

40

DAYS

OF

Prayer & Fasting



40 DAYS OF Prayer & Fasting



Dear Johnson Ferry,

We are setting aside March 12 through April 20 as a season for forty days of prayer and fasting. This guide is intended to help you seek Him through directed prayer and intercession. Our staff, elders, and church leadership are contemplating pivotal decisions that have the potential to outlive our generation. R.A. Torrey once wrote, "Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all pray." We are seeking God's will for Johnson Ferry so that we can extend His mission and better reach our neighbors and the nations with the gospel. This will require both open hands and full hearts. We do not want to do anything other than that which God has directed us through prayer. The two goals of these forty days are that we are completely surrendered to God and are allowing Him to direct our paths.

We will be using our church's mission statement as a framework. Each week we will take a portion of our mission and use it as a catalyst for seven days of prayer. Each day has a biblical text and a few sample prayers. Feel free to pray as you are led after reading each portion of Scripture. My request is that you would not only pray for you, but also pray for the church as a whole. I am assuming that you will pray most of these prayers alone in your devotional time. However, it would be beneficial to gather a prayer partner for forty days for encouragement and accountability. Perhaps you could gather once a week to pray together. I would also request that your connect groups take time each week to pray for the given theme.

In addition to praying, we are also asking you to incorporate fasting as a part of this experience. We are setting aside the second week, March 19 - March 25, as a "partial fast." This means that we are encouraging you to abstain from something that will allow you focus more fully on the Lord. Examples might include social media, one meal per day, sweets, TV shows, etc. We don't need to get too legalistic about it. But pick something that occupies a lot of your thought life and replace it for seven days with more time in prayer and the Word.

We are also asking the entire church to fast from food for 48 hours*, starting Wednesday, April 16 at 7pm, ending on Friday, April 18 at 7pm. We will "break" our fast by enjoying a picnic meal together as a church family after the conclusion of our 6pm, Good Friday service. We are encouraging everyone to pack their own food, drinks, chairs, and blankets. We will then go out to the fields to enjoy food and one another's company.

I am excited to see what God will do through Johnson Ferry during these 40 days. I pray we have a renewed sense of mission and a heart devoted to the Lord. I pray that we see many people come to faith during this period and that we end with clarity and direction from the Lord. The Mission always wins. Let's seek God and let Him lead us into the future.

I love you and love being your pastor.

Pastor Clay

* Some of you may not be able to fast completely from food for medical reasons. If so, choose something else to fast from so that your heart can be set on the Lord.

WEEK ONE

We Exist

3.12 - 3.18

4X

THEME: "WE EXIST..."

This first week of prayer will focus on our collective identity as the people of God. Each day, we will take a portion of one of the Apostle Paul's prayers for the church and use it as a catalyst for praying for one another at Johnson Ferry.

Day 1: Love

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may discover the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God. - Philippians 1:9-11

Ask God to help your heart overflow with love for God and others. Pray that we center on the things that are excellent so that we are sincere and blameless when Christ returns. Pray that we, as a people of God, are filled with righteousness so that we bring glory and praise to God.

Day 2: Wisdom

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. - Ephesians 1:15-19a

Ask God to fill your mind with a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Pray that your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at Johnson Ferry know the hope of His calling. Pray that we are operating in the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek God's will for our future.

Day 3: Strength

¹⁴ For this reason I bend my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:14-21

Ask God to dwell in your heart through faith, producing a supernatural strength from God. Pray that our church is filled with the fullness of God and that pleasing and worshiping Him is our chief ambition. Ask God to do more at Johnson Ferry than we can ask, think, or imagine, according to His power and greatness.

WEEK ONE

We Exist

3.12 - 3.18

4X

Day 4: Fruit

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all perseverance and patience; ¹² joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. - Colossians 1:9-12

Ask God to help you bear fruit today. Ask God to produce in you perseverance and patience, trusting in Him no matter what you go through. Pray prayers of gratefulness to God, that He has set you in the family of faith at Johnson Ferry. Ask him to help us enjoy the inheritance we have through Jesus Christ.

Day 5: Righteousness

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Ask God to help you live today in a way that demonstrates the worthiness of your calling. Thank God for His goodness and all the ways He has worked in your life. Pray that we, as a church, would glorify Jesus Christ by living righteous life. Ask for forgiveness for any way in which you might have sinned against your fellow brother and sister at Johnson Ferry.

Day 6: Mission

¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it was also with you; ² and that we will be rescued from troublesome and evil people; for not all have the faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ. - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Pray that God would use us, as a church, to help His word spread rapidly across East Cobb and Metro Atlanta. Ask God to protect us from the work of the evil one who wants to distract us from God's mission. Pray that our hearts are resolved to stay fixed on Christ and that we persevere in His mission when things get hard.

Day 7: Witness

And pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. - Ephesians 6:19

Ask God to give you a burden for the people who live around you who do not know Christ. Pray that God give you courage to overcome your fears of sharing the gospel with others. Pray for an opportunity today to have a gospel conversation with someone who God puts in your path.

WEEK TWO

To Help People Find

3.19 - 3.25

42

THEME: "...TO HELP PEOPLE FIND..."

This second week of prayers will focus on our burden to help lost people find Christ.
This week will include a partial fast.

Day 1: Helping Others Find

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His descendants.' - Acts 17:24-28

Pray for one or two specific people who have not yet "found" Christ. Ask God to give you a burden, opportunity, and boldness to be a witness of the gospel to them this week. Ask God to rearrange your priorities so that the mission is central in your life. Pray that Johnson Ferry would have a bias towards those who haven't yet found Christ.

Day 2: The Power of the Holy Spirit

⁶ So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ But He said to them, "It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth." - Acts 1:6-8

Ask God to help our priorities to be centered on His mission and not lesser things. Pray that we, as a church, are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as we witness, collectively, for Him. Pray for a specific person today whom you know has not "found" truth, belonging, and purpose in Jesus.

Day 3: Boldness

²⁴ And when they heard this, they raised their voices to God with one mind and said, "Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything that is in them, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'Why were the nations insolent, and the peoples plotting in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.' ²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant it to Your bond-servants to speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. - Acts 4:24-31

WEEK TWO

To Help People Find

3.19 - 3.25

42

Ask God to unite us, as a church, with one mind as we lift up our voices. Pray that God gives us boldness in the face of opposition to the gospel. Ask that God does miraculous signs and wonders at Johnson Ferry such that His name is glorified and His Kingdom is advanced.

Day 4: Hope & Joy

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be in dread, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect. - 1 Peter 3:14-15

Ask God to help you sanctify Christ in your heart today. Ask Him to give you opportunities to defend why you have hope in the midst of difficulty. Pray that our church family is known for our gentleness and respect for one another. Pray that believers are equipped to share the gospel in a way that helps the world truly understand the power of the gospel.

Day 5: Eyes to See

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are still four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have come into their labor. - John 4:34-38

Pray that God helps you to have eyes that see the vast lostness around you. Ask that God give us, as a church, a collective burden to do something about it. Pray that our labor in sharing the gospel would be in response to the work God is already doing in their hearts. Pray for God to show you areas in your life that have distracted you from seeing what God wants you to see.

Day 6: Laborers in the Harvest

¹ Now after this the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. ² And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³ Go; behold, I am sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves." - Luke 10:1-3

Ask God to raise up laborers at Johnson Ferry who will make His mission their priority. Pray that God identifies an evangelistic "partner" to help you be a better and bolder witness for Him. Pray against the enemy's schemes as we are sent as lambs in the midst of wolves.

WEEK TWO

To Help People Find

3.19 - 3.25

42

Day 7: Salt & Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:13-16

Ask God to show you areas of your life where you are not being salt and light for Him. Pray prayers of repentance. Ask Him to give our church favor such that we would be salt and light together. Pray that we would have wisdom to slow the decay of our sinful world and to point others towards the light of Christ.

WEEK THREE

Find Truth

4X

3.26 - 4.01

THEME: "...FIND TRUTH..."

This week's prayers will focus on us being grounded in Scripture, growing in truth, and honest about who we are and where we see God moving and working.

Day 1: Sanctified in Truth

¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. - John 17:14-17

Pray prayers of gratitude that God has given us His Word. Pray that we are sanctified (set apart) in the truth. Pray that our church holds to biblical truth and biblical doctrine.

Day 2: Truth with One Another

²⁵ Therefore, ridding yourselves of falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, because we are parts of one another. - Ephesians 4:25

Ask God to show you an area in your life where you have withheld truth from a brother or sister in Christ. Pray that we are a people who are not scared to speak words of truth seasoned with gracious salt.

Day 3: Honesty about How We are Doing

But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." - John 5:17

Pray that we have eyes to see where God is working in our church. Pray that we are honest about the difference between things we have always done and things that are actually advancing God's mission. Pray that the leaders of Johnson Ferry have the wisdom and discernment to know the difference between the two.

Day 4: Our Leaders and Truth

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them. - Acts 20:28-30

Ask God to give our pastors and church leaders courage and wisdom to stay in the truth. Pray that they have godly discernment so that the church is protected from false teachings and errant doctrine.

WEEK THREE

Find Truth

42

3.26 - 4.01

Day 5: Passing Down the Truth

² Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

³ For I was overjoyed when brothers came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. - 3 John 2:4

Pray for wisdom to know how you can take an active role in passing down the truth to your children and the next generation. Pray that the young people of Johnson hear the truth and are walking in the truth. Ask God to give young people humble hearts to seek wisdom from older members of our church. Pray that older members have the heart to share God's truth with those who are younger.

Day 6: Purity in Truth

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. ¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹ I have treasured Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You. ¹² Blessed are You, Lord; Teach me Your statutes." - Psalm 119:9-12

Thank God for giving you His Word. Ask God to reveal areas in your life in which you are not walking in purity. Pray that He shows you in His Word what it means to walk in truth. Pray that Johnson Ferry continues to treasure God's Word and to walk in the truth. Pray that we don't allow sinful gossip to erode our purity before God.

Day 7: Staying in Truth

³² So you shall be careful to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³ You shall walk entirely in the way which the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and that it may be well for you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you will possess. - Deuteronomy 5:32-33

Ask God to help you be careful to walk in His truth and not to compromise. Pray that as we seek God's guidance for the future of Johnson Ferry, we are tethered to biblical truth. Pray that we don't compromise the truth for short-term effectiveness.

WEEK FOUR

Find Belonging

4x

4.02 - 4.08

THEME: "...FIND BELONGING..."

This week's prayers will focus on what it means to have belonging with one another in the body of Christ. We will pray that our mission is undergirded by trust, love, forgiveness, and grace with one another.

Day 1: Unity for Mission

²⁰ I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. - John 17:20-21

Ask God to show you areas in your life, in any, where you are not walking in unity with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that unity fuels our mission as a church. Pray that our church unity creates an attractive witness for Christ in our community.

Day 2: Preventing Selfish Rivalry

¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. - Philippians 2:1-4

Ask God to show you areas in your life where you may not be walking in line with v. 1-2. Pray that in the midst of change, we do not allow selfish rivalry to drive our agenda. Ask God to put a stop to ways in which we may be putting our own selfish interests above our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that we have, as a church, the same love, spirit, and purpose.

Day 3: Radical Hospitality

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried repeatedly to associate with the disciples; and yet they were all afraid of him, as they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus at Damascus. ²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. - Acts 9:26-28

Ask God to show you someone who could use some radical hospitality to welcome them into the body of Christ. Pray God will raise up an army of Barnabas's at Johnson Ferry who will go out of their way to welcome new people into the body of Christ. Ask God to show you ways in which you can give Christ-centered hospitality to others this week.

Day 4: Same Mind, Purpose, & Voice

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 15:5-6.

WEEK FOUR

Find Belonging

4x

4.02 - 4.08

Pray that God would give our church a renewed heart to have one mind, purpose, and voice. Ask God to show us areas where we have allowed division to create separation in the body. Pray that we have the same purpose and truly believe that, together, we can be and do more. Pray that this unity will glorify God and advance His mission.

Day 5: Service in Love

¹ If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Ask God to show you areas of spiritual gifting in your life. Evaluate how these gifts are being used and whether or not they are fueled by godly love. Pray that our church would exercise the use of our gifts in a way that demonstrates Christlike love with one another. Ask God to convict members of our church who are utilizing the gifts God has given to them to build up (and love) the body of Christ.

Day 6: Biblical Belonging

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all the believers were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they would sell their property and possessions and share them with all, to the extent that anyone had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:41-47

Ask God to renew your awe for Him. Pray that you have a renewed heart to share your life with others in a true biblical community. Pray that Johnson Ferry will adhere to the portrait of the early church seen in Acts 2. Ask God to reveal areas where we could better model love and sacrifice to one another. Pray that God will continue to add - day by day - many more who are being saved.

Day 7: Bearing One Another's Burdens

¹ Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:1-2.

Ask God to give you a spirit of gentleness with those who have sinned against you. Pray that Johnson Ferry has a godly desire to bear one another's burdens. Pray that we break through the "East Cobb perfect filter" and form trusting friendships who truly help each other walk with Christ (in full recognition of our failures). Pray that we, day by day, better fulfill the law of Christ.

WEEK FIVE

Find Purpose



4.09 - 4.15

THEME: "...FIND PURPOSE..."

This week's prayers will focus on our purpose and mission as a church. The aim is to have open hands to let God have His way with us. We are praying that His mission prevails, not our preferences.

Day 1: The Great Commission

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

Pray for God to show you any area of your life where you are not fully trusting His full authority. Thank God for His mission to allow us to make disciples in His name. Pray that the mission of Johnson Ferry extends beyond your lifetime. Pray that God gives us wisdom as to how we can best be "discipling the nations," starting right here in North Atlanta.

Day 2: His Will

⁹ Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. - Matthew 6:9b-10

Pray that God's will is done in the world and your life. Ask Him to show you areas in which you are asserting your will above His. Pray that God's will is done at Johnson Ferry. Pray that His mission and His will are what drives what we do and why we do it. Pray that God softens the hearts of those who might be resisting His perfect will.

Day 3: Do the Work of an Evangelist

But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. - 2 Timothy 4:5

Pray that God helps you have self-restraint, prioritizing your life around His mission. Pray for people who live around you (on your street) who do know Christ. Ask God to give you an opportunity to "do the work of an evangelist" today. Pray that Johnson Ferry fulfills the ministry and mission that God has for our future.

Day 4: Give Me Open Hands

³ Because Your favor is better than life, my lips will praise You. ⁴ So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. - Psalm 63:3-4

Thank God for His favor in your life. Recall specific examples of where God has demonstrated His perfect will in your life. Pray that we, as a church, would have joyful and open hands to follow God's lead. Pray that His will is done, even if we can't fully see or understand it. Lift up your hands and release control over to Him.

WEEK FIVE

Find Purpose

4X

4.09 - 4.15

Day 5: Sending Sent Ones

¹ Now there were prophets and teachers at Antioch, in the church that was there: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set Barnabas and Saul apart for Me for the work to which I have called them.' ³ Then, when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. - Acts 13:1-3

Ask God if He wants to send you as a Sent One. Pray that He raises up Sent Ones who will cross cultural-barriers (countries) in order to share the gospel with those who have not heard it. Pray that we have a missional bias towards those with little access to the gospel. Ask God to show you tangible ways in which you can support those He sends.

Day 6: Our Future and Hope

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' - Jeremiah 29:11

Thank God that He has great plans for you. Pray that Johnson prospers and grows because of God's plans. Pray that He reveals to all of us what His perfect plans are for the future of our church. Pray that we trust completely the hopeful future He has for us.

Day 7: Keep Us from Evil

¹ Lord, I call upon You; hurry to me! Listen to my voice when I call to You! ² May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The raising of my hands as the evening offering. ³ Set a guard, Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. ⁴ Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice deeds of wickedness with people who do wrong; and may I not taste their delicacies. - Psalm 141:1-4

Pray that God sets a guard over your mouth and lips. Pray that your heart is not inclined toward evil. Pray that our church is pure in our motives to glorify God and follow His mission. Pray that we do not give in to those with evil motives who are seeking (even if unintentionally) to thwart God's plan.

WEEK SIX

In Jesus

4X

4.16 - 4.20

THEME: "...IN JESUS"

These last five days are focused mainly on praising and exalting Jesus.
May our eyes be set solely on Him this Holy Week, praising our Risen King.
We are fasting from food for forty-eight hours (Wednesday, 7pm through Friday, 7pm).

Day 1: By Him, Through Him, and For Him

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: ¹⁶ for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. - Colossians 1:15-20

Exalt Jesus for His role in creation. Thank God for the fact that He holds all things in your life together. Pray prayers of gratefulness for Jesus reconciling you, the Father through, His blood on the cross. Pray that our church has an intense focus on Jesus as we head into Resurrection Day.

Day 2: Our Weak Flesh

*³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and told His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." ³⁹ And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." ⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and He *said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." - Matthew 26:36-41.*

Pray with Jesus that God's will be done in your life. Ask forgiveness for the ways in which your weak flesh has led to disobedience in your life. Pray that our church has a renewed heart for prayer and seeking the Lord. Pray that we are trusting the Spirit to overcome our fleshly weaknesses.

Day 3: Recognizing Jesus as He Is

⁵¹ And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. ⁵² Also the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now as for the centurion and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the other things that were happening, they became extremely frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" - Matthew 27:51-54

Thank God for the gift Jesus has offered us on this Good Friday. Recognize the massive significance of the veil being torn, representing our full access to the Father through the Son. Pray for the vast number of lost people in our community whose hearts have not been transformed by the gospel. Pray

WEEK SIX

In Jesus

4X

4.16 - 4.20

that, as a church, we would do what we can to help them see, like the Roman centurion, that this truly is the Son of God.

Day 4: God's Love and Judgment

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. - John 3:16-19

Thank God for the love He has given to you through Jesus Christ. Pray that this truth gives you a burden for your neighbors who do not know Him. Pray that God uses you as a witness today to share God's love with others. Pray that many people in our community hear the gospel and respond in faith on Easter Sunday. Thank God for baptisms happening on Sunday, and pray that God will use these to help many more come to faith in Jesus.

Day 5: Resurrection Day Boldness

²⁹ "And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant it to Your bond-servants to speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. - Acts 4:29-31

Ask God to bring a spiritual awakening to this community. Pray that our church has open hands to do whatever we have to do to reach our community. Pray that God shakes us up, fills us with His Spirit, and does great signs and wonders to glorify His name. Pray that He does something so that we would all say, "Only God could have done that." Pray that Jesus is exalted and our eyes are focused on Him. He is Lord of All! All Hail King Jesus!