

STRONGER

PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE



HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is designed to help direct and unite our church family in prayer. The Bible says that, "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (James 5:16b, AMP). We know that we are attempting things for the Kingdom of God that are far beyond our own abilities. Thankfully, God has given us access to His power and ability. One of the main ways we access His ability and make "tremendous power available" is through prayer.

Use this guide to help you hear God's voice, discern his will, and seek his provision. In addition to following along with the daily scripture readings, prayer prompts, and recommended worship songs, you are also encouraged to practice fasting during these 14 days to further develop intimacy with God.

Because we can all be at different places in our spiritual journeys, we have presented different types of fasts that will help you seek God's face. They're explained on the next few pages. Take time to plan out which days you will be fasting on. You may want to combine a few different types of fasting over these 14 days.

Thank you for having the courage to go on this journey. You will never regret seeking the Lord and responding to what he says.

STRONGER FAMILIES
STRONGER CHURCH
STRONGER CITY

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WORSHIP EACH DAY

You will notice that each day has a worship song to go with the scripture, so we have created a YouTube playlist and a Spotify playlist with every song in this guide.

 YouTube

 Spotify

FASTING GUIDE

JUICE FAST

In this fast, abstain from food and only drink water and 100% juice for a period of time. Drink mildly acidic or non-acidic fruit juices such as apple, grape, peach, and pineapple juice, which are excellent sources of natural and necessary sugar to stabilize blood sugar and keep energy levels up. Raw vegetable juices such as carrot, celery, beet or green vegetable juice combinations are excellent as well. You can do normal daily activities on a juice fast.

COMFORT FAST

Fasting from comfort is a great option if fasting is a new experience for you or if you have any health limitations regarding food-based fasts. If you feel led to participate in this way, here are some ideas of things you can fast from: Electronic Entertainment (TV, Movies, Netflix, Hulu, Video Games), Social Networking Apps or Sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Blogs), or any major thing you find comfort in. Keep in mind, the goal of comfort fasting is to allow space for your hunger to drive you to God, and to not satisfy ourselves with other things. Be intentional about your fast and push yourself out of your comfort zone.

WATER FAST

This type of fast is abstaining from food and only drinking water for a period of time. Drink plenty of water, at least half your body weight in ounces of water per day. Distilled water is most beneficial, but filtered and purified water also works well. A water-only fast is by far the most difficult fast due to the detoxification process that the body goes through and the lack of energy that is experienced as a result of not eating. Many people who are experienced in fasting have fasted this way for 40 days or more. Long-term water fasts are possible, but definitely not comfortable.

You may choose to do a short-term water fast sometime during the 14 days.

DANIEL FAST

This is a partial fast that provides many attributes to the idea of denying self and seeking God but with less discomfort than a juice or water fast. Here are some guidelines for a good Daniel Fast: Foods to eat: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, legumes, 100% juice, natural oils, and water. Foods to avoid: meat, dairy, all natural and artificial sweeteners, all leavened breads, refined and processed foods, fried foods, solid fats, coffee, tea, alcohol, and soft drinks.

SEEKING THE WELFARE

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

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 29:5-7

In 597 BC Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, captured Jerusalem. He captured the king of Judah, as well as thousands of craftsmen, businessmen, and citizens of Judah, and sent them to Babylon. This small Jewish community suddenly found themselves living as captives in a foreign land. They had lost everything and it was the end of life as they knew it!

Then God sent them a message through Jeremiah the prophet: "I sent you here on purpose, and I plan on leaving you here for a while. Don't resist it; instead, plan on building houses and having families; and your kids should get married and have kids here, too!"

Then the Lord said this: "*Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf.*"

Not only had they lost everything and were living as captives in a strange land, but God wanted them to seek the welfare of Babylon! He wanted them to pray for this godless place.

God was bringing His grace to Babylon. Common grace is where God shows His kindness and undeserved goodness to all people; believers and unbelievers. One of the ways He does this is by placing His people to live in the cities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the world.

We may think this is a horrific thing when we are the ones sent to live in Babylon. This world is not our home either; and yet we find ourselves living in a strange land, and the direction from God remains:

"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf."

We're not just supposed to seek their welfare, but we're also supposed to pray to the Lord on their behalf!

Really? We're supposed to pray for this world that seems so opposed to our faith and values? We're supposed to pray for a culture that opposes Jesus?

Yes. "Pray to the Lord on its behalf."

Pray for its welfare, for its peace, for its shalom.

Pray to the Lord on their behalf... because they won't.

He has sent us here to bring His love and grace to them.

He has sent us here and He has asked us to pray for them.

Maybe we should.

GENEROSITY PRAYER

Holy Father, there is nothing we have that You have not given us. All we have and all we are belong to You, bought with the blood of Jesus.

To spend selfishly and to give without sacrifice is the way of the world, but generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord.

So, help us to increase in generosity until it can be said that there is no needy person among us. Help us to be trustworthy with such a little thing as money that You may trust us with true riches.

Above all, help us to be generous because You, Father, are generous. May we show what You are like to all the world.

DAY ONE | INVITATION

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:12-13

"Come, everyone who thirsts..." (Is.55:1), "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden..." (Matt. 11:28), "Come and you will see..." (Jn. 1:39). Come. Scripture is full of invitation. Invitation to come as we are without anything to bring. Invitation to move towards God. To know Him relationally. To receive His love for us. To lay down before His throne, to seek His face, and to bask in His presence. He invites us to draw near to Him, and it's that positioning that fuels everything else. Every act of love or service or generosity, every step of obedience, everything done in His Name and for the glory of His Kingdom, it all comes from here. From His presence. From His goodness. From His love poured out over us. From this place of deep, indwelling intimacy. The invitation is for everyone. Away from our doing in our own strength and into being with Him. We are invited "to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD" (Ps. 27:4). He is near; when we seek Him, we will find Him (Jer. 29:14a). Enter into His presence. Come.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- What barriers do you feel to coming before God? Is there anything you feel you need to bring to gain an audience with the King?
- Expect God. He's moving and working. He's present with you.
- Bring your emotions. He wants to hear them.
- Seek His face. Dwell on His name. Meditate on His character. Remember His love for you.

"Jesus, Master, look upon me, put the earnest cry in my heart, that I may unceasingly, with the apostles' prayer, send forth this as the first and greatest petition of my whole soul: Lord, increase my faith. Amen!"

- ROBERT HAWKER

WORSHIP TODAY

Nothing Else
CODY CARNES



DAY TWO | CONTENTMENT

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever...Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

HEBREWS 13:5-8, 15-16

We live in a culture that does everything it can to make us believe that what we have is never enough, yet God calls us to be content with what we have and to be free from the love of money. We can't do this in our own strength and power; we need the Holy Spirit to sanctify us as we reject being conformed to this world, as He transforms us by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2). This world tells us that what we own is ours, and we deserve what we have and more. But God tells us that everything contained on the earth is His (Psalm 50:8-15, Haggai 2:6-9). And Jesus said to "not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be" (Matthew 6:19-21). Our time, treasure, and talents can be taken away at any time. But Jesus has promised to never leave us; He will never be taken away from us. And what is done for Him and His kingdom will last forever.

So as we look to giving—giving of our time, treasure, and talents—let us remember that we are not giving out of our own resources, but out of what God has entrusted to us to steward for Him. So let us prayerfully steward what God has entrusted to us, asking Him for wisdom (James 1:5), seeking His kingdom first (Matthew 6:33), with praise to God (Hebrews 13:15), and with cheerful hearts (2 Corinthians 9:7).

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Take inventory: where are you storing treasure?
- Ask the Lord to search your heart: is your life free from the love of money? Are you content with what you have? If not (which is most, if not all of us!) spend time confessing and asking the Lord to change this in you.

WORSHIP TODAY

Worthy of it All
THE WORSHIP INITIATIVE



DAY THREE | GRATITUDE

*Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered.*

1 CHRONICLES 16:8-12

Throughout Scripture, God gives us the command to give thanks to Him. As we give thanks, as we praise Him, as we sing and tell of His wondrous works and glory in His holy name, our perspective shifts from the things we see to the things unseen, renewing our inner selves, helping us to not lose heart (2 Corinthians 4:15-18). Practicing gratitude helps us to overcome the tunnel vision we easily get into, and we eventually begin to see a glimpse of God's glory, beauty, and majesty. Our focus shifts from overwhelm or melancholy to seeing the good that is in our lives, to seeing God's hand at work all around us. How wonderful it is that we have salvation through Christ's work on the cross, that we are redeemed and restored to a right relationship with God our Creator, and that with confidence we can draw near to the throne of grace! And yet, how easily we forget and take this for granted. Practicing gratitude helps us to remember, helps us to worship God throughout our day, and helps us to see that we have no good apart from the Lord, that He is our chosen portion and our cup, He holds our lot, and the lines have fallen for us in pleasant places; indeed, we have a beautiful inheritance (Psalm 16).

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- What are you thankful for? Write out a list of things that come to mind, even if they seem insignificant or small.
- How have you seen God at work in your life? In others' lives? Through Redeemer? Take time to thank and praise God for those.

WORSHIP TODAY

Oh, What He's Done For Me
REED'S TEMPLE CHOIR



DAY FOUR | FASTING

*Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.*

PSALM 37:5

Fasting is hard; it shows us our weakness, and too often we try to muscle our way through or we give up because we're not strong enough to endure. But what if our weakness is actually part of the point? Our weakness reminds us that we are not God, and that's good. Our weakness reminds us to depend on His strength. Our weakness allows us to get out of our own way, to stop striving in our own ability, and fix our eyes on God. "[His] strength is sufficient for [us]," and like the apostle Paul, we can "delight in weaknesses" because God's "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9-10). In our weakness we invite Him to move in us in a different way. Fasting strips us of self-reliance and dependence on lesser things. Fasting keeps our hearts from being divided by the distractions of the world—good or bad—and allows us to slow down. Fasting reminds us to hold loosely even the good things, remembering the God who gave them to us and that He provides for us. Fasting focuses our hearts on God, who breathes new life into us. Sometimes we feel desperate, and that's okay. Jesus knows our weakness and sympathizes with us in it (Heb. 4:15). In whatever weakness your fasting brings to the surface, turn your eyes to Jesus.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- What about your fast makes it hard? How can that very thing draw you into Jesus?
- Who are you and who is God? How do you find yourself in His character?
- What keeps you from wanting to release your striving to meet your own needs (whether you seem to be succeeding or failing in that)?
- In increased dependence, how are you seeing God differently?

WORSHIP TODAY

Give Me Faith
HANNAH ABOGADO





DAY FIVE | REFRESHMENT

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.*

PROVERBS 11:25

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

Are you burdened by the darkness of this world? By the tension of living counter-culturally? By knowing the things of God and yet seeing the lies of security, pleasure, and status and wondering if you're missing out? By knowing the wisdom of the world is folly, and yet not always having eyes to see the wisdom of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)? Are you burdened by burn out, broken relationships, injustice, and physical ailment even in the midst of a faithful life?

God is at work in our midst, and his generosity invites us into that work, refreshing our souls. Instead of avoiding the need, the brokenness, the lack—generosity allows us to step into the weight, release the burden of responsibility, and see God's vision and design. We know this world is broken and estranged from God, but we have been made ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). When we give, when we meet needs, when we make the gospel known, we live in the spirit of restoration, and that restores us. Paul writes, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom . . . Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 3:17; 4:1). We are invited into the deep joy of generosity, which revives our souls for the work ahead and allows us to rest in the faithfulness of God. We become agents of renewal, refreshment, encouragement, empowerment, and in the act of bringing those forth, our own hearts receive the same. As the hymn says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus / Look full in his wonderful face / And the things of earth will grow strangely dim / In the light of his glory and grace."

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Where is your soul burned out? Where do you feel burdened and weary?
- Where do you turn for relief from the weight of the world?
- Remember times where God has refreshed your soul. What similarities or themes emerge?
- Do you associate generosity with guilt or joy? What are the effects of giving on your heart?
- What testimonies of generosity have you seen? How can generosity change circumstances and hearts and revive our spirits?
- Rest in the generosity of God and let the sweetness of His provision wash over you?

WORSHIP TODAY

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
SHANE & SHANE

DAY SIX | TRUST

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

MARK 12:41-44

Our trust in God is not measured by what we give but by what we keep. Remember, all that we have is not our own, but is what God has entrusted to us to steward for Him. Whether we are giving out of abundance or poverty, we all get to take part in offering what we have for the Lord to use, for His kingdom. Our earthly investments and purchases will one day be gone, but what we give to the kingdom of God will impact eternity. As we give our time, talents, and treasures to help proclaim the gospel and build up the Church, we get to take part in what God has planned. What a privilege giving is!

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you faith like the poor widow had.
- Think back over ways that God has provided for your needs in the past, and give him thanks.
- Ponder the way that Jesus left the riches of heaven, became a peasant, and then died in your place so that you might experience the true riches of eternal life.
- What does it look like for your giving to demonstrate radical trust in the Lord?

WORSHIP TODAY

The Cost

REND COLLECTIVE



DAY SEVEN | CONFESSION

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!*

PSALM 139:23-24

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

Confession is one of the most powerful things we can do as Christians. It reminds us who we are, who God is, and what He saved us from. It realigns our hearts—so prone to wander—with Him, leads us in humility, and reminds us of the new life we have in Christ. In the place of confession, we receive the outpouring of God’s grace and mercy.

Yet too often when we think of confession, we feel shame and condemnation. We believe the lies of Satan, worrying how others will perceive us, becoming discouraged and hopeless in our continued wickedness, and putting more focus on our sin than on the cross, burying ourselves in shame instead of the conviction that leads us towards life. This is not the fruit of confession, but rather the lies that keep us from its riches. Confession is a continual practice of the reconciling work of the cross. Confession breaks the chains of our sin, testifies to others, and reminds us that even in our wickedness, God chose us, paid the price for our sin, and reconciled us to Him so that we may walk in His resurrection life.

As we understand the darkness of our sin, His mercy shines more brilliantly. Rather than withdrawing into guilt, avoidance, shame, or confusion, step into the abundant life of the cross.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Humbly approach God’s throne, asking Him to reveal your heart to you and any areas where it is inconsistent with His heart.
- What resistance do you sense? What fears? What desires?
- Do any of the warnings from Matthew 6 ring true for you? Jesus mentions practicing your righteousness before others, serving money, and being anxious. If God has highlighted one of these areas, bring it before God’s throne.
- What other sins or lies of the world are keeping you from fully embracing God?
- Repent before God and thank Him for Jesus’s work on the cross to reconcile you to Him. Remember, where you are weak, He is strong; where you do not feel equipped, His purposes thrive. Come confidently before His throne of grace. You are forgiven.

WORSHIP TODAY

Approach Now The Mercy Seat
GREGORY WILBUR & KATY SNOW

DAY EIGHT | SURRENDER

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

ISAIAH 43:19

Where are you putting your trust? The world tells us to earn and save, and while these are good and God uses them, they cannot make us secure. God has proven His provision time and time again, but too often the tangible resources in our lives—our abilities, our assets, our income, even our community—feel more reliable. There's little in life we can control, and we tend to prefer an insecure semblance of control over the act of surrender. We know that tragedy happens and that we do not possess the power to keep the good things in our lives; still, we try, living out of anxiety, which spirals into fear or buries under arrogance. But God offers us a better way. God offers us trust in Him. The best and hardest thing we can do is take our hands off, let go of what we feel the desperate need to cling to, and cling to Jesus instead, trusting Him as our safe harbor. Knowing that He is the only One with the power to move and yet He is also a good Father who loves us, who cares for us, and who provides for us. We cannot keep ourselves from burdens, but we can rely on Him to use every burden and to provide within their midst. Release the lies of control to the safety of Jehovah Jireh, of El Roi, of Abba, and in the place of surrender, meet God like never before. In surrender our trust grows.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- When it comes to generosity, where do you not feel free? Press in.
- In Matthew 6 Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What do you treasure—security, status, family, etc.—and do you trust Jesus to hold them even when He moves outside of your instincts or perception of good?
- Earnestly ask yourself, "Does God need my help?" and "Does God care about my needs and desires?" and process your answers with Him.
- Remember: How do you know God is trustworthy? Where has He shown His faithfulness and provision in your life, in the lives of those around you, in Redeemer, and in your community?
- Thank God for meeting your needs in expected and unforeseen ways and for everything He's brought to beauty in the process.

WORSHIP TODAY

Undivided Heart
DAVY FLOWERS



DAY NINE | VISION FOR REDEEMER

*These I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.*

ISAIAH 56:7

God has done incredible things since Redeemer was planted in 2006. From meeting in a living room, to moving to the Trinity Arts Center (where “worship in the round” began), to moving to the King’s Centre. Each of us have been impacted by the Lord through Redeemer Community Church. And He’s not finished yet. He has more in store for us and others. Although we don’t know all the things God will do in this next stage, we do know that Redeemer will continue to be a church that seeks to be a house of prayer—a place where all kinds of people gather together and seek to know God, to become like Jesus, and to help others do the same.

Think about the ways that having a building could help us fulfill more of our vision to cultivate stronger families, a stronger church, and a stronger community. A new home for Redeemer could result in:

- Greater Availability (facilities that can be utilized for ministry throughout the week)
- Greater Stability and Continuity (allowing the church to establish long-term programs, traditions, and a more tangible presence in the community).
- Greater Accessibility (parking that makes access safer and easier for visitors as well as the younger—and older—regular attenders of our church)
- Greater Functionality (environments designed to enhance our worship, our ministry to children & youth, our discipleship, our fellowship, and our outreach).
- Greater Symbolism and Identity (a visible symbol of faith and landmark that reinforces our identity and calling within our community).
- Greater Allocation of Energy (lots of time would be freed up from not having to set up and tear down each week,
- Greater Financial Stewardship (instead of paying rent, we would be building equity, and we would no longer be vulnerable to ownership changing)

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Take some time today to pray and ask God to provide a home for Redeemer.
- If you are mourning over leaving the King Centre, take some time to list out what you will miss, and ask the Lord to help you mourn over losing them while still trusting Him as He leads our church in this way.

WORSHIP TODAY

Believe For It
CECE WINANS

DAY TEN | THE WELFARE OF 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

It's easy to get spiritually near-sighted: looking only at how I am affected, what the Lord has for me, what I get out of a sermon, and so on. But God did not place us here just for ourselves. And he doesn't want us to be isolated or removed from our city. In the passage above, the Israelites had been exiled to Babylon; they were forced to leave their true home and live somewhere else. If we are in Christ, our true citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), and we are exiles in this life. So as exiles, how can we seek the welfare of the city where God has sent us? How can we pray on the city's behalf? How can our city's welfare be Redeemer's welfare? How can Redeemer be a light in this city, and how could having a building help us have an outward-faced posture toward our community?

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Ask God how we as a church can seek the welfare of our city. Listen, and write down what comes to mind. Spend time praying over these things.
- Take some time today to pray over Johnson City, over ETSU and Miligan, for our local school system, and for our civic and governmental leaders.

WORSHIP TODAY

Prayers of the Saints
MATT REDMAN



DAY ELEVEN | FASTING

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.*

PSALM 127:1-2

Just as the Israelites continuously forgot how God had rescued them out of Egypt, how He miraculously parted the waters for them to be rescued, and how he destroyed all their enemies in a single moment, we continuously forget that God is at work in, through, and around us. We begin to think that it's up to us: up to us to provide for ourselves or our family, up to us to get everything on the to-do list done, up to us to provide the funds needed for Redeemer's future building, up to us to sanctify ourselves, up to us to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. But really, God is the one who provides these things; He's the one who sanctifies us; He's the one who will make sure disciples are made of all nations. Fasting helps us remember that we are not God, that we are not ultimately in control, and that our comfort, joy, and peace do not come from anything else—only from God. And because of that, we do not have to stay awake in anxious toil, but we can receive sleep and rest, knowing that God is going to do what He has promised.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- In what ways are anxious toils keeping you awake?
- Are you living out of your own strength and power, or are you submitting to and depending on God?
- How can fasting help you to look to the Lord?
- Take time to pray Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to reveal any ways you have looked to yourself or other things in place of looking to Him. Ask Him to lead you to look to Him and trust in Him.

WORSHIP TODAY

Way Maker
MARCUS & CAROLINA AKINS



DAY TWELVE | REST

*You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock . . .
O Lord, you will ordain peace for us,
for you have indeed done for us all our works.*

ISAIAH 26:3-4, 12

We are invited to give, but our active participation never means we are the ones doing the work. We are a striving people, and one of the most difficult things for us to do is to release our efforts and our finite strength and to rest, receiving God's efforts through us and His strength worked out in us. Abiding deeply in God is the starting point of generosity. Giving is designed to be a deeply refreshing, joyful response, a gift to us, and a way to empower our communities as we trust God with our finances, our security, our lives.

However, when the need persists, when time wanes on, we often get discouraged or stressed, and we fall back into our human weakness, striving in our own strength and becoming exhausted, guilty, and burned out. Yet God constantly draws us back to rest. He keeps us in perfect peace by drawing our minds back to Him and rooting our trust in Him. Even as we seek tangible results, this is an invitation not only to meeting our needs but to seeking God, remembering His faithfulness, drawing into nearness with Him, and being a vessel for Him to work through. He's the One doing the work—in us, for us, through us, and sometimes in His kindness, even despite us—and we can rest in Him.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

Grant me, O most loving Lord, To rest in you above all else—
above all creatures,
above all health and beauty,
above all glory and honor,
above all power and dignity,
above all knowledge and cleverness,
above all riches and art,
above all fame and praise,
above all sweetness and comfort,
above all hope and promise,
above all gifts and favors that you can give,
above all happiness my mind can feel;
above all that is not you, O God.

Anything you bestow on me or reveal to me or promise to me
is too small and unsatisfying if I do not see or meet you in it.
For surely my heart cannot truly rest, or ever be fully content-
ed, unless it rests in you.

Amen.

WORSHIP TODAY

Hosanna
CALLEDOUT MUSIC

DAY THIRTEEN | WAITING

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13

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 40:31

As our time of prayer and fasting nears its end, we prepare to enter into a season of waiting. While God could provide all the funds Redeemer needs for a building tomorrow, He cares more about sanctifying our hearts than quickly providing the funds. During these next three years of the **STRONGER** Campaign, you may feel tempted to compare what you have to give with what others have, to doubt that things need to change, or to doubt that God is going to provide. You may be tempted to try to take control and make things happen, or you may be tempted to just keep going on with life just the way it already is. Instead, wait for the Lord and His timing—not just His timing for when He will provide the funds, but also His timing for what He has planned for this season. We don't know what He has in store for us in this season, but we do know that He wants us to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17), to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18), to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15), and to keep in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Does waiting come easily for you, or is it hard? Why is that? Ask the Lord to search your heart and show you why that is.
- Ask the Lord, "What does it look like to wait well in this season?" He may answer through His Spirit, through His Word, through circumstances, or through conversations with others.

WORSHIP TODAY

Establish the Work of Our Hands
THE PORTER'S GATE



DAY FOURTEEN | PARTICIPATION

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

The Apostle Paul is writing to the Corinthians about generosity. Paul does not want to command generosity because, if you're commanded to be generous, then it is not true generosity. Sincere generosity comes from the heart. Paul encourages preparation to ensure our giving comes from a willing and generous heart.

We are also invited to sow bountifully, and while right now, that may look costly, it's truly His blessing for us. He doesn't ask us to solve the problem, but He asks us to say yes to entering into His solution—to seeing what He can do with much and with little. Generosity is not merely a custom of religion but a connection to God, to others, and to His work in the world; we get to put Him on display. Remember, Redeemer is not an organization raising capital; we are a family on a mission with our Father. We get to give, we get to steward, we get to invest in eternity. Let's celebrate that today!

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- Where has your heart been ignited in this process? Where are you excited to step in?
- Thank God for positioning you in Redeemer at this time and inviting you to participate.
- Ask God that His vision would become your own, and that He would do a work in you. Ask for the joy of giving. Ask what next step He's asking you to take.
- Ask God to show you how you can put Him first in your finances.
- Ask Him how He may be calling you to resource our church's future.
- Fix your heart on the Lord as we enter a season of giving, seeking, and waiting.

WORSHIP TODAY

House of the Lord
PHIL WICKHAM



