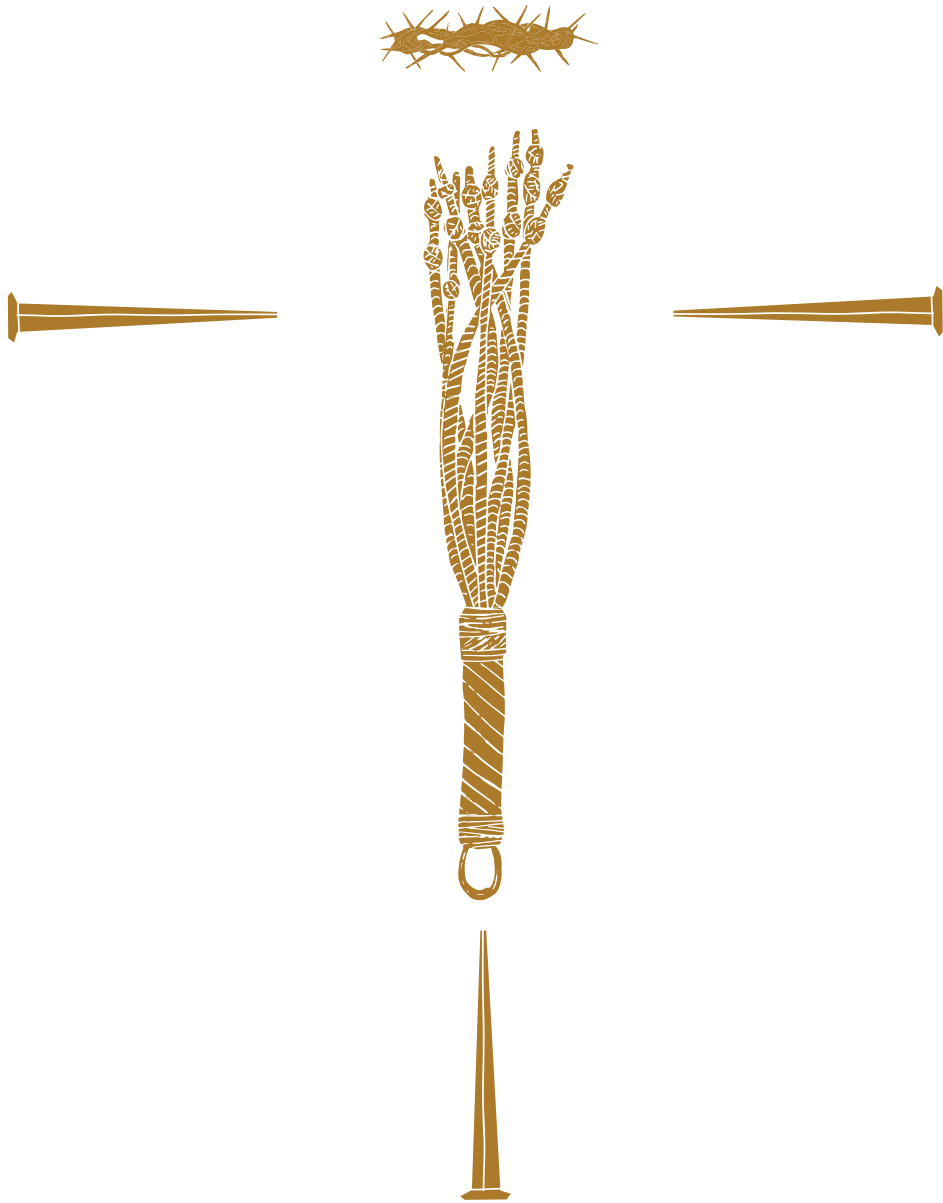


✠ FRONTLINE



A LENTEN JOURNEY

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Welcome to the Journey

Lent is a season in the Church that is kept to assist the heart in preparing and posturing to remember the passion of Jesus Christ and the Cross. We will take a purposeful journey to expose our idols, the things we set up higher than God, and find our righteousness only in Christ and His work on the cross. Lent is a forty-day journey, much like Jesus' walk in the wilderness. During Lent, we purposefully allow ourselves to become vulnerable to the power of God over our little gods. The fruits of setting ourselves in this season will produce contrition and repentance—not just simply sorrow, but a humble turning away from the things that keep us from the affectionate, open-hearted, scripture-filled love for Jesus. Furthermore, we hope that by joining together for this season, the Church is impacted by experiencing renewal, revival, and restoration to the Glory of Jesus!

Lent moves us from the season of the birth of Jesus, to the life of Jesus, and ultimately to the cross of Jesus. During the weeks of the Lenten season, use this journal as a guided walk through a liturgy of scripture, songs, prayers, and meditations. A gospel centered liturgy helps form our lives around Jesus. It is a journey of discipline and intentionality to help shape life around Christ. In Daniel 6:10, we see a man, who in spite of his circumstances, chooses to daily spend time meeting with God. "...He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God..." We see in the Psalms, David praying to God daily, asking God to help him keep the precepts of scripture on his heart. As we spend our time encountering God we find freedom, love, and salvation. In this journal, each week of Lent is broken down into a rhythm that contains daily moments to read, pray, meditate, and write. Use as much or a little of the included material as you need to make this a rich time of meeting with the Lord.

*To accompany this journal, Frontline Music has released an album, *The Cross*, as a soundtrack to the Lenten season. Each week, specific songs will be highlighted to help you engage in worship and prepare your hearts to receive from God.*

Weekly Rhythm

Each Daily Office can be done in the Morning, Midday, and Evening. Each contains one or more of the following elements. We hope that as you set aside time daily to meet with God, you encounter him in all His glory and grace.

- *Frontline Liturgy Team*

Morning

Scripture Readings
Confession and Assurance
Prayer

Midday

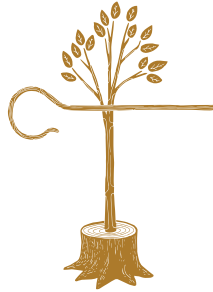
Scripture Meditation
Reflective Prayer
Poetic Meditation or Devotional Reading

Evening

Daily Examen (*See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen*)
Journal

The Daily Office

The daily office is an ancient liturgical practice that uses daily prayers to set rhythm for the day. There are set moments, usually morning and evening, to engage in prayer. In this Lenten journey, there are weekly readings that will help engage your heart and mind as you move toward the cross and encounter Jesus. There are daily scripture readings, through the books of Hosea, Matthew, and Luke to remind us to return to faithfulness, kindness and knowing God. There are prayers and meditations that help us repent of sin with the help of the Spirit, reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, and remember the goodness of God our Father.



Week of February 17th

Hosea 1:10

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

Day 1 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 1:1-7

Confession

Father, you are an all-sufficient, passionate God,
Ever faithful, always loving, knowing me at my core.
You've loved and pursued my heart with a committed and covenantal love.

But I confess I do not honor or give thanks to You.
My heart is dark and hardened, and I exchange the truth about You for lies, worshiping the created in place of the creator, wasting Your gifts with irreverent and dishonorable living.

You called to me, and I ran.
You pursued me with love, and I hid my eyes.
You spoke truth, and I covered my ears.
Father, I have sinned against heaven and before You.
Have mercy on me and forgive me.

Assurance

In Christ, God has placed His love upon you and set you apart.
We are a people belonging to God so that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy, and we are called children of the living God.

Prayer

Listening Prayer

We believe God speaks to His people. Prayer is not a one-way conversation; God will talk to us. The invitation from God is to quiet our minds and hearts to listen to what He might be saying. Take a few minutes and walk through these listening exercises.

“Fixing your eyes on Jesus”

Imagine Jesus sitting in front of you. The Scriptures are clear that He is “for us, not against us.” Confident in His love for you and like you would talk to a friend ... what would you say to Him?

Take at least 2 minutes and say those things to Him out loud

Now, like you would with a friend...listen for what He has to say back to you.

Day 1 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Ash Wednesday

"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6

There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God. A man named Job was confronted with this reality. He was a righteous man who had heard about God. He heard about who God was and what God was like. But after a season of intense suffering, Job had an encounter with God and saw Him. The Lord spoke with him face to face in the midst of a storm. In that moment, his perspective of God changed. He saw God as He truly was. He was no longer a theory, but a reality. The Lord is a holy God to be feared and a loving Father to be embraced. When Job saw God clearly, his perspective of himself changed as well. Job saw the depths of his sin. He saw the idols, or false gods, that he upheld above God. In light of the holiness and perfection of God, Job saw how impure and unworthy he was. He echoed the cry Isaiah gave when he had a similar experience with God: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" After such an encounter, Job despised himself, repented, and covered himself in dust and ashes.

As we enter into a season called Lent, we seek the same heart. Lent is a forty-day journey of repentance where we seek to see God and ourselves rightly. We strive to meet with God and turn from those things we set above him. The season of Lent begins with a day called Ash Wednesday. During this day, many Christians around the world place ashes on their forehead as a symbol of repentance, just as Job covered himself with ashes. It is a recognition of our lowliness before the presence of a holy God. In other words, we acknowledge that we are filthy and in need of the cleansing only Jesus can bring. It is a public confession that we have idols and sins that we place above God, and we are turning from those things back to the living God. Regardless of whether you cover yourself in ashes or not, this is a day to humble yourself and set your heart on repentance. It is a day to echo the cry of Job, who despised his sin and impurity and repented in dust and ashes.

For your meditation:

Think through your relationship with God. Do you know about Him, or do you know Him? In what areas are you seeking repentance? List out specific sins that you are asking God to cleanse you from.

Day 1 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 2 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 1:8-11

Confession

Perfect and unchanging Father, Your love for me is unwavering.
However, I confess that I am crooked and faithless.
You give me freedom and I use it to choose sin.
I profess my love for You but my heart is often far from You.
I content myself with lesser loves that leave me empty, hungry, and thirsty.

But even so You are faithful, and You move towards me with a ferocious compassion.
I plead for Your grace and forgiveness, Christ Jesus, have mercy on me and change me.

Assurance

This is the good news!

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases and His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning! Your sin separated you from God, but you have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom you have redemption, and the forgiveness of sins. He will revive you, bind you up, and heal you.

God does not cast you off, but has compassion on you.

Prayer

Listening to God through the Word

Open your Bible to Psalm 16 (any Psalm will do).

Read the chapter through out loud twice and, as you're reading, notice what words or phrases stand out to you. It may be that a unique thought or a picture or even a person comes to mind.

Assume this is God speaking to you, and turn those "highlighted" words or thoughts or pictures into your own prayers to God.

Day 2 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

None Like Our God (Kristi Hepp, Charlie Hall, Kori Hall)

There was no one else coming for us
Who could pay our debt?
No one else was coming

We sold ourselves to darkness
Who could buy us back?
No one else was coming

What God would give His Son?
What God would come to us?
To buy back unworthy ones
Would pour His blood
Crimson love

What King would leave His throne?
Yet, ours stripped off His robe
As one man brought sin
So, one man redeems us
We are free
By Christ our King

The cursed tree that hung His flesh
A rebel's death
There's none like our God

Though fit to wear the Holy Crown
Our servant bowed
There's none like our God

What love would spare no cost, no cross
No price too high
There's none like our God

What God would wear our curse, our shame
Unto the grave
There's none like our God

There's none like our God
He walked among us
There's none like our God
He wore the same flesh
There's none like our God
You broke our darkness
There's none like our God
You name us righteous
What God would give His Son?
What God would come to us?
To buy back unworthy ones
Would pour His blood
Crimson love

What King would leave His throne?
Yet, ours stripped off His robe
As one man brought sin
So, one man redeems us
We are free
He changes everything

Day 2 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.*
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.*
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.*
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.*
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.*

Journal Page

Day 3 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 2:1-13

Confession

Father, You are the one who loves and pursues me,
But I turn away from You and deceive myself.
Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

I tell myself that I am content and satisfied with the gifts You offer, while ignoring Your love and presence. Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Father, You created me for covenant relationship with You, yet I repeatedly reject it.
I choose my desires above my enjoyment of You.
Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Assurance

When you are faithless, He remains faithful!
He has promised to never leave you or forsake you.
God shows you, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, that there is no sin so terrible that He can't forgive; and there is nowhere you could run that He won't pursue you.
In Christ, you are accepted, forgiven, and set free from sin and death.

Prayer

ACTS – Pray through Scriptures of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication

Adoration – Psalms 145-150
Confession – Psalm 51, Nehemiah 9
Thanksgiving – Psalm 136
Supplication – I Kings 8

Day 3 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal-
vation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed (Isaac Watts)

Alas and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I

Thy body slain sweet Jesus Thine
And bathed in its own blood
While all exposed to wrath divine
The glorious sufferer stood

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree
Amazing pity, grace unknown
And love beyond degree

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut His glories in
When Christ the mighty maker died
For man the creature's sin

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness
And melt my eyes to tears

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe
Here Lord I give myself away
'Tis all that I can do

Day 3 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God’s presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 4 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 2:14-23

Confession

Father, you demonstrate perfect love, delight, and pursuit of your children.

You pour your love into me by the Holy Spirit.

But I reject your provision. I turn my back on you. I run away from your love.

I walk this world hungry and thirsty for acceptance. I live as if I am fatherless.

My heart is unrestrained, with desire for other loves.

Father, have mercy on me, and forgive me.

Assurance

Father, You watch for us, run to meet us, open your arms, and welcome us in Jesus.

For all who follow the voice of the Spirit of God, the work of Jesus has made you sons and daughters of the Father.

Do not fear! God the Father will not abandon you. He has joyfully made a place for you in his home to father you as his sons and daughters. He has sealed you with his Spirit to remind you that you belong to him and nothing can strip you from his hand.

His care is infinite!

His provision is abundant!

His embrace is refuge!

His discipline is love!

And His love has no bounds!

Prayer

Parts of the City

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jer. 29:7)

Edmond

South OKC / Moore / Norman

East OKC / Midwest City

Downtown

Yukon

Shawnee

Day 4 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 68:4-6

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
his name is the Lord;
exult before him!
Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Isaiah 53 (Kara Zimmerman)

Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief
As one from whom men hide, men hide

Pierced for our transgressions, our iniquities
Chastisement that brought us peace, us peace

And we like sheep have gone astray, we've turned away
Every one to his own way

Despised, rejected yet He opened not His mouth
And with His wounds we are healed, are healed

The cross, the cross - my sin it sent Him there
The cross, the cross - His love it took Him there



Week of February 21st

Hosea 3:5

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

Day 5 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 3:1-5

Confession

Father God, I have forgotten you.

You have offered to me your fatherly wisdom-
But I have claimed to be wise in my own eyes, and have chosen to be formed instead
By the popular opinions of the day.

You have offered to me your fatherly authority-
But I have rebelled against you, living self-absorbed lives under my own rule and reign.

You have offered to me your fatherly affection and kindness-
But I have chosen to make my home in this world and have run away from your presence.

Father, I return to you, for you are good.
I submit to you, for you are trustworthy.
I turn to you, for you are merciful.
Please, forgive me.

Assurance

Through the finished work of Jesus the Son of God, you are offered a way back home.
As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who are his.
Though we are slow to learn, God is patient to teach us.
He is faithful and trustworthy in all things.
We can be sure that God, our Father, will finish the good work that he began in us.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
Spend time acknowledging and enjoying God as Father.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Petition God to push back darkness wherever it is found.

"Give us this day our daily bread."
Ask God for your own needs and the needs of our church family.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
Confess your sins to God and forgive anyone who has offended or wronged you.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
Pray for God's protection over your own soul and the people of Frontline, that the Enemy would not win.

Day 5 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Luke 12:32

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Servant King

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him." John 13:3

Now is the night. Betrayal is at hand. Jesus must drink the cup of suffering. If ever there was a time for Jesus to expect His friends to meet His needs, now is the moment. He has the right to be pampered and fed before he faces the sorrow. The leader gets up from his cushion and dresses for service. Humbly, He comes to each of His disciples. Jesus kneels before sinful men who will abandon Him. He kneels before Peter who will deny Him. He kneels before Judas who will sell Him. With each drop of water from the basin, the filth of human feet comes into contact with the hands of God. Mud, sweat, and animal dung are washed away. If ever His friends would be truly clean, the washing would be up to him. So, the Servant King, who will wash hearts in blood, is not afraid to wash feet in water.

"Teacher, you will never wash my feet." This is too much for Peter. This act of humility is not what a leader does. Great men are served; they don't wash feet. Peter is indignant. But why? Jesus' breathtaking humility has broken into a heart enslaved by pride. This act is like a spotlight shining into a dirty cave. Jesus' humble love is exposing Peter's hopes for greatness and glory as not great or glorious at all. It's not just sweat and mud being washed away. The Servant King is also washing away pride. He is so complete and secure in the Father's love that His friends understanding or misunderstanding of Him has no power over Him. His secure servanthood exposes insecure hearts looking for meaning in power and control over others.

You and I are smeared with the filth of our streets. Pride clings to us, demanding a demonstration of control, power, or greatness to justify our existence. The more we look to our good deeds or productivity to tell us who we are, the more we sink into our muddy streets. We try to make ourselves secure in our comparisons with others. Then the Servant King comes to us. He is so secure in the Father's love that He willingly stoops to meet us in our dirt. He washes us in His blood. He gives us a new identity in His finished work. He sends us so that we too can stoop to serve. This is what it means to be a Christian. We know where we come from and where we are going so we too can take on the clothes of a servant.

For your meditation:

You did nothing good or productive to get the Servant King to come to you. He stooped down to meet you. He laid aside His robes to find you and wash you. As you reflect on your Servant King's love, where is insecurity and pride exposed in your heart? How are you trying to find your identity in control or power? How are you looking to your productivity to justify your life? Tell Jesus about it because he already knows it's there, and He is stooping to wash you.

Day 5 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 6 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 4:1-11

Confession

Jesus you have called me to love you with my whole heart, mind, soul and strength and to love my neighbor as myself, but I confess many times and in many ways I have not lived this way.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, and forgive me of my sins.

Assurance

Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised and is at the right hand of God, interceding for you. In Christ you are more than a conqueror through him who loved you. And neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer

Concentric Circles

Pray for yourself

“... casting all your anxieties on the Lord because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Pray for your family

“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

Pray for Frontline Community Groups

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

Pray for Frontline and churches in your city

“... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints ...” (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for your city

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for our nation and the nations

“... if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Day 6 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Kiss the Wave (Hilary Burkhart and Kristi Hepp)

My days are marked by hiding
In hopes no one will see
My emptiness, this brokenness
The vastness of my need

Your hand was heavy on me
The weight of all my sin
My nakedness, You came for this
To cover me instead

I must learn to kiss the waves
That throw me against the Rock of Ages

We saw You in the garden
Bearing all our grief
Our emptiness, our brokenness
The vastness of our need

Lifted up before us
Our hope upon a tree
You bore our curse, You loved us first
You drank our suffering

Oh, Christ, You bore the wave
To lead us unto the Rock of Ages
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself
Let me hide myself

In Your scars and suffering
Let me hide myself
Let me hide myself
Soon we'll see Your glory

When suffering will cease
Face to face, our sin erased
This song we'll ever sing

Oh Christ, You bore the wave
To lead us unto the Rock of Ages

Rock of ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Day 6 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 7 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 4:12-19

Confession

Most merciful God,
I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
By what I have done and what I have left undone.

I have not loved You with my whole heart;
I have not loved my neighbors as myself.
I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on me and forgive me;
That I may delight in Your will,
And walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Assurance

Remember today, that you were once dead in your sins,
Carrying out the desires of your flesh,
You were by nature a child of wrath.
But God, being rich in mercy,
Because of the great love He has for you,
Made you alive together with Christ,
And raised you up and seated you with Jesus!
You are His; saved for good works,
Which God has prepared for you to walk in!

Prayer

Prayers for the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the one who prays for us (Rom. 8:26), regenerates dead hearts (John 3), convicts of sin (John 16:8), speaks to us (John 16:13), and pours out the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Pray that Frontline would be a people:

Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

Known for the "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives – (Gal. 5:22, 23)

Empowered to witness – (Acts 1:8)

Earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1-3) more healing, prophecy, miracles, faith, etc.

Day 7 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

Amen.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Until I See You Face to Face (Brandon Laib)

Oh Lord, I've forgotten who You are
That by Your mighty hand
You delivered me from death
And all my righteousness

Oh Lord, I've forgotten who I am
Your blood is on my hands
But You've taken this old man
And hung him on that tree

Remind me of Your gospel
Remind me of my worth
That You poured out every drop of blood
And covered every damning work

And I'll write it on the doorposts
Of the house and on my gate
And fight against forgetfulness
Until I see You face to face

Oh Lord, I've forgotten what You've done
You created and You loved
And You took the place of dust
The guilty for the good

Oh Lord, I forgot who I can trust
So I'll try to grind it out
But the want is just too loud
And I'm slowly caving in

Remind me of Your gospel
Remind me of my worth
That You poured out every drop of blood
And covered every damning work

Day 7 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.*
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.*
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.*
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.*
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.*

Journal Page

Day 8 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 5:1-7

Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love and abundant mercy.
I confess I have committed overt and secret sins against You.
I have done evil in your sight, and my sin is always before me.
I've tried to right my own wrongs in pride, but my guilt causes my head to hang low.

Assurance

For those who hide themselves in the work of Christ our High Priest-
You've been given a broken spirit, and a contrite heart.
Your transgressions are blotted out. Your iniquities cleansed.
You've been washed whiter than snow.
In Christ, You can know joy and your broken bones can rejoice.
God renews your spirit and creates in you a clean heart.
Because of God's renewing grace, you can sing aloud of His power and goodness.

Prayer

Our Mission: Love God - Love People - Push Back Darkness

Love God

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Love People

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

Push Back Darkness

"... to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)

Day 8 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Zephaniah 3:17

*The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

The Space Between Us

“For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both. Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me. Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.” Job 9:32–35

These words of Job are rooted in an awareness of two things. The first is the overwhelming greatness of God. The second is the reality of his own indescribable lowliness in comparison. Evidence of Job’s awe is found in thoughts of God like, “one could not answer him once in a thousand times,” “he removes mountains,” “who alone stretched out the heavens,” and “who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.” In his suffering, Job wanted an audience with God. He wanted to meet with his Creator. As much as he longed to speak with God, he knew it was impossible, essentially asking “How can someone as small as me deal with someone as big as God?” King David similarly thought, “How could someone as big as God deal with someone as small as me?” when he wrote, “*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*” Psalm 8:3–4, *ESV*

Job’s awareness of God’s greatness and his own lowliness broke his heart. He was aware of the space between—a space torn into a place when man rebelled against God. The need to cross the space between drove Job’s need for an “arbiter”—a person who has the power to reconcile, a person of authority, a person who can stand in the gap between Job and God. Thousands of years have come and gone since Job spoke of this need, but the need abides today. To truly live, not just exist, man needs direct communion with our Creator. It is what we were created for. “There is no arbiter between us” was Job’s bad news. The Apostle Paul answers this bad news in one verse in his letter to Timothy writing: “*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” 1 Timothy 2:5, *ESV*

That is the Gospel in one sentence. It is fundamental Christianity. There is a God whose greatness is unimaginable. Next to His greatness, humanity is beyond lowly. We cannot get to Him on our own because of our sin. However, “there is one mediator between God and men”! This mediator is the man Jesus Christ, and when anyone surrenders to Jesus, they find that the space between God and man is no longer a chasm. In place of the space is now a Rock. One can have surefooted access to God through Jesus.

For your meditation:

Think today on the greatness of God. In light of that greatness, join with men like Job, Isaiah, and Paul and consider “I am of small account.” With the greatness of God and your own lowliness in mind, pray that the Holy Spirit stirs your affections for Jesus as the one Mediator. The greatest act in the history of the universe was accomplished by Christ when He made a way to cover the space between.

Day 8 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 9 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 5:8-15

Confession

Faithful God, forgive me for my vain pursuit of life, love, and pleasure.

I am a half hearted creature, fooling about with lesser pleasures like drink, sex, and ambition.

While infinite joy is offered to me in the finished work of Jesus.

I am far too easily pleased, allowing money, possessions, family, and work to define me,

And art, creativity, and nature to fulfill me- while infinite joy is offered to me in the presence of God.

Father, forgive me.

Assurance

This is the good news for those in Christ-

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, for as high as the heavens are above the earth,

So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Prayer

Pray for Vocations

Teachers

Medical professionals

Military / law enforcement

Business professionals

Government

Stay-at-home parents

Trades – carpenter, plumber, etc

Other

Day 9 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Nothing but the Blood (Robert Lowry)

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon, this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing, this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Now by this I'll overcome
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Now by this I'll reach my home
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
There's no other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Day 9 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 10 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 6:1-11

Confession

My Father in heaven, I confess that in my quest for pleasure, wisdom, wealth, and honor I have sinned against you and tried to find meaning without you.

I use Your good gifts of time, wine, work, and feasting without looking to you as the Giver of life and gifts. My heart is restless and can only find rest in You.

Assurance

This is the good news of the Gospel -

In Christ I have abundant mercy and steadfast love.

God has made me whiter than snow and given me joy and gladness;

Because of the cross of Christ I have a clean heart and a right spirit.

You have restored the joy of my salvation!

Prayer

Prayer Through Acts 2

Acts 2:42-43

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Acts 2:44-45

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

Acts 2:44-45

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.”

Pray for:

- Devotion to word of God
- Devotion to each other
- Breaking of bread together
- Awe and expectation to fill our souls
- Miracles

Pray for:

- Unity
- Leadership
- Ministry teams
- The needy among us

Pray for:

- Grateful people
- God’s work in and through the church
- Generous church
- Increase of Jesus’ ministry
- Persons of peace in the city

Day 10 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Nearer the Cross (*Will Gaines*)

Nearer the cross my heart can say
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Nearer the cross from day to day
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer

Nearer the cross where Jesus died
Nearer the fountain's crimson tide
Nearer my Savior's wounded side
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Nearer the Christian's mercy seat
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Feasting my soul on manna sweet
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer

Stronger in faith more clear I see
Jesus who gave Himself for me
Nearer to Him I still would be
Still I'm coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Nearer in prayer my hope aspires
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Deeper in love, my soul desires
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer

Nearer the end of toil and care
Nearer the joy I long to share
Nearer the crown I soon shall wear
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

To the cross is where I find my refuge and strength
To the cross is where I find my refuge and strength

I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Day 10 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God’s presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page



Week of February 28th

Hosea 5:15

*I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face,
and in their distress earnestly seek me.*

Day 11 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 7:1-16

Confession

God who created the world and everything in it,
I confess that I've taken all You created to show Your kindness, and I've worshiped it in place of You.
You've created me for friendship with You, but my heart is prone to wander.

You've created me for relationship with others, but I've hated my neighbors.
I feel my selfishness and need You to change me.
Help me see You and myself rightly.

Assurance

God loved the world so much, that He gave us Jesus, His only Son.
Everyone who trusts in Him for the forgiveness of their sin can't be separated from Him, but has abundant life forever.

Prayer

Listening Prayer

We believe God speaks to His people. Prayer is not a one-way conversation; God will talk to us. The invitation from God is to quiet our minds and hearts to listen to what He might be saying. Take a few minutes and walk through these listening exercises.

“Fixing your eyes on Jesus”

Imagine Jesus sitting in front of you. The Scriptures are clear that He is “for us, not against us.” Confident in His love for you and like you would talk to a friend ... what would you say to Him?

Take at least 2 minutes and say those things to Him out loud

Now, like you would with a friend...listen for what He has to say back to you.

Day 11 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Lamentations 3:21-26

But this I call to mind,
And therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“Therefore I will hope in Him.”
The Lord is god to those who wait for Him,
To the soul who seeks Him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
For the salvation of the Lord.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

A Lesson From Creation

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to Him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:28–31

Nothing in all of creation continues in its own strength; all things eventually die without renewal. Look outside and consider a tree. When drought comes, the tree dies without water. Likewise, life withers away from an uprooted cut off from nutrients from the soil.. Humanity is the same in relation to God. Just as a weakened body is strengthened by a healthy meal, the soul of a person is fueled by God.

Taking in God’s Word fuels our hearts. Gospel Community gives us life. Corporate worship feeds our soul, or as pastor Charles Spurgeon said, “the soul-fattening table” of communion is life giving to our hearts. As believers, we must wait upon God like a flower waits on rain. As lowly people dependent upon a great God, we must bloom in His light to grow and not close away in darkness. Without constant restoration from the Holy Spirit, we cannot hope to battle our own flesh, attacks from the enemy, or even hope to mature as disciples.

Every woman and man has no escape from weariness, growing faint, and exhaustion apart from the Gospel. The Son of God, who was eternally strong, became weak so those who trust in Him may find strength. Some of Jesus’ last words on the cross were, “I thirst!” Remember those words today. Jesus knew thirst so those who trust in Him may never be thirsty again. So often when we are tired, we search for rest in all the wrong places. True rest is not found in a place nor a time. True rest is found in the person and presence of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

For your meditation:

Where are you looking for ultimate rest that will not satisfy? A place, a hobby, a relationship? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you places you’re going that will never satisfy. Ask Him to renew your strength in Christ.

Day 12 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 8:1-14

Confession

Father, I admit that I am more shaped by the world than by Your desire for me.
I am a lover of self, pleasure and money, rather than a lover of God.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Jesus, I admit that in my pride and arrogance I live recklessly in rejection of your authority, often resulting in the abuse of others.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit, I admit that I am ungrateful and heartless, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power to transform me and the world around me.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Assurance

To all who are given the right to be called children of God, by the blood of Jesus: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, Christ Jesus our Lord, and the Holy Spirit.
You are not saved because of your works, but because of God's own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, now made known through the appearing of our Savior.

He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, calling us children of God, fully welcomed into the community of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Listening to God through the Word

Open your Bible to Psalm 16 (any Psalm will do).

Read the chapter through out loud twice and, as you're reading, notice what words or phrases stand out to you. It may be that a unique thought or a picture or even a person comes to mind.

Assume this is God speaking to you, and turn those "highlighted" words or thoughts or pictures into your own prayers to God.

Day 12 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Cursed Tree (Aaron Mowery)

Oh, in my sin I hated Your name
I filled my heart with the vilest of things
I made my bed in the shadow of hell
The weight of my shame grew heavier still

Even so, You came for me
When I was Your enemy
The perfect love of the Trinity
You showed it there on that cursed tree

Your heart stopped beating
And mine began
The breath escaped You
My lungs took it in

Even so, You came for me
When I was Your enemy
The perfect love of the Trinity
You showed it there on that cursed tree

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Your blood has set me free!

Your heart stopped beating
And mine began
The breath escaped You
My lungs took it in

Even so, You came for me
When I was Your enemy
The perfect love of the Trinity
You showed it there on that cursed tree

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Your blood has set me free!

Day 12 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 13 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 9:1-17

Confession

Father, you are patient and long-suffering and have pursued me in your son Jesus.

I confess that I do not persevere in living the life you have given me.

I am not steadfast to pursue you and I often do not trust where you lead.

I pull back from sharing in the suffering of Jesus by avoiding pain.

Being in love with this present world, my god is my own comfort and ease of life is my greatest satisfaction.

I repent and ask your forgiveness.

Assurance

If you put your hope in the finished work of Jesus, you share in a death like His.

You, who were dead in your flesh, have been made alive together with Him!

He has forgiven all your trespasses by wiping away the memory of your sins, setting them aside, and nailing them to the cross.

You have died to your old self and you share in His resurrection by the Spirit's power.

And in the Spirit's power you have everything you need to live a life of godliness.

If we die to ourselves, we live with Jesus.

If we persevere, we will reign with him.

When we are faithless, he remains faithful.

Prayer

ACTS - Pray through Scriptures of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication

Adoration – Psalms 145-150

Confession – Psalm 51, Nehemiah 9

Thanksgiving – Psalm 136

Supplication – I Kings 8

Day 13 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Out of the Ashes (Will Gaines)

Out of the ashes, from the depths of the dust
My soul will rise because of Your love
It's fueled by a fire of the Spirit to come
Resurrected in Christ and covered in blood

Cloaked and righteous, washed white and clean
My heart made new in the life that You bring
Once left in chains, now no longer a slave
The life I once had is no longer my name

We are sons, we are daughters
He's our King, Christ our brother
God, our great Father

Named as a sinner, born into the fall
My heart gives way to the Lover I call
Dirty, unworthy, I lay myself down
To the worthiness of this King and His crown

No longer in darkness does this soul lay
But my hope clings to Christ
On this glorious day
So throw up your hands and lift up your eyes
A part of a family adopted in Christ

We are sons, we are daughters
He's our King, Christ our brother
God, our great Father

Rise and sing of this love He brings
Lift your eyes, behold your King

We are sons, we are daughters
He's our King, Christ our brother
God, our great Father

Oh the blood of Jesus
Oh the blood of Jesus
Oh the blood of Jesus
It washes white as snow

Day 14 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 10:1-15

Confession

You have gone before us and strengthened us so that the Gospel might be fully proclaimed
And that by your Spirit all might hear.

In my pride I have walked away from the truth and cling to my preferences above your promises.
I have promoted my own ideals above your word, which stands alone.

Too often I am given to quarreling and combativeness, when I am called to unity and peace.
Father, forgive me and help me embrace the full and abundant truth of your Gospel.

Assurance

For those who trust in the finished work of the cross -

Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord who saved you and called you to a holy calling, not
because of your works but because of his own purpose and grace.

He now invites you to fan into flame the gift of God which you have received by the power of the Spirit.

As a child of God, you have received the grace, mercy, and peace, offered to you from the Father and
Christ Jesus our Lord. Our savior, Jesus has abolished death and brought life!

You have been given all you need to guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Prayer

Parts of the City

**“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for
in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jer. 29:7)**

Edmond
South OKC / Moore / Norman
East OKC / Midwest City
Downtown
Yukon
Shawnee

Day 14 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

1 Timothy 2:5-6a

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Arrogance and Embarrassment: None of Us Can Offer Anything

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8–9

There’s a beautiful story in the book of John about a woman caught in the act of adultery. I’m struck with the shame and embarrassment that this woman would feel.

She was brought in by the “perfect” white-robed, religious, moral men to the feet of Jesus. There publicly, Jesus was being pushed to agree that she should be stoned for her overt wrongs—sin. So Jesus stands inside the crowd and looks to His left, where the put together, “clean,” men stand. Then Jesus looks to His right where the naked, embarrassed woman lies weeping. Most of you know the story, but in that moment that woman would have needed to receive more grace, mercy, and forgiveness than the arrogant, religious men who were accusing her could ever know or experience. Finally, Jesus turns and opposes the proud group of men and then stoops to wrap this woman in His righteousness, not because she did anything to deserve it but because of who He is. Furthermore, Jesus would have loved the religious men to disrobe their religious clothing and allow Him to clothe them in His righteousness as well. In my early years of faith, I thought I was the gift and that God had really chosen wisely when He chose me. I was growing and learning about God. I was telling people about all He was doing with me, and I had story after story about all that I was accomplishing.

As time and life went on, I grew to realize, through exhaustion, that I was more like the man on the stretcher that was lowered to Jesus through a hole cut in the roof. I am more like the naked woman that lays embarrassed before Jesus’s compassion. I am more like the dirty, smelly, strung-out prodigal son that is doing my best to humbly walk home. I am more like Lazarus who had laid dead for days when Jesus wept and raised him back to life. I am the guy that has to be lifted up to the waters by Jesus to become healed. When I look back at my journey, I’m so grateful that God slowly caused me to realize that I brought nothing to our relationship. That I had no righteousness of my own and that nothing saves me but Christ. There’s literally no reason for me to boast. I didn’t earn His love. He pursued me and clothes me in His rightness as I set myself in the power of the cross. Arrogance and embarrassment are both rooted in me! Today I ask Jesus to cover my nakedness and strip the arrogance off of me to clothe me with His righteousness.

For your meditation:

Take time to list your places of self-righteous arrogance. These are ways that you feel like you are earning God’s love because of how well you are doing or the amount of boxes you can check off, or the gold stars you’ve attained for good behavior. These are places you might be boasting in your heart or to the people around you. Now derobe yourself from these things and simply find yourself in the compassion of Jesus, not how good you are but how good He is.

Day 15 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 11:1-12

Confession

Father, You have redeemed me for your purposes, to be a vessel of honor in your house.

But I confess, I have taken what you have set apart inside of me to be holy,

And have chosen the things of the world that are unholy and dishonorable to you.

Forgive me, and make me ready for every good work.

I confess that I have run towards youthful passions, and again desire to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.

Forgive me, and make me ready for every good work.

I have chosen to spend my days quarreling over ignorant controversies, rather than staying rooted in your call to be kind and gentle to everyone and to patiently endure evil.

Forgive me, and make me ready for every good work.

I humbly repent. I ask for you to forgive me and cleanse me to be a vessel for the use of your kingdom, bringing honor to our Savior Jesus.

Assurance

Here is the assurance of His grace for all who trust in Jesus:

The Father sees you and knows you belong to Him.

Today, He says again to you, "You are forgiven, you are My beloved!"

By the work of the Spirit, He is shaping you into a vessel of honor to bring Him glory.

For all who hope in Jesus today: He promises to complete what He begins.

He will surely finish what He has started in you!

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Spend time acknowledging and enjoying God as Father.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Petition God to push back darkness wherever it is found.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Ask God for your own needs and the needs of our church family.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Confess your sins to God and forgive anyone who has offended or wronged you.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Pray for God's protection over your own soul and the people of Frontline, that the Enemy would not win.

Day 15 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Jesus, My Victory

(Blake Burrough, Abby Leonard, Will Gaines, Molly Devine, Aaron Mowery, Megan Haley, Marcy Priest)

Sweet exchange, marvelous mystery
The Perfect one became the sins of many

So we'd return, back to the Father
Adopted as His sons and daughters

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

My curse on Him, my death to taste
His precious blood, He did not waste
Cause it is finished, we're dead to sin
He has raised us up to be with Him

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

Who is like the Lord?
Who bent low to save us.
Where is our hope?
It's only Jesus, only Jesus.

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

Day 16 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 12:1-14

Confession

Forgive my faithlessness, O faithful God!

And see beyond my apathy, my thoughtlessness, my self-centeredness, my wrong choices.

See into my heart, for you are my treasure. Amen.

Assurance

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, know that in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Prayer

Concentric Circles

Pray for yourself

"... casting all your anxieties on the Lord because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Pray for your family

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)

Pray for Frontline Community Groups

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

Pray for Frontline and churches in your city

"... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints ..." (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for your city

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for our nation and the nations

"... if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Day 16 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

I Need Jesus (Hilary Burkhart)

I need the One who made me
Who gives life to my bones
I need the One who is Holy
The only One who's good

I need the One who came for me
Who lived perfect in my place
The One that bled and died for me
The only One who saves

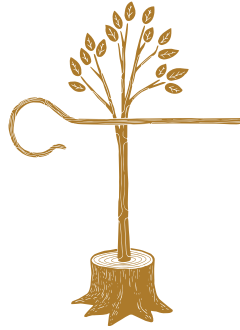
Jesus, Jesus

I need the perfect Son of God
Who is Holy, true, and good
I need the One who bore the wrath
So that I never would

I need the One who tasted death
And was buried in the grave
I need the sacrificial Lamb
My pleasing righteousness

I need the One who rose again
Who has conquered all my sin
The One who reigns in Heaven now
The One who'll come again

Jesus, Jesus
You're all I need
So be all I want
Jesus



Week of March 7th

Hosea 9:10

*Like grapes in the wilderness,
I found Israel.*

*Like the first fruit on the fig tree
in its first season,
I saw your fathers.*

*But they came to Baal-peor
and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,
and became detestable like the thing they loved.*

Day 17 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 13:1-16

Confession

Merciful God,
For the things I have done that I regret,
For the things I have failed to do that I regret,
Father, forgive me.
For all the times I have acted without love,
For all the times I have reacted without thought,
Father, forgive me.

For all the times I have withdrawn care,
For all the times I have failed to forgive,
Father, forgive me.

For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
For unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes,
Father, forgive me.

God of all time, forgive me and help me to lay down my burden of regret.
Amen.

(From Worship Sourcebook pg. 90 #30)

Assurance

Hear the good news!
Jesus is able to save you to the uttermost, leaving nothing left unsaved,
Draw near to God through Jesus, because He lives to always pray for you.

Prayer

Prayers for the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the one who prays for us (Rom. 8:26), regenerates dead hearts (John 3), convicts of sin (John 16:8), speaks to us (John 16:13), and pours out the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Pray that Frontline would be a people:

Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

Known for the "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives – (Gal. 5:22, 23)

Empowered to witness – (Acts 1:8)

Earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (I Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1-3) more healing, prophecy, miracles, faith, etc.

Day 17 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Addictions, Additions, and True Shalom

“For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:3–4

There’s a craving that is built into all of us, a longing and hunger to be right with the world around us, right with ourselves and ultimately right with God. The Hebrew word Shalom encompasses all of those hungers—its simplest definition is “completeness.” While I was a kid, I searched for completeness in my performances.

As a younger man, I tried to find my completeness in attachments, like what I did, or whom I was connected to. And even today I find myself worshiping the false god we call “certainty.” Many of us just can’t find the peace that we are clawing for, so we find ways to physically circumvent the interior struggle and pain with momentary pauses that come from drugs, alcohol, sex, relationships, hobbies—the list goes on and on. When we use the most beautiful, applauded, cheered things that we do or attain to gain a sense of rightness, we simply replace the peace that Jesus can bring to our barren hearts. Our accolades are great gifts but when we lean on them as crutches, these “beautiful” gods have a sneaky way of climbing up into a place they don’t belong.

All of the above is very normal. It’s human. It’s how we are born. When I sit with my friends who are heavily addicted to (fill in the blank), I don’t shake my head in disgust. I think to myself, “Well yeah! This is normal.” But to be clear, the norm kills us, confuses us, and creates false and momentary shalom. Our only hope for full peace is putting our faith in Christ. We can’t be bad enough or good enough to attain rightness. The completeness and peace we seek with the world, ourselves, and God Himself are found in Jesus. We can’t do it! We can’t get to God no matter how wise or intelligent we become. There is no amount of money or even poverty, no amount of relationships, no amount of sex that can get us peace with God.

It’s not who you know or who you have avoided, it’s not where you’ve been, or where you’re headed, it’s not the depth of how you hurt others or how merciful you can be to your offenders that removes that canyon between us and the Father. There is no accolade or loss, there’s no amount of religion or rebellious acts, it’s not where you live or where you go to church, it’s not what you’ve done or haven’t done that brings the completeness we search for. Jesus is the only thing that makes us right, complete, and whole! We cannot establish our own righteousness. Weary friend come and let your exhaustion fall to the side, quit climbing that invisible ladder, rest and let Jesus be the one to make you righteous and bring true shalom.

For your meditation:

List some ways you’re attempting to find shalom, rightness, and completion with God apart from Christ and the cross. Many times, these things are exhausting you. Spend time laying these things to the side, moving them out of your patterns of life, or re-appropriating them to the right places. Don’t just stop there; put Jesus, Prince of Shalom and Peace, as the center, the most beautiful, powerful thing in your life, and rest in His finished work on the cross.

Day 17 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 18 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Hosea 14:1-9

Confession

O Lord, I come to You in need, like a wayward child,
Confessing that I have sinned against heaven and in Your sight.
I have wandered from Your side and have ignored the call of Your kindness that leads to repentance.

I thank you Father, that I feel my need.
In Your kindness, grant me forgiveness.

Assurance

In Him we have redemption and adoption as daughters and sons!
Not only has He saved us, He has promised to not leave us as orphans,
And God is faithful and trustworthy to keep His promises!
In Christ, God bestows a Father's blessing on every returning wanderer.
Like a Father, He receives us as His children!

Prayer

Our Mission: Love God - Love People - Push Back Darkness

Love God, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Love People, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

Push Back Darkness, "... to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)

Day 18 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!
Know that the Lord, He is God!
It is He who made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts
with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures
forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Keep Me Near the Cross (*Fanny Jane Crosby & Whitney Cacho*)

Jesus keep me near the cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calvary's mountain

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever
Until my restless soul would find
Rest within my Savior

Near the cross, oh Lamb of God
Bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows over me

Jesus keep me near the cross
Where I find my healing
Let this restless soul find its rest in Thee
Christ be my glory

Look no further, oh my soul, for your fill
His mercy, His justice, His love
Oh how they beckon me still
So look no further my soul than Calvary's hill

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever
Until my restless soul would find
Rest within my Savior

Day 19 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Confession

Father, you bless the poor in spirit, but I confess that too often I resist acknowledging my need and true poverty, and instead choose pride and self sufficiency.

Father, forgive me.

Your blessing comes to those who mourn over their sin, yet I ignore my sin and instead, seek to self justify. Father, forgive me.

You've offered to satisfy and bless me with Your righteousness.

Yet too often I hunger and thirst to be right in my own eyes, and on my own terms.

Father, forgive me.

You call me to true identity and real purpose.

But I confess that I have preferred conformity to the patterns of this world, and as a result, cover the light that You've made to shine in me.

Father, forgive me.

Assurance

Receive the assurance of your faith:

Jesus sets his eyes on his disciples and says,

"You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world."

You who mourn over your sin, weep no more in your fear of abandonment.

God will never leave you or forsake you. God is not ashamed of your poverty or put off by your confession, but fills up your lack with the blessing of His kingdom.

He who knew no sin became sin for us, and offered us the righteousness of God.

Rest, and be satisfied in the approval of your Father.

Prayer

Pray for Vocations

Teachers

Medical professionals

Military / law enforcement

Business professionals

Government

Stay-at-home parents

Trades – carpenter, plumber, etc

Other

Day 19 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Matthew 7:7-8

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

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

What Wondrous Love Is This *(Anonymous)*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

Day 20 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Confession

Father, I confess I strive to make my own way and build a kingdom of self.

I don't love my enemies or those who have wounded me, when I am called to a cruciform love.

I take vengeance into my own hands, and it blinds me to the needs of the weak and vulnerable ones around me. In place of your daily bread I toil anxiously to be my own provider, and I hold up my good deeds to impress others.

Father, help me see my sin! Help me long to turn from my ways and be shaped in your image. I long for your heart, your shalom, and your kingdom. I confess that Jesus, You are Lord.

Assurance

In Christ, you are sons and daughters of God.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need before you even ask.

He is your daily bread and in his abundance you have all you need today.

In his kingdom, his enemies become family and the weak are raised up!

He is coming to wipe away tears and make all things new.

He rights injustices, and while we long for a better country, He is bringing His kingdom.

Prayer

Prayer Through Acts 2

Acts 2:42-43

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Pray for:

- Devotion to word of God
- Devotion to each other
- Breaking of bread together
- Awe and expectation to fill our souls
- Miracles

Acts 2:44-45

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

Pray for:

- Unity
- Leadership
- Ministry teams
- The needy among us

Acts 2:44-45

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.”

Pray for:

- Grateful people
- God's work in and through the church
- Generous church
- Increase of Jesus' ministry
- Persons of peace in the city

Day 20 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Isaiah 35:3-4

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

His Righteousness Is Ours

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

When we see the standard of holiness that God lays on us, it is frightening. Even Jesus Himself told us that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees to enter into heaven. The scribes and Pharisees were the religious elite of the day. These guys were pastors and spiritual leaders. They had scripture memorized and followed it as best as they could. A normal person would see these men and say, “There is a righteous man. God is surely pleased with him.” But when Jesus comes on the scene, He blows all that up. He tells us that our righteousness must exceed that of those who had everything together. Find the most righteous man in your city, and your righteousness must exceed His, or you won’t be welcomed into heaven. This is terrifying, because if we are honest with ourselves, we are not even close to being that righteous.

When Jesus came to earth, He didn’t sweep sin under the rug. He held the same standard that His Father did. Only the righteous will enter into heaven, and none of us is righteous. But Jesus came to save us. Jesus is the only one who ever lived a completely righteous life. He is the only one whose righteousness exceeded every other man’s righteousness. He faithfully and perfectly followed God. And today, Jesus is offering that righteousness to us. We don’t have to earn it. We don’t have to do it ourselves. We simply receive it. When we look to Jesus, His righteousness becomes ours. Truly, all those who trust in Christ have a righteousness that far exceeds those of the scribes and Pharisees. Our righteousness is perfect and unblemished because it is not our own. It is Christ’s, and He has freely and willingly given it to us.

For your meditation:

In what ways do you fall short of God’s standard of holiness? Do you feel righteous enough to earn God’s love? Are you resting in your righteousness, or in Christ’s righteousness? What does it mean to say that Christ is our righteousness?

Day 21 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Confession

God, you are the only good and righteous judge, yet I have rejected your good rule and in my pride have pronounced others guilty. I am quick to be critical of those around me and fail to look at myself. You have called me to a life of compassion, humility, meekness, and patience but in my arrogance I have been critical, proud, and impatient with my neighbors.

Help me to embrace humility and grieve over my own sin, so that I can walk in love toward my brothers and sisters. After all, it is your patience and kindness that leads me to repentance.

God of mercy, have mercy on me.

Assurance

Jesus loves you and has freed you from your sin by his blood. Your guilt is, once and for all, covered by the cleansing blood of Jesus. Righteousness and life has been freely given to you because Christ bore the punishment for your sin.

Look toward Jesus, your mediator, with hope and gladness.

He has clothed you in his righteousness. If you are in Christ, your name is written in the book of life and you will one day enter into the everlasting joy of your Father in heaven.

Prayer

Listening Prayer

We believe God speaks to His people. Prayer is not a one-way conversation; God will talk to us. The invitation from God is to quiet our minds and hearts to listen to what He might be saying. Take a few minutes and walk through these listening exercises.

“Fixing your eyes on Jesus”

Imagine Jesus sitting in front of you. The Scriptures are clear that He is “for us, not against us.” Confident in His love for you and like you would talk to a friend ... what would you say to Him?

Take at least 2 minutes and say those things to Him out loud

Now, like you would with a friend...listen for what He has to say back to you.

Day 21 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Colossians 3:12-13

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Go to Dark Gethsemane (*James Montgomery and Kevin Twit*)

Go to dark Gethsemane
Ye that feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict see
Watch with Him one bitter hour

Turn not from His griefs away
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray
Turn not from His griefs away
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray

See Him at the judgment hall
Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned
O, the wormwood and the gall
O, the pangs His souls sustained

Shun not suffering shame or loss
Learn of Christ to bear the cross
Shun not suffering shame or loss
Learn of Christ to bear the cross

Calvary's mournful mountain climb
There adoring at His feet
Mark that miracle of time
God's own sacrifice complete

"It is finished!" Hear Him cry
Learn of Jesus Christ to die
"It is finished!" Hear Him cry
Learn of Jesus Christ to die

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay
All is solitude and gloom
Who has taken Him away

Day 21 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 22 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

Confession

Father, I confess I have believed the patterns of the world and have lived by them as my standard.

I have built my own system of laws on what I feel is right and wrong.

I confess I have neglected to hold myself to your higher law, where you call me to see my intentions as well as my actions.

You have called me to restore unity in my relationships, but instead I sow seeds of division with gossip, anger, and offense.

You have called me to sexual fidelity, but instead I have been unfaithful with my eyes, heart, body, and mind. Help me to turn from and cut off the source of my sin, and to treat others, whom you have made in your image, with dignity, so that I might not lose my life.

Assurance

Through Jesus Christ, the Father has embraced us as his own.

We have been reconciled to Him and to each other.

In every way that we have failed to uphold the law- Christ has fulfilled it.

The righteousness we have longed for is ours in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!

Prayer

Listening to God through the Word

Open your Bible to Psalm 16 (any Psalm will do).

Read the chapter through out loud twice and, as you're reading, notice what words or phrases stand out to you. It may be that a unique thought or a picture or even a person comes to mind.

Assume this is God speaking to you, and turn those "highlighted" words or thoughts or pictures into your own prayers to God.

Day 22 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 97:9-12

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

O you who love the Lord, hate evil!

He preserves the lives of his saints;

he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the up-
right in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give
thanks to his holy name!

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Weight of Sorrows (Kristi Hepp, Matt Polk, Emilie Polk, Will Gaines, Molly Devine)

My betrayal

My abandon

My sin moved You towards the cross

My transgressions

My afflictions

Earned the lashes on Your back

My hands did this

I deserved death

But Christ, You hung there in my place

Weight of sorrow

I have done this

You were buried in my grave

Oh, why this load now

Do I still carry?

Your blood has saved me, You won't forsake me

Oh, why this weight now

Do I still carry?

Your blood has saved me, You won't forsake me

Teach me to turn my gaze

From all I've done to grace

Your blood has saved me

You won't forsake me

Help me to lift my eyes

From who I was to Christ

Your blood has saved me

You won't forsake me

God of justice

God of mercy

God in Christ, You pardoned us

God of comfort

God of healing

God in Christ, You welcomed us

Day 22 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page



Week of March 14th

Hosea 6:1-3

*Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.*

*Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.*

Day 23 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:18-25

Confession

Jesus, your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Yet I put myself under a weight I was never meant to bear.
You clothe me and feed me but I often don't trust that you will provide.
In my pride, I try to satisfy and carry my needs apart from you.

You tell me to seek first Your Kingdom.
But I allow myself to be preoccupied and crushed by the cares of this world.
You promise to never give me a stone if I ask you for bread, yet I have been formed more by my own anxieties than by Your promises.
Help me to cast my cares on you, knowing that you care for me
When my hands are empty you will make my heart fully satisfied in you.

Assurance

Your Father in heaven knows what you need before you ask.
He gives from the overflow of his inexhaustible mercy.
He is eager to supply your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Jesus has made His Father your Father through his finished work, and gives you the gift of his Holy Spirit so that you may rest in Him. Do not be anxious like the world, for we are sons and daughters of a good Father. He is for you and not against you, and he withholds no good thing from those who ask of him. So ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find.

Prayer

ACTS – Pray through Scriptures of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication

Adoration – Psalms 145-150

Confession – Psalm 51, Nehemiah 9

Thanksgiving – Psalm 136

Supplication – I Kings 8

Day 23 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 103:1-5

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your
diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Addictions, Additions, and True Shalom

“And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

Matthew 21:12–13

As Jesus walked into the temple on this day, He was filled with righteous anger. Jesus was furious with the messed-up religious nonsense happening at the temple. People were not allowed to bring their own animals for temple sacrifice. Animals could only be purchased at the temple. The animals at the temple were much more expensive. In addition to the animal prices being super high, the temple only allowed you to buy the animals with temple money. How did you get temple money? Well, you had to exchange your perfectly good regular money for temple money. Converting the money, of course, came with additional transaction fees. People had to pay extra money to then buy the extra-expensive animals. The poorest of people are robbed as they simply desire to worship God. This didn't sit well with Jesus.

At the beginning of this Holy Week, it is very clear Jesus is not here to keep business as usual. Jesus is communicating a strong message. He will not stand by as religious systems are set up to make it nearly impossible to come to God. At the end of this week, Jesus will purchase our souls for God. On this day, Jesus overturns the tables because He is a jealous lover. He is a relentless pursuer. We witness an incredible height of love as we see Jesus driving away anything keeping us from Him.

For your meditation:

What is keeping you from drawing nearer to your God today? Pray. If your life were laid out on several tables, would Jesus come and overturn any of them? If so, repent. He is in control. He is good. He loves you. He really loves you. He refuses to let you stay apart from Him. Let the words of Psalm 139:23 consume your thoughts today, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!”

Day 24 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-16

Confession

Father, I look to you today as the giver of life and all good things. You are the rock of my salvation and the only place I can put my true hope. Help me to take my eyes from my own earthly treasures and look to you and your kingdom.

I want to hear your words and see your ways.

I know that my own kingdoms of sand are fragile and crumbling under wind and waves.

I repent for putting my hope in foolish things.

I confess I have loved my belongings, money, relationships, and career in ways that do not reflect your kingdom. I have treasured possessions and set my affections on things that moths and rust destroy. Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Assurance

In Jesus you have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken!

He has made his people a kingdom and priests unto God, living stones that He's building up- a people for His own possession.

All the benefits of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus belong to you. Your sins, without distinction, are forgiven. You are sons and daughters proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His light.

Prayer

Parts of the City

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jer. 29:7)

Edmond
South OKC / Moore / Norman
East OKC / Midwest City
Downtown
Yukon
Shawnee

Day 24 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Philippians 4:19-20

May God supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Boast in the Cross ()

Not by works, and not that I'm wise
Not by goodness, and not by might
Only in the cross of Christ
Am I found, bought and justified

I will boast in the cross of Christ
I will boast in the cross
I will boast in the cross of Christ
I will boast in the cross

Only in Jesus
Only in Jesus
Only in Jesus
I will boast in the cross

Day 25 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:17-32

Confession

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory. Too often I turn to the riches of this world for comfort in order to numb the pain of my soul apart from your presence. I confess that I have worshiped the idol of comfort. Forgive me, O God of all comfort.

Too often I twist relationship with God and try to use him to accomplish my purposes, desires, and ambitions as though power is mine and he serves me. I confess that I have worshiped the idol of power. Forgive me, O God of all power.

Too often I strive to eliminate uncertainty by trying to control my health, relationships, and circumstances as true security. I confess that I have worshiped the idol of control. Forgive me, O God - ruler of all.

Too often I spend my life seeking the applause and good opinions of those around me in an attempt to prove my worth in this world. I confess that I have worshiped the idol of approval. Forgive me, O God who defines my worth. I have exchanged the glory of God for idols.

Assurance

For all those who look on the Son of God -

Hear the promise of Jesus, the Idol Crusher, "Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out." The God of all comfort sees you in your distress. He promises nearness and defense to all who call on him. Through Jesus, you have not been given a Spirit of fear. But of power, love and a sound mind.

Your sovereign King works all things together for your good. You are free to rest in His control that never fails. Your Father gets the final word over you, "You are my child and with you I am well pleased."

God supplies all our needs from his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Spend time acknowledging and enjoying God as Father.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Petition God to push back darkness wherever it is found.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Ask God for your own needs and the needs of our church family.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Confess your sins to God and forgive anyone who has offended or wronged you.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Pray for God's protection over your own soul and the people of Frontline, that the Enemy would not win.

Day 25 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace: and the God of love and peace will be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

None Like Our God (Kristi Hepp, Charlie Hall, Kori Hall)

There was no one else coming for us
Who could pay our debt?
No one else was coming

We sold ourselves to darkness
Who could buy us back?
No one else was coming

What God would give His Son?
What God would come to us?
To buy back unworthy ones
Would pour His blood
Crimson love

What King would leave His throne?
Yet, ours stripped off His robe
As one man brought sin
So, one man redeems us
We are free
By Christ our King

The cursed tree that hung His flesh
A rebel's death
There's none like our God

Though fit to wear the Holy Crown
Our servant bowed
There's none like our God

What love would spare no cost, no cross
No price too high
There's none like our God

What God would wear our curse, our shame
Unto the grave
There's none like our God

There's none like our God
He walked among us
There's none like our God
He wore the same flesh

There's none like our God
You broke our darkness
There's none like our God
You name us righteous

What God would give His Son?
What God would come to us?
To buy back unworthy ones
Would pour His blood
Crimson love

What King would leave His throne?
Yet, ours stripped off His robe
As one man brought sin
So, one man redeems us
We are free
He changes everything

Day 25 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 26 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:33-42

Confession

God of strength and might, you've chosen the foolish in the world
To shame the wise and the weak in the world to shame the strong.
But I confess I am conceited, trusting my own wisdom and my own strengths.
Too often I act and think as though I do not need you, instead of rooting myself
In your abundant wisdom and strength. Father, forgive me.

Assurance

For those who embrace their need and receive Jesus, the grace of God is sufficient for you.
For his power is made perfect in weakness and his power is perfectly displayed in Jesus.
Who, for the joy set before Him and for your sake endured the cross, despised the shame and is now
seated in power at the right hand of God.

You have been crucified with Christ. You no longer live but Christ lives powerfully in you. And the life you
now live in weakness you live by faith in Jesus Christ who loved you and gave himself for you. When we
are weak, in Christ we are strong!

Prayer

Concentric Circles

Pray for yourself

"... casting all your anxieties on the Lord because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Pray for your family

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)

Pray for Frontline Community Groups

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the
household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

Pray for Frontline and churches in your city

"... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all per-
severance, making supplication for all the saints ..." (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for your city

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for
in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for our nation and the nations

"... if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn
from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2
Chronicles 7:14)

Day 26 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 96:1-5

Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples
are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Mightier Than I

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Mark 1:4-8

John the Baptist was a spectacle to see. John roamed the wilderness fashioned in his own camel hair attire held together by a tattered leather strip of cord. As the world consumed choice foods for enjoyment John preferred a diet consisting of fresh locust and organic honey. As the city clamored for new sights and sounds, John lived to please God. John was a rebel to many and a revolutionary to others. Some mimicked John while others mocked John. No matter what you thought about John, the entire city of Jerusalem traversed the wilderness just to see him. They were not prepared for what they experienced.

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight’”. Awaiting the travelers was no superhero with a cape flapping in the wind, no silver tongued orator proclaiming new methods to maximize your potential. Awaiting was a voice, A voice saying “get ready because someone is coming worth your emulation”. John says there is someone coming mightier than I who will do more than wash your external filth with water but will cleanse your internal sin and corruption by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit! Man can only provide man sized solutions to God sized problems But God (I feel like preaching!) and God alone has the ability to cure the sin virus beyond man’s reach with a Holy Ghost inoculation. Prepare the way.

For your meditation:

Where are you hoping for man to provide what only God can?

Day 26 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 27 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

Confession

My Father, forgive me for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your greatness.
Lord Jesus, forgive me when I forget that you rule the nations and the details of my life.
Holy Spirit, I offend you in minimizing your power and wasting your gifts.

I confess that my self-centeredness has resulted in shallow confession and mild repentance.
I have ignored your goodness and presence this week, and have turned my eyes to idols and away from you.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Forgive me.

Assurance

Remember: God has not forgotten You.
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
For all your works we give thanks to you.
The life, death and resurrection of Jesus covers your sin and He is enthroned as our King.
Christ Jesus, we shall speak of the glorious splendor of your everlasting kingdom
And your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Prayer

Prayers for the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the one who prays for us (Rom. 8:26), regenerates dead hearts (John 3), convicts of sin (John 16:8), speaks to us (John 16:13), and pours out the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Pray that Frontline would be a people:

Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

Known for the “fruit of the Spirit” in our lives – (Gal. 5:22, 23)

Empowered to witness – (Acts 1:8)

Earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (I Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1-3) more healing, prophecy, miracles, faith, etc.

Day 27 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

1 Samuel 2:7-8

The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.
He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
and on them he has set the world.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed (Isaac Watts)

Alas and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I

Thy body slain sweet Jesus Thine
And bathed in its own blood
While all exposed to wrath divine
The glorious sufferer stood

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree
Amazing pity, grace unknown
And love beyond degree

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut His glories in
When Christ the mighty maker died
For man the creature's sin

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness
And melt my eyes to tears

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe
Here Lord I give myself away
'Tis all that I can do

Day 28 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-15

Confession

The Lord Is my shepherd, I shall not want
He makes me lie down in green pastures
He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul
And leads me into paths of righteousness for his name's sake-
Yet I surrender to my own restless heart.
I turn to my own rebel lusts and avoid the abundance of Your all sufficient supply.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me-
Yet I surrender to my own restless heart.
I do not trust in your ever abiding presence and allow fear to lead me away from Your righteous path.

Assurance

In the death and resurrection of Jesus-
You've been welcomed to feast with God. He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies
and anoints my head with oil. My cup overflows.
In Christ, you have received the fullness of the benefits of God, forgiving your sin, redeeming your life,
satisfying you with good, and crowning you with steadfast love and mercy. Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer

Our Mission: Love God - Love People - Push Back Darkness

Love God, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all
your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Love People, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with
brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs
of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

Push Back Darkness, " ... to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the
power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are
sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)

Day 28 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 23:5-6

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Kiss the Wave (Hilary Burkhart and Kristi Hepp)

My days are marked by hiding
In hopes no one will see
My emptiness, this brokenness
The vastness of my need

Your hand was heavy on me
The weight of all my sin
My nakedness, You came for this
To cover me instead

I must learn to kiss the waves
That throw me against the Rock of Ages

We saw You in the garden
Bearing all our grief
Our emptiness, our brokenness
The vastness of our need

Lifted up before us
Our hope upon a tree
You bore our curse, You loved us first
You drank our suffering

Oh, Christ, You bore the wave
To lead us unto the Rock of Ages

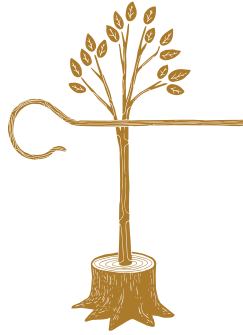
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself
Let me hide myself

In Your scars and suffering
Let me hide myself
Let me hide myself

Soon we'll see Your glory
When suffering will cease
Face to face, our sin erased
This song we'll ever sing

Oh Christ, You bore the wave
To lead us unto the Rock of Ages

Rock of ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure



Week of March 21st

Hosea 10:12

*Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground,
for it is the time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.*

Day 29 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:16-24

Confession

Father, I confess I love this world. Its desires and lusts are not just outside of me but inside as well. They are a heavy weight on my heart and I need your help.

Father forgive me.

Assurance

Receive the assurance of your faith:

Jesus sets his eyes on his disciples and says,

“You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world.”

You who mourn over your sin, weep no more in your fear of abandonment.

God will never leave you or forsake you. God is not ashamed of your poverty or put off by your confession, but fills up your lack with the blessing of His kingdom.

He who knew no sin became sin for us, and offered us the righteousness of God.

Rest, and be satisfied in the approval of your Father.

Prayer

Pray for Vocations

Teachers

Medical professionals

Military / law enforcement

Business professionals

Government

Stay-at-home parents

Trades – carpenter, plumber, etc

Other

Day 29 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

1 John 5:20-21

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

What Do You Need?

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” - Matthew 4:1-4 ESV

When I was a kid I read a book about a boy who became lost in the wilderness and had to survive alone for several weeks until being rescued. What a story! As a 3rd grader, I fantasized about being in the position of having to provide everything I'd ever need on my own with just a pocket knife and a handmade fishing line. I knew I could do it. I could disappear from home for a few weeks, returning only with a healthy body and a journal of stories about surviving the dangers of the wilderness in my own cunning and strength. I needed nothing else. Never mind that I hardly felt comfortable staying overnight at a friend's house, I had what it took should the need arise.

In Matthew 4, Jesus really is alone in the wilderness. He has no shelter, no food, no backpack of tools or resources like all the great television survivalists carry. When the enemy comes to tempt Him, it's with all of the things that we're convinced we need. The voice whispers:

“Aren't you hungry? Why not just make bread?”

“Want everyone to know how great you are? Just show them.”

“You deserve to have way more than you have, take what is rightfully yours!”

This voice sounds familiar to me. I can only imagine what Jesus must have felt in those 40 days. Every temptation laid before Him seems to appeal to His humanity. Physical hunger. Loneliness and isolation. Longing for God the Father to meet Him in His fasting. The tempter's voice says, “Wouldn't it just be easier to set this aside and take hold of what you need?”

And unlike my childhood fantasy of showing that I could provide everything I needed for myself, Jesus has a different response. He says His greatest need is the very Word of God. The voice of the Father speaks life to Him and is what meets His needs, and it's much different than the tempter's voice. This is the voice He heard at His baptism. The voice that says, “Before you set foot in this wilderness, you were my Son, with You I'm well pleased”.

Take a second and think about what you need today. As real as those needs feel or may actually be, there's something else you need first. The very word that proceeds from the mouth of the Father. And His word to you is, “In Jesus you are sons and daughters! I'm well pleased.”

For Your Meditation:

In what ways is the Father inviting you to hear His voice and feel your need for Him above everything else as you continue this season of Lent?

Day 29 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 30 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

Confession

God, You are light and in You there is no darkness at all.

I confess I have broken fellowship with You.

I confess I have sinned and deceived myself.

I confess I've broken fellowship with my brothers and sisters.

Father forgive me.

Assurance

This is the good news for those who place their life and trust in Jesus-

If you confess your sins, He is faithful! He is just!

He will forgive those sins, and cleanse you from all unrighteousness!

Prayer

Prayer Through Acts 2

Acts 2:42-43

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Pray for:

- Devotion to word of God
- Devotion to each other
- Breaking of bread together
- Awe and expectation to fill our souls
- Miracles

Acts 2:44-45

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

Pray for:

- Unity
- Leadership
- Ministry teams
- The needy among us

Acts 2:44-45

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.”

Pray for:

- Grateful people
- God’s work in and through the church
- Generous church
- Increase of Jesus’ ministry
- Persons of peace in the city

Day 30 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Matthew 5:3-9

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Nothing But the Blood (Robert Lowry)

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon, this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing, this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Now by this I'll overcome
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Now by this I'll reach my home
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
There's no other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Day 30 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.*
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.*
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.*
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.*
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.*

Journal Page

Day 31 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:1-6

Confession

Father, Son, Holy Spirit, you are a fountain of love whose presence is full of abundance, delight, promise and joy. The weight of your presence overflows and enchants the earth with worship, forgiveness, beauty, and holiness. You have called us to be your temple, a dwelling place for your presence and a light to the nations.

But we are a people of unclean lips, who are prone to be content with religious appearance void of the power of God. And we confess that often we are a stiff-necked people, Joining the world in corrupting the society we are called to transform. We are guilty before your holiness, O God.

Forgive us of our hollow worship and rebellious hearts of stone.

O God, give us hearts of flesh that we might receive your renewing presence, and extend it to the world.

Assurance

For all who rest in the mediating death and resurrection of Jesus, the Cornerstone:

He is the thin place where heaven and earth meet; where God and man are reconciled.

Now you are a dwelling place for his presence, and he is your God.

In the sight of God, You are chosen and precious, a holy priesthood, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ and established to fill the earth with his glory.

Prayer

Listening Prayer

We believe God speaks to His people. Prayer is not a one-way conversation; God will talk to us. The invitation from God is to quiet our minds and hearts to listen to what He might be saying. Take a few minutes and walk through these listening exercises.

“Fixing your eyes on Jesus”

Imagine Jesus sitting in front of you. The Scriptures are clear that He is “for us, not against us.” Confident in His love for you and like you would talk to a friend ... what would you say to Him?

Take at least 2 minutes and say those things to Him out loud

Now, like you would with a friend...listen for what He has to say back to you.

Day 31 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Nearer the Cross *(Will Gaines)*

Nearer the cross my heart can say
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Nearer the cross from day to day
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer

Nearer the cross where Jesus died
Nearer the fountain's crimson tide
Nearer my Savior's wounded side
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Nearer the Christian's mercy seat
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Feasting my soul on manna sweet
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer

Stronger in faith more clear I see
Jesus who gave Himself for me
Nearer to Him I still would be
Still I'm coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Nearer in prayer my hope aspires
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Deeper in love, my soul desires
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
Nearer the end of toil and care
Nearer the joy I long to share
Nearer the crown I soon shall wear
I am coming nearer, I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

To the cross is where I find my refuge and
strength
To the cross is where I find my refuge and
strength

I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer
I am coming nearer

Day 31 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Journal Page

Day 32 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:7-14

Confession

Jesus, you are a faithful, and pursuing God!

But we confess, that while you have been faithful, we have been unfaithful.

We seek comfort in the pleasures of the world, neglecting what can only be found in you.

Christ have mercy on us, and open our eyes; that we may clearly see you,

And your never ending, always pursuing love.

Assurance

You are the Bride of Christ! In the cross and resurrection of Jesus, God has loved you with a pursuing, everlasting love. When He saw you dead in your sin, He called to you: LIVE!

He covered your nakedness in His righteousness and made you His own.

In Christ You are pursued, you are desired, and God is jealous for your heart.

And you can be confident, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Listening to God through the Word

Open your Bible to Psalm 16 (any Psalm will do).

Read the chapter through out loud twice and, as you're reading, notice what words or phrases stand out to you. It may be that a unique thought or a picture or even a person comes to mind.

Assume this is God speaking to you, and turn those "highlighted" words or thoughts or pictures into your own prayers to God.

Day 32 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Revelation 22:17

*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."
And let the one who hears say, "Come."
And let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who desires take the
water of life without price.*

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

In Christ Alone: Employee vs. Beggar

"Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. But to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."

Romans 4:4–5

There are two different ways that people approach God. We can either come to God as an employee or as a beggar. When we come as an employee, we work hard for God. As long as we do what we are told, God will give us our check at the end of the day. As an employee, as long as we don't quit or get fired, we still get paid for our work. The biggest problem with this is that none of us have ever lived up to our job description. If we got what we earned, we would get the pink slip and not a paycheck. We have earned punishment for failing to live a righteous life. The truth is that there is only one man who ever lived rightly as God would have him. He did not sin or turn from God. He did not place other things above God. He followed the Lord in every way that was commanded. He never hated or lusted. He never lied or stole. He didn't falter one time. Truly, He was the only righteous man who has ever lived since the beginning of creation. His name is Jesus. When Jesus died, He substituted His life for ours. He lived His perfect life in our place.

Because of Jesus, there is another way to approach God. We can come to Him as a beggar. We don't come bringing our works, but we come empty-handed. Our hope is not based on how righteous we are but how righteous Jesus is. God wants all of us to come to Him as ungodly beggars rather than righteous employees. When we approach Him empty-handed, trusting only in His goodness and grace to save us, the righteous life of Christ is counted as if we had done it. He credits it to our accounts. God looks at us as if we had performed everything just as He said. We must lay aside trying to work to earn God's love. Instead, we must stop working and trust in the God who gives us righteousness by faith alone. In Christ, we can rest assured that God will never leave us or forsake us because of our sin.

For your meditation:

Do you approach God as an employee or as a beggar? Are you working so that God will love you, or are you working because God has already given you His love? How does it look to rest in Christ for righteousness? Think through specific situations and how you would have responded differently if you had meditated on this truth.

Day 33 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:15-23

Confession

Father, we have pulled away from you by preferring your gifts over your presence, and choosing our own way over your wisdom.

We confess that we have broken relationship with the Father.

In your Church You are building a household of unity, but we have isolated ourselves by choosing selfishness over sacrificial love. We have held onto offenses when we should offer forgiveness.

We confess that we have broken relationships with our brothers and sisters.

You are building a place of refuge for all to come and find safety. But we have embraced gossip and bitterness in our hearts, and neglected to extend your heart of hospitality toward those around us.

We confess that we have corrupted the house that you meant to be a refuge of grace.

Assurance

Children of God, based on the finished work of Jesus, receive this assurance.

All who come to the Father are restored and adopted as his own. By his shed blood, Jesus brings us into the family of God. His house is a home for all who run into it. By the power of the Holy Spirit, every division among us will be torn down and we will be unified as brothers and sisters sharing a common faith, baptism, and Father.

The Father loves you. The Son has come to you. The Spirit makes his home with you.

Prayer

ACTS – Pray through Scriptures of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication

Adoration – Psalms 145-150

Confession – Psalm 51, Nehemiah 9

Thanksgiving – Psalm 136

Supplication – I Kings 8

Day 33 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Galatians 6:9-10

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Jesus, My Victory

*(Blake Burrough, Abby Leonard, Will Gaines,
Molly Devine, Aaron Mowery, Megan Haley, Marcy Priest)*

Sweet exchange, marvelous mystery
The Perfect one became the sins of many
So we'd return, back to the Father
Adopted as His sons and daughters

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

My curse on Him, my death to taste
His precious blood, He did not waste
Cause it is finished, we're dead to sin
He has raised us up to be with Him

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

Who is like the Lord?
Who bent low to save us.
Where is our hope?
It's only Jesus, only Jesus.

At the cross You gave Yourself for me
May I give myself to Thee
Never losing sight of the beauty of Your name
Jesus, my victory

Day 34 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-29

Confession

Jesus, you are the head of the church, which is your body, and having been baptized into you, we are now members of your body.

But we confess that we have not eagerly maintained our unity and bond of peace, that was bought by your blood and freely given. In our pride we create divisions by wrongly elevating some above others and harmfully amputating those we view as less valuable.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

Jesus, you left the glories of heaven to be with us. You put on flesh, and with your healing touch reached into our brokenness and longing. You taught us how to live and die as you drank the cup of suffering for us. You brought us your presence and freely gave us both your life and death.

But we confess we have simply become like the world, desiring luxury and indulgence, and loving what it loves. We have turned inward and withheld our presence from the world.

Out of fear, we have built walls between us and the needs of others, neglecting to offer the grace and presence of the true life you offer. We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

Assurance

In Christ, your trespasses were nailed to the cross— you are forgiven, and all your debts canceled. Jesus has triumphed over all rulers, authorities, and spiritual darkness.

You are now dead to sin, and raised alive together with Christ. You are the children of God, beloved of the Father— with a future and a hope. You are His ambassadors carrying His message of reconciliation to the world.

Prayer

Parts of the City

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jer. 29:7)

Edmond
South OKC / Moore / Norman
East OKC / Midwest City
Downtown
Yukon
Shawnee

Day 34 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Colossians 2:2-3

May your hearts be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

I Need Jesus *(Hilary Burkhart)*

I need the One who made me
Who gives life to my bones
I need the One who is Holy
The only One who's good

I need the One who came for me
Who lived perfect in my place
The One that bled and died for me
The only One who saves

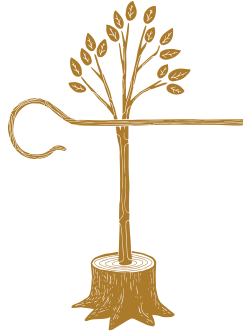
Jesus, Jesus

I need the perfect Son of God
Who is Holy, true, and good
I need the One who bore the wrath
So that I never would

I need the One who tasted death
And was buried in the grave
I need the sacrificial Lamb
My pleasing righteousness

I need the One who rose again
Who has conquered all my sin
The One who reigns in Heaven now
The One who'll come again

Jesus, Jesus
You're all I need
So be all I want
Jesus



Week of March 28th

Hosea 12:6

*So you, by the help of your God, return,
hold fast to love and justice,
and wait continually for your God.*

Day 35 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:1-23

Confession

Father in Heaven, You are the Great I Am, the Beginning and the End.

You are not dependent on me. You are all-sufficient and limitless in all ways, offering me abundance of life. I cannot exist apart from you. I am limited and dependent.

I need breath, food, water, shelter, relationships, and wholeness that only You provide.

I confess that I have sinned against You by acting independently of You.

In my pride I have put myself in Your place as the All-Sufficient God.

I have withheld my dependencies, and attempted to meet all of my needs by my own designs.

Father, forgive me.

Assurance

This is the good news-

In Christ, divine power has been given to you in all things for life and Godliness.

He has given you His precious and great promises through the knowledge of Christ who called you to His own glory and excellence, so that through those promises you may share in the divine nature of Christ.

He has rescued you from the dominion of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of His Son, by whom you have received redemption and adoption!

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Spend time acknowledging and enjoying God as Father.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Petition God to push back darkness wherever it is found.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Ask God for your own needs and the needs of our church family.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Confess your sins to God and forgive anyone who has offended or wronged you.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Pray for God's protection over your own soul and the people of Frontline, that the Enemy would not win.

Day 35 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Keep Me Near The Cross *(Fanny Jane Crosby & Whitney Cacho)*

Jesus keep me near the cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calvary's mountain

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever
Until my restless soul would find
Rest within my Savior

Near the cross, oh Lamb of God
Bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows over me

Jesus keep me near the cross
Where I find my healing
Let this restless soul find its rest in Thee
Christ be my glory

Look no further, oh my soul, for your fill
His mercy, His justice, His love
Oh how they beckon me still
So look no further my soul than Calvary's hill

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever
Until my restless soul would find
Rest within my Savior

Day 35 - Evening

Examen

Pray through the prayer of Daily Examen (See Appendix for information on the Daily Examen)

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.*
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.*
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.*
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.*
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.*

Journal Page

Day 36 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:24-53

Confession

Our Father in Heaven, You are the Omnipresent God.

The highest heaven can't contain You. You are never confined by space and time.

In all places and moments You lead me and hold me. You are God with me.

But I have sinned against You.

I am limited to space and time and by rejecting the present moment, I strive to be everywhere, at all times, with everyone. In my pride I have put myself in Your place as Omnipresent.

Father, forgive me.

Assurance

This is the good news in Christ - We cannot go anywhere from Your Spirit! And we can never run away from Your presence! If we go up to heaven, You are there! If we make our bed in the depths, You are there! Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Not tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or war! Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer

Concentric Circles

Pray for yourself

"... casting all your anxieties on the Lord because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Pray for your family

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)

Pray for Frontline Community Groups

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

Pray for Frontline and churches in your city

"... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints ..." (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for your city

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for our nation and the nations

"... if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Day 36 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:3-6

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Poetic Meditations

Weight of Sorrows (Kristi Hepp, Matt Polk, Emilie Polk, Will Gaines, Molly Devine)

My betrayal
My abandon
My sin moved You towards the cross

My transgressions
My afflictions
Earned the lashes on Your back

My hands did this
I deserved death
But Christ, You hung there in my place

Weight of sorrow
I have done this
You were buried in my grave

Oh, why this load now
Do I still carry?
Your blood has saved me, You won't forsake me
Oh, why this weight now
Do I still carry?
Your blood has saved me, You won't forsake me

Teach me to turn my gaze
From all I've done to grace
Your blood has saved me
You won't forsake me

Help me to lift my eyes
From who I was to Christ
Your blood has saved me
You won't forsake me

God of justice
God of mercy
God in Christ, You pardoned us

God of comfort
God of healing
God in Christ, You welcomed us

Day 37 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:54-71

Confession

Our Father in Heaven, you are an infinite and intimate Sovereign God.

You laid the earth's foundation, walked the recesses of the deep, calmed storms, and raised Christ from the dead. Your dominion is an everlasting dominion, and Your kingdom endures from generation to generation.

You can do all things, and no purpose of Yours can be moved.

But Father, I have sinned against You.

I am limited in my achievements and ability to control or fix anything and in my selfishness I have avoided embracing my weakness.

I've strived to know everything, and control everything.

In my pride I have put myself in Your place as the Omnipotent, Sovereign God.

Father, forgive me, and help me trust and surrender to your good will.

Assurance

In Christ we have a great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who has passed through the heavens.

He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, and not ashamed to call us brother.

He was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Because of His great work for us, we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence

And receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer

Prayers for the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the one who prays for us (Rom. 8:26), regenerates dead hearts (John 3), convicts of sin (John 16:8), speaks to us (John 16:13), and pours out the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Pray that Frontline would be a people:

Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

Known for the "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives – (Gal. 5:22, 23)

Empowered to witness – (Acts 1:8)

Earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (I Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1-3) more healing, prophecy, miracles, faith, etc.

Day 37 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:7-9

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Spy Wednesday

"Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him."

Matthew 26:14–16

John the Baptist was a spectacle to see. John roamed the wilderness fashioned in his own camel hair attire held together by a tattered leather strip of cord. As the world consumed choice foods for enjoyment John preferred a diet consisting of fresh locust and organic honey. As the city clamored for new sights and sounds, John lived to please God. John was a rebel to many and a revolutionary to others. Some mimicked John while others mocked John. No matter what you thought about John, the entire city of Jerusalem traversed the wilderness just to see him. They were not prepared for what they experienced.

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight'". Awaiting the travelers was no superhero with a cape flapping in the wind, no silver tongued orator proclaiming new methods to maximize your potential. Awaiting was a voice, A voice saying "get ready because someone is coming worth your emulation". John says there is someone coming mightier than I who will do more than wash your external filth with water but will cleanse your internal sin and corruption by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit! Man can only provide man sized solutions to God sized problems But God (I feel like preaching!) and God alone has the ability to cure the sin virus beyond man's reach with a Holy Ghost inoculation. Prepare the way.

For your meditation:

Allow yourself to enter into the emotions of this day. Would you be somber today as you continually ponder the treachery of Judas? Our Savior was sold out by one of His closest friends for virtually nothing. This should upset those of us who love Jesus. Wednesday is a sad, disappointing day.

Day 38 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:1-25

Confession

Our Father in Heaven, You are the immutable, unchanging God, the same yesterday, today and forever. There is no shadow of changing with You.

But Father, I have sinned against You.

In my pride I have exchanged the truth of who You are and have placed my faith in a changing world, and my own fleeting passions, while denying my aging body, and the changing seasons of loss, growth, and life.

Father, forgive me.

Assurance

In Christ we have a great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who has passed through the heavens.

He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, and not ashamed to call us brother.

He was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Because of His great work for us, we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence

And receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer

Our Mission: Love God - Love People - Push Back Darkness

Love God, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

Love People, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

Push Back Darkness, " ... to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)

Day 38 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

The Supper

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” Matthew 26:26–29

It was the night before His death. Jesus and His twelve disciples were huddled together in an upper room somewhere in the city of Jerusalem. They had gathered together to eat the Passover, an age-old meal rich with the history of God’s redeeming love for His people. The Passover was put in place to serve as a reminder of how God had rescued the people of Israel out of slavery from Pharaoh in Egypt. You remember the story: Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go, so God sent plague after plague to loosen Pharaoh’s grip and break him of his pride. For Pharaoh, all of the plagues were horrible, but the last one was the worst of them all. God made a solemn and holy decision to take the life of every first-born male in all of the land of Egypt—Israeli and Egyptian alike. But to the Israelites, God provided a way of escape. Moses, speaking on behalf of God, told the people to slaughter a pure and spotless lamb and wipe the blood over the doorposts of their houses. In addition, God’s people were to go inside of their houses, roast the slaughtered lamb, and eat it. That fateful night, God swiftly and silently swept through Egypt and took the life of every first-born son in every house in Egypt; but in an act of undeserved grace and love, He passed over those houses covered with the blood of the lamb. This became known as “the Passover,” and for centuries, God’s people would huddle together in houses all across Jerusalem and eat this sacred meal. But for Jesus’s twelve disciples, this would be an unforgettable Passover meal.

At some point during the supper, Jesus stopped and did something scandalous. He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying these words: “take, eat; this is My body.” His disciples must have been shocked! Was Jesus trying to say that He was the true Passover meal? What Jesus would say next would leave absolutely no doubt in their minds. Again, He interrupted dinner and passed around of a cup of wine, saying: “drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” It couldn’t have been articulated more clearly.

Jesus was pointing to the Passover meal and saying that it was all about Him. Jesus was trying to show His disciples (and all of us) that the events surrounding the first Passover were simply a shadow of what He was going to do for us. You see, because of our rebellion against God, we each deserve to be crushed. We are as hard-hearted and disobedient as Pharaoh himself. Like the first-born sons in Egypt, we deserve to die because of our sin. But instead of taking our lives, the Son of God gives His life for us.

Jesus, the True Lamb, would be strung up on a cross, and His blood would be shed for rebels like you and me. And God’s wrath would pass over us, but His love and grace would come crashing down upon us.

For your meditation:

Today, join Christians from all over the world as we huddle together underneath the cross and find forgiveness through the broken body and shed blood of Jesus. Are you starving for love today? Jesus is turning to you with these words: “Take, eat; this is My body.” Jesus lovingly offers His life to you as broken bread for your hungry soul. Do you fear the wrath of God today? Hide yourself in the house of the gospel and He will pass over you.

Day 39 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:26-43

Confession

You are the Lord of the church, with all authority in heaven and earth,
The Eternal one, the first and the last, the one who died for our sins yet overcame death.

I confess that too often I honor You with my lips, but my heart is far from You.
I practice dead religion, with no delight. I have abandoned You, my first love.
I confess that too often I do what is right in my own eyes with no regard to Your word,
compromising Your perfect wisdom in exchange for idols and lust.

I've abandoned You, my first love. I confess that too often I betray Your standards, truth, and righteousness,
preferring to define my own standards, reality, and righteousness.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me and forgive me.

I have abandoned You, my first love.

Assurance

For those who look to the death and resurrection of Jesus for hope-
He places His hand on our hearts today and says, "do not fear!"
The judgment for your sins has been laid on Him.

Your works do not define you, His righteousness defines you.

The Father has given you a new name and calls you sons and daughters.

He has chosen you before time and has lavished you with His grace, and all wisdom and insight. He has
given you a crown of life and He is preparing for you a never-ending feast.

Prayer

Pray for Vocations

- Teachers
- Medical professionals
- Military / law enforcement
- Business professionals
- Government
- Stay-at-home parents
- Trades – carpenter, plumber, etc
- Other

Day 39 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:13-17

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteous-
ness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give
it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

The Garden

“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Matthew 26:36–45

Jesus had been in this garden before. Whenever life and the pressures of ministry reached a difficult level of intensity, Jesus would slip away to spend time with His Father and be refreshed by the Holy Spirit. This garden called Gethsemane was most likely among Jesus’s favorite places to pray and rest. But this visit to the garden wouldn’t bring any sort of rest, physical or spiritual. Jesus knew that in a matter of hours, He would be arrested, wrongly condemned by the Jews, and executed by the Romans. The Romans had mastered the brutal art of execution, the worst form being crucifixion. Crucifixion was a slow, embarrassing, and horrifically painful way to die. The criminal (for only the worst of the worst were crucified) would be stripped naked, mercilessly beaten, scourged, and nailed to a tree. Worst of all, this would all happen in a very public setting, giving rise to massive crowds of loud and angry mobs mocking the victim. Jesus knew that this terrifying death was fast approaching. But this wasn’t the primary cause of Jesus’s soul being “sorrowful, even to death.” Something worse was coming his way.

Day 39 - Midday

Not only was Jesus going to suffer an immense amount of physical pain on the cross, He was also going to suffer in a spiritual way. God the Father was going to take the sins of His people and place them upon His Son. Jesus had never sinned, let alone tasted the shame and guilt that accompanies sin.

But on the cross, Jesus would identify Himself with sinners so much that He would actually become our sin. And worst of all, Jesus would become the object of God's holy and just wrath towards our sin. You see, Jesus wasn't afraid of Judas betraying Him or Peter rejecting Him. He wasn't afraid of the Jews wrongly accusing Him or even the Romans executing Him. But Jesus was absolutely terrified and in a state of shock at the thought of becoming our sin and drinking the cup of God's anger towards our sin. As Jesus contemplates this terrifying reality, He asks His friends to stay awake with Him, while He spends some time alone in prayer. They don't. Sadly, Jesus comes back to find every one of His closest friends sleeping. Jesus wakes them up and asks them to stay awake and pray. Again, they don't. In the hour of His greatest need, Jesus had no friends to turn to. To make matters even more difficult and painful, Jesus asks His Father for an alternative to the cross. But for the first time in Jesus's life, the Father remains silent. Jesus has no one He can turn to. He is all alone. As C.J. Mahaney said, "The Savior's soul was crucified here in the garden of Gethsemane before His body would be crucified on a hill called Calvary."

For your meditation:

In one sense, this scene in the garden is tragic. But in another sense, this is one of the most beautiful events that has ever occurred. To enter into this garden is to become deeply aware of our sin. But to enter this garden is also to become deeply aware of the heights and depths of God's love for us, despite our sin. Why would Jesus go through with this? Because of His great and unexplainable love, both for you and for His Father. When Jesus asked for an alternative to the cross, He ended His request with these words: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Let this sink in. The Father didn't have to send His Son. Jesus could have backed out at the last minute. But the deep love of God drove Him to the cross.

Day 40 - Morning

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:44-56

Confession

God you are always faithful and steady in your patience toward me.

I've closed my ears and numbed my heart to your correction and call to repentance.

I was spiritually dead, and you made me alive. But I often return to my body of death, doing the very thing I know I shouldn't; when I try to do what is right, my flesh resists constantly.

I confess that too often my heart follows after the false prophets of money, sex, and success; believing in them for joy, freedom, and meaning.

You've offered yourself fully to me, but I am neither hot nor cold.

I'm content to play religious games and offer a lukewarm love back to you.

My halfhearted attempts at loving you completely, are pitiable.

I repent and hold fast to the promise of your forgiveness.

Assurance

For those in Christ, receive the assurance of your faith:

Even in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

When we confess our sin, He does not waver or withhold His forgiveness.

He is not half hearted in His compassion for His people! He spared nothing, He shed His own blood to fulfill these promises to us: If we die with him, we will also live with him; If we endure, we will also reign with him; If we are faithless, he will always remain faithful!

Prayer

Prayer Through Acts 2

Acts 2:42-43

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles."

Acts 2:44-45

"And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need."

Acts 2:44-45

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people."

Pray for:

- Devotion to word of God
- Devotion to each other
- Breaking of bread together
- Awe and expectation to fill our souls
- Miracles

Pray for:

- Unity
- Leadership
- Ministry teams
- The needy among us

Pray for:

- Grateful people
- God's work in and through the church
- Generous church
- Increase of Jesus' ministry
- Persons of peace in the city

Day 40 - Midday

Scripture Meditations

Psalm 51:18-19

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Reflective Prayer

(Meditate on the scriptures)

Devotional Reading

Holy Saturday

“So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.” John 19:40–42

Holy Saturday marks the last day of Holy Week and the day Jesus’s body was laid in the tomb. While the Bible is relatively silent about what actually happened on this day, a lot can be inferred from the events leading up to it and the actions of the disciples surrounding it. Take a moment and put yourself in the shoes of the people who loved and followed Jesus.

On Friday, Jesus’s family and friends witnessed His brutal, public execution. They were in shock as they watched Him mocked and beaten, dragged from one false trial to another, and then nailed to a cross to die right in front of them. They watched in disbelief as their world came apart at the seams. The next day, reality set in. As Jesus’s followers woke up on Saturday morning, shock gave way to anguish and despair. Wishing it had all been a bad dream, they came to the same conclusion: It was all real. Jesus is really dead! We watched His burial! He is gone!

While Jesus’s body lay lifeless in a tomb, regret and anxiety were wreaking havoc on His loved ones as they tried to process their grief. But perhaps more than remorse or guilt or missed opportunities or fear of what was to come, the weightiest matter, for them, was that hope was lost. Jesus had claimed to be God, the Messiah, and they had believed Him. Now what would they do? They had given up everything to follow Him, and now He was dead. On the day Jesus’s body was laid in the grave, as the disciples hid themselves in a room, they may have uttered the words that Paul would later write in 1 Corinthians 15:19, “If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” Because, of course, if Jesus remained in the tomb, all hope of salvation would be lost.

For your meditation:

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–19. What are the implications if Jesus had not been raised from the dead? Before His death, Jesus told His disciples, “take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). What does it look like for you to “take heart” on days of trouble and suffering?

Appendix

The Daily Office

The daily office is an ancient liturgical practice that uses daily prayers to set rhythm for the day. There are set moments, usually morning and evening, to engage in prayer. In this Lenten journey, there are weekly readings that will help engage your heart and mind as you move toward the cross and encounter Jesus. There are daily scripture readings, through the book of Hosea, Matthew, and Luke to remind us to return to faithfulness, kindness and knowing God. There are prayers and meditations that help us repent of sin with the help of the Spirit, reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, and remember the goodness of God our Father.

The Daily Examen

The daily examen is a great way to pray and to look for God's presence in your life. More than 400 years ago St. Ignatius Loyola encouraged prayer-filled mindfulness by proposing what has been called the Daily Examen. The Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and to discern His direction for us. Try this version of St. Ignatius's prayer.

Become aware of God's presence.

Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you—a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.

Review the day with gratitude.

Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.

Pay attention to your emotions.

One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?

God will most likely show you some ways that you fell short. Make note of these sins and faults. But look deeply for other implications. Does a feeling of frustration perhaps mean that God wants you consider a new direction in some area of your work? Are you concerned about a friend? Perhaps you should reach out to them in some way.

Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.

Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

Look toward tomorrow.

Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask Him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for His protection and help. Ask for His wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God.

Fasting

The Heart of the Fast

Over the years, fasting has come and gone from my life in various seasons and for various reasons. Fasting is a mixture of discipline and desire and it seems if I don't lack one, I lack the other. When you get to the heart of fasting it stokes your desire for Jesus which can help create some discipline. But discipline can also stoke desire and thus the two work hand in hand. The heart of the fast is threefold: to draw deeper into communion with Jesus, to lift your eyes to move toward your city to set it free, and to give the life of Jesus in proclamation and living out the gospel. Below are six reasons of "why" a follower of Jesus would pray with a fast. As you review these read the scriptures slowly and ask the Holy Spirit to wake you up to God's heart.

"Fasting is indeed Feasting" - Dallas Willard

Fasting is for Jesus to awake our heart and raise awareness to its need and thirst for Him.

Returning to your first love

Jesus longs for our whole hearts to be His. He wants us to rejoice and long for Him far more than He wants our sacrifices. Repentance without delighting in Jesus is religion, not love.

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; (Joel 2:12)

*"Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth."
(Hosea 6:1-3)*

Feasting on Jesus

Delighting in Jesus, digesting the word of God, the beauty of God, in the presence of God is the food we have that those around us don't see or understand. We don't live on bread alone but in Jesus and His very word.

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (John 4:32-34)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

Receptivity to God's Voice

We need to have our ears peeled to the word of God and voice of the Holy Spirit. When we pray it should look like a conversation. Talking to God and listening.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5)

Deepening our Dependence on Jesus and Accepting Our Limitations

We're called to repent of sin but boast in our weaknesses. This is where God's power rests!

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor. 12:9-10)

*"Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away."
(Psalm 1:1-4)*

Interceding

We want to be a House of prayer. The gathered church, through the prayers of church, looking out to the nations, the lost, and injustices. We want to stand spiritually before the throne of grace, not just for people in the room, but to change the world around us. We believe in a resurrected King, who has all authority, and sits at the right hand of God, who has all resources available to Him, who reigns over His enemies and fills everything. We are asking, seeking, and knocking on the door of Jesus the King of a kingdom that has no end. He is Christ Crucified and Christ Resurrected. He lives and moves, works and never sleeps. So let the prayers of the saints rise like incense inviting God to shape history, right injustice, demonstrate power, bring salvation, through the gathered, interceding, unified church!

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. (2 Chron 7:14-16)

Mission

Prayer with fasting is to move to kingdom work, demonstration and active justice. This is God's heart for us in active fasting.

*"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
(Isaiah 58:6-8)*

In Practicing The Power, Dr. Sam Storms gives us some heartfelt guidelines for fasting.

"Fasting is one way we pursue God. Pursuit is an artifact of love, drawing deeply on God's presence and gazing on His beauty. Fasting is not about denying yourself it is about satisfying yourself in Jesus. Fasting is not a hunger strike, or health dieting, or a manipulation of God's power. Fasting is not physical pain but spiritual pleasure. Fasting is a stance against self-gratification in a consumer-oriented world."
- Sam Storms

Fasting is motivated by deep desire, not suppression of desire but the pursuit of it.

Fasting is feasting on Christ.

Fasting is not an act of willpower but a show of dependence and an appeal for grace from God.

Fasting is not a statement that food or other things are bad but that Jesus is better and God is enough.

Fasting is motivated by the desire to glorify God--our reward is not the applause of man but more of Christ and answering of prayers.

Fasting opens our spiritual ears to discern God's voice and sensitizes our hearts to enjoy God's presence.

Fasting is a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare.

Practice

In closing, my heart is to humbly sound the alarm to add to your prayers and fasting. If you've already connected to the idea, here are some practical handles to fast. Simply put, it is less about what you leave out and more about the time you put towards communion with Jesus in place of that which you're fasting from. Repentance and rejoicing are two passions that go hand in hand. Repentance is changing your mind, your ways, your practices so that Jesus can intersect and change your heart. Within repentance though, we always want to rejoice in Jesus. Rejoicing is reflection on Jesus, treasuring and cherishing Him above all, until the heart is satisfied and lets go of all that it thinks it needs outside of Jesus.

Subtractions:

Social media, entertainment, attitudes, pride, shopping, busyness, mindsets, food, and drink.

Additions:

Meditation, prayer, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, celebration

St. Augustine said that God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them, and not only our hands but also our hearts, minds and attention are clogged with addiction.

Lastly, Tim Keller says extraordinary prayer is united, persistent, and kingdom-centered. In this season we want to join together under Jesus, praying through Him and His accomplished work...united, persistent, and kingdom-centered.

“My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by His Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite Him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Glory to God in the church! Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus! Glory down all the generations! Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!”

(Ephesians 3:14-21 (Message))

 **FRONTLINE**

