole in Christ
- For the discernment of the Holy Spirit to identify darkness and resist the devil.
- For His perfect design of this body to lead each of us to maturity
- For His leadership over our spiritual family
- That He is the great unifier who holds this body together for His glory

ASK HIM:

- That our church will become whole in the fullness of Christ
- To help us choose unity at Connection Point Church
- To help us be focused on helping people follow Jesus wholeheartedly
- To give us supernatural vision to fight the right battles, wrestle the right enemy, and defeat the plans of the enemy
- To give us words to speak to each other with truth and love
- To lead us to develop our weak, disjointed, and immature members towards intentional maturity
- To make us a place where every part of this body does its work

Song for the Week:

GREAT ARE YOU LORD
(All Sons & Daughters)

WEEK SEVEN

Week 7, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 53; 1 Samuel 15-20; 1 Corinthians 13



The practice of pray-reading the Word is simply saying back to God what He has given us to say (Isaiah 51:16; 59:21) and it can turn your Bible reading time into an interactive conversation with the Lord.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN DO THIS:

- Reading a Psalm and turning the pronouns to reflect a prayer from you to the Lord
- Using the Apostolic Prayers (these are prayers mostly found from Jesus, or in the letters from the apostles to the Church)
- Prayers of the patriarchs, prophets, and kings in the Old Testament
- You can find a list of some common ones on our Spiritual Life Resources page (www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life)

We have videos of some examples of how this can look for you.
Find the passage for each day - read through it - then watch the video and pray along!

Find the videos to go along with the next several days here:

<https://tinyurl.com/cpc-prayread>

Week 7, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 54; 2 Samuel 7; 1 Corinthians 14



PRAYING EPHESIANS 1:17-19 FOR MY FAMILY

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.

Week 7, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 55; 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15



PRAYING ROMANS 15:5-7 FOR THE CHURCH IN GREATER LAFAYETTE

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be likeminded toward one another according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Week 7, Day 4

BIBLE READING



Psalm 56; 1 Kings 2-3; 1 Corinthians 16

PRAYING PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11 FOR MY KIDS

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Week 7, Day 5

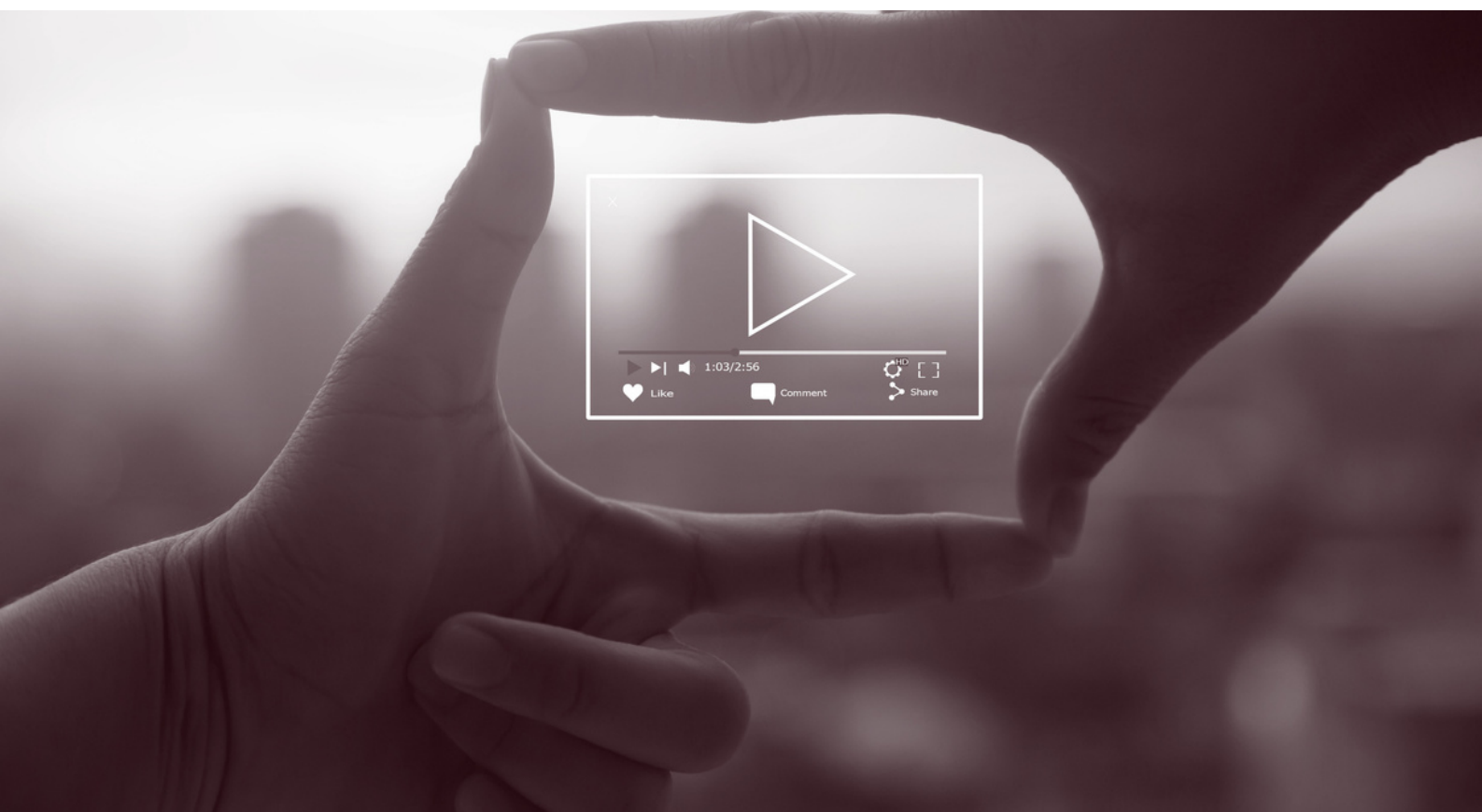
BIBLE READING



Psalm 57; 1 Kings 6; 2 Corinthians 2

PRAYING 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 FOR MY CITY LEADERS

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.



Week 7, Day 6

BIBLE READING



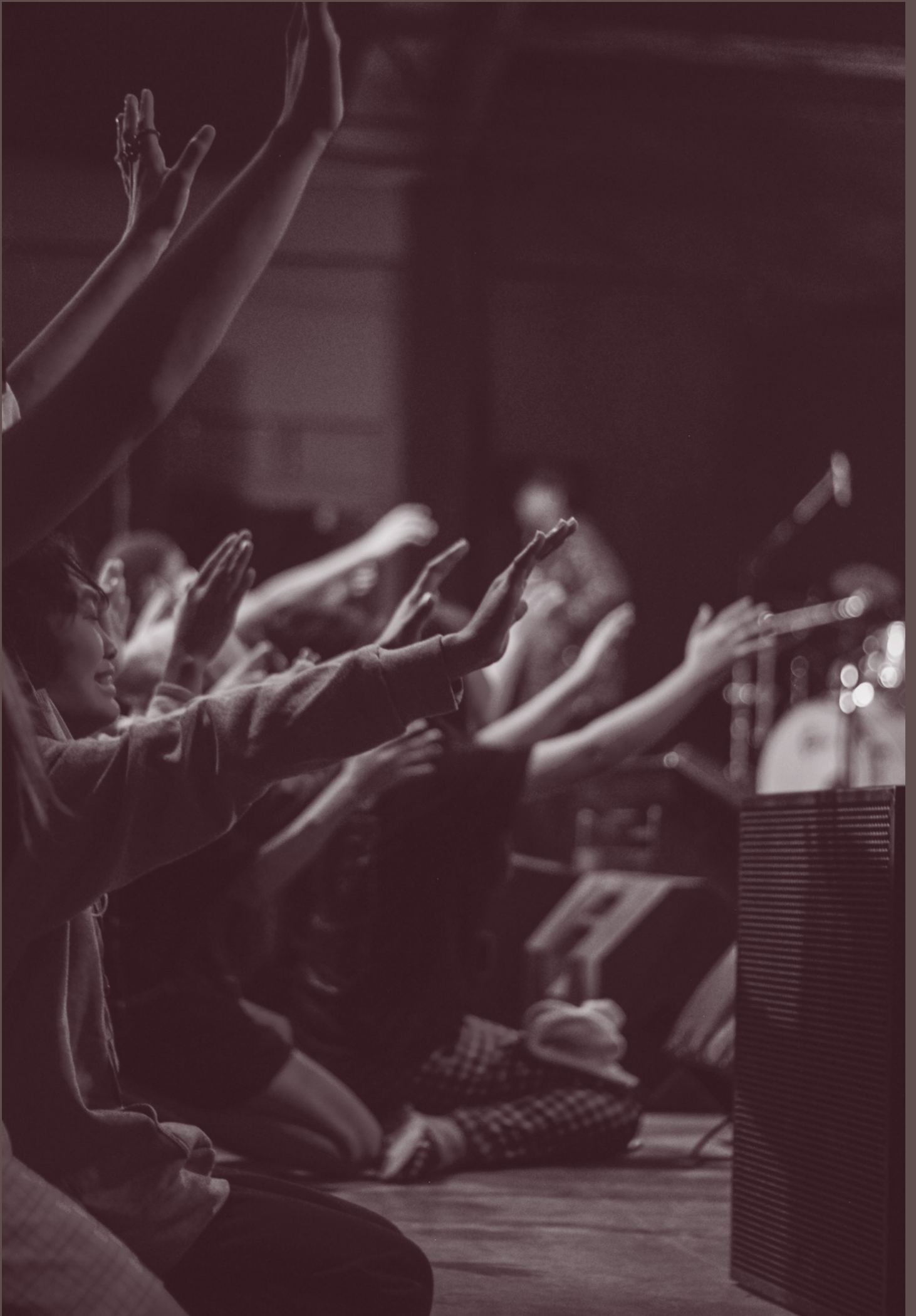
Psalm 59; 1 Kings 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5

Week 7, Day 7

BIBLE READING



Psalm 60; Ecclesiastes 1; Galatians 3



ACTS 4:29-31

“And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

THANK HIM:

- Thank You for the Holy Spirit, my Helper and Guide living inside of me
- You hold all healing and power in the palm of Your hand
- Thank You for the impartation of boldness to release healing, signs, and wonders so that You are glorified

ASK HIM:

- Help me to maintain fellowship with You by walking with the Spirit and trusting You in all things
- Give me boldness, and empower me to speak Your word freely and courageously
- Equip me for the good work that You have prepared for me to do, and use me in whatever way You choose
- Help me to die to self and live and work for Your praise and glory

Week 8, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 61; Ecclesiastes 3; Galatians 5



God expressed His love for you by sending His Son, but He desires to receive your love in return. He is the God who created all things, He could make you love Him in an instant, yet He desires voluntary love from you. He longs for you to speak your love back to Him and to demonstrate it. **Worship is one way that you speak your love to God and demonstrate that love by your actions.**

John tells us that the time is coming where we will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, by the power of His Spirit (John 4:23). The idea of worshipping God fully is exciting, but a key part of this verse is that **you worship God by His power**. It takes God to love God. It is only in learning about Him – His character, His heart, and His ways – that you can begin to worship Him in truth.

It takes humility to admit that you do not yet know Him fully, or that He has not occupied first place in every area of your life. He meets you in that place of humility and shows you more of Himself.

Your heart is changed as you encounter Him. You are changed as you come into agreement with Him. **Worship is you coming into agreement with who God is.**

Week 8, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 62; Ecclesiastes 12; Ephesians 1



Sometimes it is easy to forget that God is the One in control of all things. You can look around and see other powers that seem to be in control. But you must remember that **though He may allow people to have their own way for a while, God never relinquishes His power** (Daniel 2:21).

God is not only all-powerful, but also holy. The prophet Isaiah encountered the holiness of God and felt unclean in His presence (Isaiah 6:1-5). Isaiah's vision shows us that God is so pure and holy that we cannot stand in His presence. Every ounce of your own goodness cannot measure up to His standard, so you stand in a holy tension of both fear and awe in His presence.

A fear of the Lord is not being afraid of Him, it is a deep reverence and awareness of how great He is and how unworthy you are (Isaiah 8:13). There are many places in the Word that tell us that this fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28; Isaiah 33:6).

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, your true worship of Him – telling Him how worthy He is to receive honor, praise, and glory – brings you into His presence.

Week 8, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 63; Proverbs 10; Ephesians 2



When you worship, you take your eyes off of yourself and your needs and focus only on God. You focus on His unchanging and eternal qualities – His power, faithfulness, goodness, mercy, truth, love, and all of the other attributes that are part of His character.

When you worship, you offer yourself to the Lord. You move from having an attitude of receiving something from God, to a heart that is ready to give something to Him.

This is why it is good to start your time with the Lord in worship. It moves your focus from the distractions of your day and onto the Lord so that you can remember Who you are meeting with.

The Psalms are filled with prayers of worship written by David where he praised God for who He is.

*“The Lord reigns...He sits enthroned between the cherubim...Great is the Lord...He is exalted over all the nations...Let them praise your great and awesome name...He is holy.”
(Psalm 99:1-3)*

Because of this, the Psalms can be a great place to start your devotional times each day!

Week 8, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 65; 1 Kings 12; Ephesians 3



There is beauty and blessing in worshipping the Lord using your prayer language. It is the Holy Spirit who brings you the presence of God the Father (Ephesians 2:18). The Holy Spirit helps you to pray with results (Romans 8:26). He brings you liberty from fear and gives you power, love, and self-control (1 Timothy 2:7).

Worshipping in the Spirit lifts you beyond your own thoughts and words. It moves you beyond life's temporary problems. You find release as you concentrate on the eternal God who sits above the circle of the earth and controls all things. You pray in perfect alignment with the Father's will when the Spirit leads your prayer.



Week 8, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 66; 1 Kings 14; Ephesians 5



An often-overlooked way to worship is in your stillness. In the moments where you are silent and waiting on Him. To wait on the Lord means to keep still – both outwardly and inwardly – while you wait for Him to speak to you. In these moments the Holy Spirit can bring thoughts to your mind that will help you, or bring verses to your remembrance to guide you.

Relationships are never a one-way activity. A true conversation cannot be one-sided – both parties must both speak and listen to each other. The Lord desires to give you understanding about yourself and your circumstances. When you give Him the space to speak, He shares with you the secrets of His heart and you, in turn, know better how to pray and how to walk out each day.

Waiting on the Lord is incredibly foreign for us.

Your days are busy, you are bombarded with constant distractions, and your attention span is short. Learning to wait on Him will take effort on your part, but it's worth it.

Here are some suggestions to help you:

- Find a place alone, free from interruptions, and ask the Lord to fill your mind with thoughts of Him.
- Ask Him to help you block out your own thoughts and to refuse anything the enemy may try to impose on you.
- Be patient and wait for Him to speak.
- Listen with a Bible in your hands – He always speaks in accordance with His Word.



Week 8, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 67; 1 Kings 18-19; Ephesians 6



Week 8, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 68; 2 Kings 2-4; Philippians 1



The quickest way to
RELEASE HEAVEN ON EARTH
is to worship.
WORSHIP
is the main activity of
HEAVEN
and the destiny of all created things.

JEREMY RIDDLE (*The Reset*)

REVELATION 4-5

THANK HIM:

- Your Word that gives us insight and understanding into the Person of Jesus
- You are the eternal and immutable God whose plans and purposes can never fail
- For the cross of Christ and His glorious resurrection, which secured for us an eternal inheritance
- You alone are worthy of all glory and praise
- For Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, the only One found worthy to open the scroll so that Your right and true judgments against sin can be poured out
- You know the beginning from the end and have set out Your plans from creation to the establishment of Your eternal Kingdom on earth

ASK HIM:

- That Jesus is coming again to complete the victory He gained at Calvary
- May I not forget all the things You have done, the things You are doing, and the things that have been purposed in the days ahead
- Use me in the closing days of this age for Your praise and glory
- That every tribe, tongue, and nation will be around Your throne

Song for the Week:

HOLY
(Matt Gilman)

WEEK NINE

Week 9, Day 1

BIBLE READING



Psalm 69; Jonah 1-4; Philippians 3

"Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which 'comes upon you,' but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ."

(Graham Kendrick)

Week 9, Day 2

BIBLE READING



Psalm 70; Amos 5-6; Colossians 1

Have you ever wondered what is it in your brain that clings to songs?
Why does music touch your emotions so powerfully?

God created the brain with the capacity to use words and music in order to help you to stay steady in life. King David may not have understood the neuroscience involved, but he knew the battles that the heart faces. Perhaps this is why he was always singing. Perhaps this is why Paul taught the Colossians to sing and encouraged the Ephesians to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Singing also causes certain hormones to be released that actually lessen anxiety and release feelings of joy and pleasure.

When you are intentional about the types of music that you put into your brain, music becomes a powerful way to commune with God. When those songs are filled with Scriptures and biblical truths, the Word replays in your mind and begins to come alive in you. It is a repetitive form of learning that stays with you over decades.

In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* Paul is encouraging the believers in Colossae, and you, to let the Word of God live in you, to come alive in you.

In the middle of your adoration and celebration of Jesus, the Spirit of the Lord does what the Word says He will do: The Holy Spirit begins to reveal the deeper things of God's heart to your heart. He reveals simple truths that set your heart free to love Him more and to feel His love in a personal, tangible way. This, in turn, helps you in loving God more.

It's a beautiful response that comes from praise, worshiping and singing the Word of God. It helps you to obey what the Word of God says.



Week 9, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 71; Joel 2; Colossians 3



To give your wholehearted commitment of undivided love is your greatest act of spiritual worship because it is the greatest thing God desires. Romans 12:1 makes this clear: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual act of worship."*

Without surrender, there is no worship. Without sacrifice there is no offering, nothing for fire to fall on. Revival, awakening, and fire falling are all just buzz words that will remain unrealized until someone is willing to lay their life down.

Sacrifice is incredibly foreign to us. We are living in perhaps the most self-aware generation in history. We have filled our bookshelves and our minds with information about "self-love" and "self-care," and we freely let everyone we know about the best ways to love us well. **We have learned so much about how to love ourselves and so little about how to love the Lord.** We are already living in the time Jesus foretold where people are "lovers of self" (Matthew 24).

May you be one who lays down our culture's obsession with knowing yourself and take up an insatiable thirst and hunger to know Him. May you be filled with the knowledge and revelation of His Word so that you can step into a greater level of worship. The less you know about God, the harder it is to worship Him. The more you feast on Him, the more it gushes out of you.

Week 9, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 72; Hosea 1-4; Colossians 4



"Because He loves us so dearly, He longs to have the whole of us. Jesus gave Himself unreservedly for us. Now He yearns for us to give ourselves completely to Him, with all that we are and have, so that He can truly be our first love. To offer Jesus anything less than this first love is of little value to Him. So long as our love for Him is a divided love, so long as family, possessions, and the like mean more to us than He does, then so long will He consider our love not to be genuine. Indeed, Jesus will not enter into a covenant of a love with one whose love is divided, for a covenant of this nature requires a full, mutual love. How Jesus yearns for our love. But because our love is so precious to Him, He waits for our wholehearted commitment to undivided love."

(My All For Him, Basilea Schlink)



Week 9, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 73; 2 Kings 17; 1 Thessalonians 3



The greatest and most lasting joy of worship is that you get to know God better. As you get to know Him better, you begin to trust Him more.

In your mortal body you lack the ability to fully understand the things of eternity, but the book of Revelation gives you glimpses into the worship happening around God's throne (Revelation, 4-5, 19:4-7).

"And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.'"

When the heavenly beings are singing and praising the Lord, you will want to do it too. When you see Jesus - now and in the age to come - you want to join in this heavenly chorus praising Him.

Everything you do in this age, has continuity in the age to come. May you spend your days now preparing for eternity.

Week 9, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 75; 2 Chronicles 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 4



Week 9, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 77; 2 Chronicles 32-34; 1 Thessalonians 5





Search me God
AND KNOW MY HEART

test me
**AND KNOW MY ANXIOUS
THOUGHTS**

see
**IF THERE IS ANY
OFFENSIVE WAY IN ME**

and lead me
IN THE WAY EVERLASTING

PSALM 51

v. 1-2 - Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

THANK HIM:

- For the assurance of Your cleansing through the cross
- For Your mercy and love that direct me toward repentance

ASK HIM:

- Purify my heart and show me the things that hinder my love for You
- Help my heart to trust Your work on the cross and remove any guilt or shame in my heart

v. 4 - Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

THANK HIM:

- You are the Just One who administers perfect justice on the earth
- Everything You say is right and true

ASK HIM:

- Defend truth and administer justice on the earth
- Reveal Your righteous deeds so the nations will come and worship You

v. 10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

THANK HIM:

- You cause my heart to want to return to You when I sin
- Your salvation brings joy into my life

ASK HIM:

- Make my heart willing to obey You
- Make me loyal to You

Song for the Week:

REFINER

(Chandler Moore + Steffany Gretzinger)

WEEK TEN



One incredibly important, but often neglected, practice in peoples' devotional lives is that of self-examination. **By nature, your heart is deceptive** (Jeremiah 17:9). It's easy and comfortable to believe that you are better, smarter, and more ethical than you really are. As such, careful, Spirit-directed, self-examination keeps you honest with yourself and with God.

If you can never find any sin to confess, then "we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). 2 Corinthians 13:5 instructs you to examine yourself to see if you are truly in Christ. **One of Satan's favorite traps is to whisper false assurance to your heart and then you face the reality that you do not truly know the state of your own heart.** True self-examination must be done with the Holy Spirit, who searches the deep things of the heart (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

The church of Laodicea was in sore need of self-examination, but they had a hard time seeing their problem: "*You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked*" (Revelation 3:17). The psalmist says, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way*" (Psalm 139:23-24). **The psalmist here admits that he does not even know whether his actions and motives are pure, so he invites the Lord, the Righteous Judge, to test him and reveal to him his own sin.**

You should examine yourself in light of the truth being revealed to you from Scripture and allow God's Word to convict and change you. At the same time, you must **humbly admit your inability to change yourself and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit within to transform you into the image of Christ** (Romans 8:29).

This week, we're going to focus on the practice of self-examination! You should find it to be a resurrecting practice in your own life as you allow the Lord to gently show you ways to love Him in a deeper way!





One way to partner with the Holy Spirit in self-examination is to work through the acronym ACTS:

ADORATION CONFESSION THANKSGIVING SUPPLICATION

Try doing this at the end of your day.

While the adoration and thanksgiving portions help you to center your heart on Him at the end of your day, and supplication helps you to place your cares in His hands so you can sleep well, it's the confession part that you will find to be the most useful.

Spending time daily allowing the Holy Spirit to shine His light on your heart will help you to keep a short account with Him. It helps you to posture yourself to hear ways that He is calling you to guard your heart or to repent and choose to follow Him.

Here are some aspects of your life that you can think through as you do this:

- Lord, forgive me for my thoughts (Philippians 4:8)
- Lord, forgive me for my words (Psalm 19:14)
- Lord, forgive me for my actions (Colossians 3:17)
- Lord, help me with my struggles (1 John 1:8)
- Lord, help me to forgive (Ephesians 4:32)



Week 10, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 80; Isaiah 13; 2 Thessalonians 3



Try to spend a portion of your fasting days in self-examination. You will find that in those times of your flesh feeling weak, your spirit is more positioned to hear from Him and see things in His way. **Here is a list of questions that you can work through to give space for the Holy Spirit to speak to you:**

- Were my actions compassionate towards others?
- Did I depend on myself or on God?
- Did my actions bring glory to God's name?
- Did I fail God in any area of personal conduct?
- Did I avoid doing something I should have done?
- Did I miss an opportunity God had given me?
- Was I completely honest and transparent?
- Did I honor God with my actions?
- Was I wasteful of my time or money?
- Were my thoughts consistent with His?

Let the Holy Spirit lead you and remember that **it is His kindness that leads us to repentance** (Romans 2:4). He never wounds us to hurt us, only to heal us!

Week 10, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 81; Nahum 1; 1 Timothy 1



As you continually engage in the practice of self-examination, David gives you a glimpse of how you can ask for God to forgive and wash away your sins, allowing you to stand before Him, as he prays in Psalm 51:1-2: *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."*

When you let the Lord examine your heart, He will do it without condemning you (Psalm 139:23-24). He understands your human weaknesses, yet He is holy and righteous and cannot tolerate sin. You can be sure that He will let you know if anything has come between Him and you. Furthermore, He will tell you what to do about it. This is one reason that He has given you His Word – to guide, instruct, and lead you in a straight path (Psalm 119:105).

As you learn to allow the Word to read you, rather than your simply reading the Word, you give space for the Holy Spirit to speak directly to your heart. You allow the Word to show you your true attitudes and motives, your weaknesses and fears, and the places where your trust is misplaced. **It is in this place that you can move with confidence into the position of privilege before the Father that Jesus' blood provides you.**

Week 10, Day 5

BIBLE READING



Psalm 82; Habakkuk 1-2; 1 Timothy 6

Another aspect of self-examination is allowing the Lord to show you where you have built up idols in your heart. Many activities that are harmless in themselves could be allowed to steal your time and hinder your walk with God. There is nothing wrong with reading, playing sports, or a thousand other activities, unless you allow them priority access in your heart.

Paul tells us, *"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. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world. But let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect"* (Romans 12:1-2).

**When you are aware of your
proneness to wander, you can take
steps to bring your gaze back to Him.**

When you decide to worship the Lord with all that is in you, you will know what is good and pleasing to Him.

Your part is to discipline yourself, to keep yourself in tune with God. When you do that, everything else will take its rightful place.



Week 10, Day 6

BIBLE READING



Psalm 84; Zephaniah 1; 2 Timothy 2

Week 10, Day 7

BIBLE READING



Psalm 86; Jeremiah 7; Titus 2

FASTING IS
ESSENTIAL
BECAUSE IT
ANSWERS
OUR CRY
FOR MORE
OF GOD.

Dana Candler

Prayer Model

JOHN 17:21-24

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

THANK HIM:

- For the Trinity and for showing me what unity looks like
- For the way you designed Your Body with differences

ASK HIM:

- Jesus, how me how you, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are joined together in unity
- Bring my heart into perfect unity with yours so that the world will see the fullness of You in me
- Bind my heart together with others in Your Body and help me to celebrate the ways that others are different than me

I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

THANK HIM:

- For the blood of Jesus which allows me to experience Your glory
- (Jesus) For the way you love the Father and the Holy Spirit; (Father) For the way you love Your Son and the Holy Spirit; (Holy Spirit) For the way you love the Father and the Son

ASK HIM:

- Show me more of the ways You love one another so that I may learn to love others in the same way

Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

THANK HIM:

- For Your desire to dwell with me and be in relationship with me
- For the way You have loved before the beginning of time

ASK HIM:

- Show me Your glory!

Song for the Week:

WOULDN'T IT BE LIKE YOU
(Bryan & Katie Torwalt)

WEEK ELEVEN

Week 11, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 89; Jeremiah 11; Hebrews 1



God invites you to fast because He wants you to want more of Him. He created your physical body to need fuel in order to operate and He gave you hunger to show you when your body needs this fuel. Hunger is one of the most important signs of life – both physically and spiritually. When someone experiences a lack of physical hunger for days, doctors begin to question what is wrong in the body. In the same way, a lack of hunger is a serious sign of sickness in the spirit. When there is no hunger for more of what God has for you over a sustained period, then there is no life in your spirit.

In fasting, you take away one of the things that you think is your strength. In a fast, your body is weak and hungry, but your spirit is more sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

As you experience weakness in your flesh, you are strengthened in your spirit.

The Bible gives you a picture of the importance of fasting and prayer, and the way the Lord desires to partner with you as we engage in these disciplines, through the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9). **Daniel had insight into the power of fasting to tenderize his spirit so that he could hear from the Lord and respond accordingly.** This is the same reason God invites you to fast. Fasting allows you to open the door to spiritual and physical hunger. You feel hunger physically, which serves as a reminder to press into the Lord and His fullness for your life.



Week 11, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 90; Jeremiah 25; Hebrews 3



There are many types of fasts that you can choose to participate in. It's important to note that fasting can never be forced or made compulsory. **We promote and encourage fasting as a biblically and historically proven means of obtaining God's grace in the context of commitment to prayer and the Word** (Joel 2:15).

Here are several types of common fasts we see used in the Church today:

- **Daniel Fast** (Daniel 1:12; Daniel 10:3) – fasting from rich foods
- **Sunrise to Sunset Fast** (Judges 20:26) – fasting all foods during the day
- **Juice Fast** – a variation of a water-only fast
- **Water-Only Fast** (Matthew 4:2-4) – water only fast
- **Total Fast** (1 Kings 19:8) – total fast of all food and water
- **Alternative Fast** – fasting something other than food

The level at which you engage in fasting (particularly a food fast) should be determined according to age and with regard to any physical limitations. Consult with your physician and trusted church leaders as you decide which type of fast is best for you.

If you are new to fasting, choose one meal a day to begin with. Spend the time that you normally would be eating in the Word and praying. Over time you can add a second meal, then perhaps an entire day fast.

Ultimately, let the Lord lead you!

The Connection Point Church Fasting Guide can be a helpful resource for you as you begin to make fasting a part of your devotional life:

www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life





Fasting is more than just simply going without food. **If you do not engage your heart with the Lord's, it's simply starvation and not a pathway for spiritual growth.** Going into your fast with a plan can be incredibly helpful in combatting your flesh when it's thinking about food and you are trying to think about God.

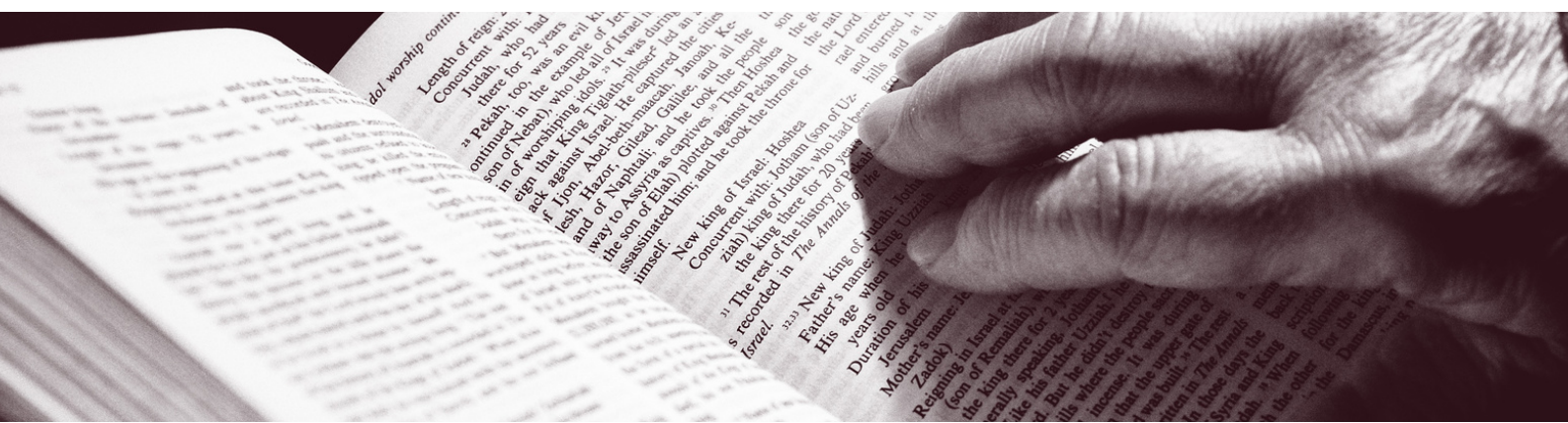
One prayer model that you can use during a fast is the FELLOWSHIP prayer. This is based in Ephesians 3:16, where Paul prayed that **the Spirit would strengthen believers with strength on the inside.**

Here is the basic outline of the prayer (see the *Connection Point Church Fasting Guide* for more detailed information: www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life):

- **F - Fear of God** (Jeremiah 32:40; Psalm 86:11; Isaiah 11:3; Isaiah 8:13)
- **E - Endurance** (Colossians 1:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; John 2:17)
- **L - Love** (Philippians 1:9; Romans 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Psalm 139:13-15; Mark 12:30; John 15:9; John 17:26; Ephesians 3:17-19)
- **L - Light of Glory** (Acts 22:6; Exodus 33:18; John 1:51; 2 Kings 6:17; Psalm 4:6; Revelation 1:16; Psalm 43:3)
- **O - One Thing** (Psalm 27:4; Luke 10:42; Philippians 3:13-14; Psalm 16:8)
- **W - Worthy** (2 Thessalonians 1:11; Luke 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Psalm 51:10; Psalm 139:23; Job 31:1)
- **S - Speech** (James 3:2; Ephesians 4:29-30; Ephesians 5:3-4; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 141:3; Psalm 39:1)
- **H - Humility** (Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:3-5)
- **I - Insight Unto Intimacy** (John 16:13; John 14:26; Psalm 25:4-5; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9-10; Colossians 4:12)
- **P - Peace and Joy** (Philippians 4:7; Romans 15:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

God longs to bless your inner man with strength to help you walk uprightly before Him and stand against compromise.

Remember, a list like this is meant to help you focus but remember to give the Holy Spirit space to talk with you as you pray!



Week 11, Day 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 92; Jeremiah 52; James 1



There are many ways that you can get discouraged in a fast. You can give in to your flesh's desire for food and eat. You can feel like nothing is happening. You can get cranky with your loved ones because you are hangry.

When this happens (notice *when*, not *if*), it's easy to let yourself feel condemned and defeated. **Breaking your fast, even when it's earlier than you planned, is not a sin. If anything, it's a sign of your humanity and your continued need for Jesus to strengthen you** (2 Corinthians 12:9). Desiring food on a fast doesn't make you a sinner, it makes you human.

If you find yourself eating that sandwich (or that plate of tacos), don't beat yourself up. Instead, **celebrate the hours or even minutes that you DID give to Him in fasting.** He is pleased with the yes in your heart, not your ability to fast. If you eat something you meant to be fasting, simply hit reset and jump back into your fast!

Week 11, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 93; Ezekiel 11; James 3



Connection Point is fasting together as a church body on the first Monday of each month.

This is a time set apart by our spiritual family to seek the Lord together and ask Him to draw us closer to Him, to each other, and to our community. You can see the dates, as well as the themes for each month on the following pages.

We invite you to consider joining us for these corporate fasts. It's a great way to begin incorporating fasting into your devotional life!



Week 11, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 95; Lamentations 1; 1 Peter 1



Week 11, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 96; Ezekiel 16; 2 Peter 1





Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the men and women of God fasted and prayed in order to draw near to God. **As a church, regularly fasting and praying expresses our deep desire to humble ourselves before God and allow Him to guide us, personally and corporately.**

When we fast, we voluntarily choose to deny ourselves of something we love (food, or another thing if food is not appropriate for you) for something that we love even more (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 that God wants to do in and through our lives.

AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRAYER AND FASTING ACROSS OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY, YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN OUR MONTHLY CORPORATE FAST. OUR MONTHLY CORPORATE FAST WILL GENERALLY BE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

When John the Baptist's disciples asked Jesus, "Why do your servants not fast?" Jesus said, "when the bridegroom is gone then my servants will fast." Jesus was telling them that they were living in a time that He, the eternal bridegroom, was with them, but that He would be taken away from them (Matthew 9:14-15).

He introduced a fast for the Church motivated by a longing for Him to return and make the wrong things right as we partner with Him to bring the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Remember, your personal fast should present a level of challenge, but it is important to know your body, your options, and (most importantly) to seek God in prayer and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do. The **Connection Point Fasting Guide** should be a helpful resource to you as you consider joining us.

2023 MONTHLY FASTING THEMES:

March 6 – Christlikeness (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10)

- For the activity of Christ to become obvious in our spiritual family's lives

April 3 – Harvest (Matthew 9:38; 2 Corinthians 9:10; Galatians 6:9)

- Easter services
- *Church Events: Youth Fine Arts; Youth Speed the Light 1/1000 Day*

May 1 – Holy Spirit Leadership (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13; Ephesians 4:2-6; James 4:7)

- Anticipation for and surrender to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our spiritual family

June 5 – Intentional Discipleship (Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:16)

- Helping each other grow into mature followers of Jesus
- *Church Events: Teen Camp, Youth Senior Missions Trip; Mega Sports Camp*

July 3 – Authentic Community (John 17:22-23; Romans 15:7; Ephesians 4:13)

- For our spiritual family to live fully devoted to God, His Word, and each other by sharing joys and struggles while speaking God's truth in love
- *Church Events: Eastern Europe Trip, Kids Camp, 3CK Mexico Trip, Youth Project Third*

August 7 – Marriages and Families (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Matthew 6:13)

- For strengthening of the family units among our spiritual family
- *Church Events: Pastor's Kid Retreat*

September 11* – Generous Living (Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Hebrews 13:16)

- For our spiritual family to make a difference in the Kingdom by using all of our God-given resources to bless others

October 2 – Ministry (Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 9:37-38; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

- For Holy Spirit wisdom and discernment in leading areas of ministry we are involved in

November 6 – Missional Impact (Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 28:19-20)

- For divine encounters in our work lives and neighborhoods to share the truth of Jesus
- For the strengthening of hearts, families, and ministries among the missionaries we support
- *Church Events: Youth Convention; Youth Speed the Light Craft Fair*

December 4 – Return of Jesus (1 Peter 4:7; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 22:20)

- As we celebrate His birth, that our hearts will yearn for His return to the earth
- *Church Events: Christmas Services; Christmas Jubilee*

*Due to Labor Day, September will be held on the 2nd Monday





They all
joined
together
constantly in
prayer...

ACTS 1:14

Prayer Model

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

THANK HIM:

- You are the selfless one who willingly laid down Your life for mine
- You took on the humble position of a servant

ASK HIM:

- Give me wisdom on how to carry my heart in humility
- Free my heart from pride-filled opinions and help me to guard my heart from self-promotion

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

THANK HIM:

- You are the true representation of putting others' needs and desires before Your own
- Thank You for the way that you show Your interest in me by pursuing me

ASK HIM:

- Help me to defer to others' preferences and see others as more important than myself

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

THANK HIM:

- For your perfect example of meekness and humility

ASK HIM:

- Jesus, teach me how to walk in humility as You did
- Let Your mindset to serve and honor others be my motivation to do the same

Song for the Week:

IF I COULD HAVE ANYTHING
(Housefires)

WEEK TWELVE

Week 12, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 100; Ezekiel 20; 2 Peter 3



This week we will highlight several different corporate prayer opportunities that we have at Connection Point. **While we have mainly focused on our individual devotional times throughout this 90-day challenge, the Bible also encourages us to gather together to pray.** Perhaps the greatest model of corporate prayer is seen by examining the attitude of the early church throughout the book of Acts. Acts 1:14 and 2:42 tells us that the early church met together and were constantly united in prayer. The New Testament has many other examples of believers praying together and asking for prayer (Acts 12:12; Romans 15:30-32; 2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).

CORPORATE PRAYER HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE CHURCH.

When we pray together we are uniting our hearts, joining together as a family to worship Him and seek His wisdom. Corporate prayer also teaches us how to pray as we listen to what other people pray for and they way that they pray about those things. It strengthens us as a spiritual family and unites us in purpose. As we come together and humbly approach the throne as one, He knits our hearts together, edifies us, and builds up His Body as He partners with us to accomplish His purposes on the earth.

Week 12, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 103; Daniel 1, 3, 6; 1 John 1



Every Sunday at 9am we have **PASSIONATE CORE PRAYER** in the Sanctuary. This is the time that our spiritual family gathers together regularly to contend for the Lord's purposes in our midst, in our community, and across the globe. We begin with a short time of worship, then walk through a prayer model (much like the prayer models that you have seen throughout this guide). This is a powerful time as we ask for the things He tells us to ask Him for in His Word and partner with Him in accomplishing His Kingdom purposes here on the earth!



Week 12, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 106; Esther 1-5; Jude



Another time that you can come to encounter the Lord through corporate prayer and worship are our monthly **ENCOUNTER NIGHTS**. These are generally held on the first Friday of each month at 6:30pm in the Connection Point Sanctuary. Our worship team leads us in a time of soaking worship, providing an atmosphere for prayer and worship.



Our **HEALING PRAYER** sessions are for anyone desiring freedom in their lives. If you feel stuck or frustrated with an ongoing emotional, physical, or behavioral issue that is negatively impacting your life, you can benefit from Healing Prayer.

WHAT HEALING PRAYER IS NOT:

- Counseling
- Prophets “reading your mail” and telling you everything you have done wrong in your life
- An uncomfortable atmosphere

WHAT HEALING PRAYER IS:

A prayer time where a trained team of 2-3 people pray with and for you to walk in freedom and experience breakthrough in your life. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions below, Healing Prayer is for you!

- Are you experiencing any physical disease or injury?
- Do you lack the joy that God intended for you?
- Do you feel like there is a wall between you and God?
- Are you experiencing fear, anxiety, or anger in your life?
- Do you find yourself feeling upset about things more than you should?
- Do you have habits or thought patterns that are not helpful?
- Are you living in unforgiveness or bitterness toward someone who hurt you?
- Do you have compulsive or addictive behaviors of any kind?
- Have you experience emotional wounding or trauma in your life?
- Have you or your family members ever been involved in the occult?
- Does your spiritual life feel dry?

If you are ready for a confidential prayer time with one of our Healing Prayer teams, you can sign up for a time on the Spiritual Life Resources page:
www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life-resources



Week 12, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 111; Ezra 1, 3-4; Revelation 3



We have several one-hour **CORPORATE PRAYER MEETINGS** across each month. Each one meets at different times and at various locations. The focus of each varies, but here are some examples:

- Praying for our children and schools
- Missions
- Reaching the lost in our community
- Israel
- Men's prayer
- Youth prayer
- Other general prayer times

You can find the list of these prayer meetings on the Spiritual Life Resources page (www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life-resources) and detailed dates, times, and locations on the Calendar located on the Church Center App.

This is also the app that we host all of our announcements, communicate with our Connect Groups or other ministry teams, find sermon archives, coordinate giving, register for events - basically all things Connection Point!

If you don't yet have this app, you can grab it in your devices app store!



Week 12, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 115; Ezra 5-7; Revelation 4



Week 12, Day 7

BIBLE READING

Psalm 116; Ezra 8-10; Revelation 5



**SETTLE FOR
NOTHING LESS THAN
YOUR FULL INHERITANCE
IN GOD.**

ALLEN HOOD

MATTHEW 22:37-39

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.’

THANK HIM:

- I stand in awe of Your profound and perfect love for me
- Thank You for your faithfulness to bring me into wholehearted love

ASK HIM:

- Help me to love You with every passion of my heart, all the energy of my being, and every thought that I have
- Help me to believe in Your love for me
- Empower me with Your love to refrain from evil and grow in love

A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

THANK HIM:

- Your love is greater than my stereotypes, my judgements, and my
- You have placed me into this time of history and among these specific people so that I can reflect Your love and glory to those around me

ASK HIM:

- Give me a greater revelation of Your love for me so that I better love those around me
- Help me to love others in the same way that we love ourselves
- Help me to give to others out of Your love for me, without any expectations in return

Song for the Week:

GETTING READY
(Maverick City Music + UPPERROOM)

WEEK THIRTEEN

Week 13, Day 1

BIBLE READING

Psalm 118; Nehemiah 1-3; Revelation 7



We are in the homestretch of our 90-day challenge, but this is just the beginning (or the continuation) of a life spent searching out the wisdom and riches of the knowledge of God! As you finish the challenge strong, take a moment to think about what you need to do to keep this commitment going, or maybe even dive in at a deeper level.



**WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES YOU CONTINUALLY CAME UP AGAINST?
IS THERE ANYTHING THE LORD IS ASKING YOU TO DO OR TO STOP DOING?**

Week 13, Day 2

BIBLE READING

Psalm 121; Nehemiah 4-6; Revelation 15



We often think of success in following Jesus in terms of the fruit our lives produce, and that's important, but even more important is consistency. **To be persistent in following Him for decades, to fall more in love with Him with each passing year, to become consumed with the things that consume His heart - these are the things that the Lord measures.** In Matthew 22, when Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," He wasn't simply quoting the Mosaic law. **He was prophetically speaking over you that you WILL love Him in this way.** When you choose to spend your life learning how to love Him wholeheartedly, your life will bear fruit and you will partner well with Him in accomplishing His Kingdom purposes here on the earth.

**WE WILL LAUNCH A NEW 90-DAY CHALLENGE ON SOON -
HOW IS THE LORD CALLING YOU TO GO DEEPER WITH HIM IN
THE NEXT 90 DAYS?**

Week 13, Day 3

BIBLE READING

Psalm 127; Zechariah 1; Revelation 16



Love is inherently fascinated with the object of its affection. For someone who is in love, it is no hard or tedious task to study the one its heart loves. It is always longing to make a deep search of the person or the thing that it loves.

What we study reveals to us what we love.

When you make an effort to study Him – His character, His promises, His truth, His purposes, and His ways – it is a demonstration of your love for Him

As we wrap up our last week, we pray that your love for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have all grown to new depths as you have studied each of them through the Word. Make no mistake about it, **this is a lifelong journey of learning His ways and understanding His wisdom** (Romans 11:33). Our hope for you is that these 90-days have only fueled your desire to seek Him for a lifetime.

Week 13, Day 4

BIBLE READING

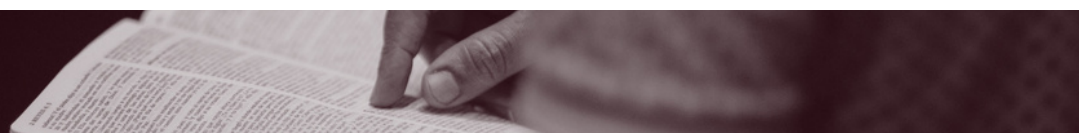
Psalm 130; Zechariah 8; Revelation 19



As a believer, you don't want to become content with distraction and the petty, trivial matters that are part of a fading society around you. **You want to fully give yourself in wholehearted devotion to Jesus and to serving others.** You also want to invite the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the loving discipline of the Lord into your life whenever you wander off course a bit.

And you will wander off course, probably more often than you would like. Your gaze will be taken away again, and then drawn back in – and in that space, we want to encourage you to sign up again. **Pursue Him again with your whole heart knowing that He has pressed delete on your recent failures or distractions.** He will not define you by your failures – you do that. He sees the bigger picture and you must fight to do the same. As you make your way, slowly, incrementally, in the simplicity of today's available grace to love and see His beauty, choose to partner with the grace He gives to orient your heart toward what will surely be a sudden, surprising breakthrough moment.

God is, and always will be, the God of slowly, day-by-day AND the God of suddenly, all at once. **Engage with Him by faith today to be ready to run with passion and perseverance tomorrow.** Be comforted by the many others around you, as weak as they may be, who will join you on that day, when the fullness of the glory of His Church is on display as the ultimate statement of His beauty and majesty on earth as it is in Heaven.



Week 13, Day 5

BIBLE READING

Psalm 139; Nehemiah 7-13; Revelation 21



Congratulations!

You made it to the end of your 90-day challenge!

We trust that the Lord has drawn you deeper into understanding His love for you and His desire to be known through His Word, prayer, worship, and fasting. It's likely that you didn't grow deeper in *all* of these areas, and that's ok! As we head into another 90-day challenge, we encourage you to choose one that you want to grow in next and focus on that discipline. We are so proud of you - and we hope that you will renew your commitment to Him as we continually move forward as a spiritual family.

If the challenge didn't go as well as you were hoping - sign up again! The Lord is pleased with the desire in your heart to pursue Him and He WILL give you hunger for more of Him if you ask Him for it. If you are struggling and need someone to walk alongside of you, please reach out to spirituallife@connectionpointchurch so that we can connect you with someone!



Week 13, Day 6

BIBLE READING

Psalm 145; Malachi 1-4; Revelation 22



CONNECTION POINT CHURCH

www.connectionpointchurch.org/spiritual-life-resources