

PRAYER AND FASTING GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Grace Church,

Grace and love to you.

We are starting this year off with prayer and fasting as a church. We believe that God answers prayer. In Genesis 15, Abraham prays for an heir, and in Genesis 21, God answers him. In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah prays for a son, and in 1 Samuel 1, God answers her. In Acts 4, the disciples prayed for boldness, and in Acts 4, God answered them. Jesus prayed regularly throughout the Gospels and even gives us a format for prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. God answers the prayers of His people (1 John 4.14-15, John 15.7, Mark 11.24, Philippians 4.6).

This year we are focusing on personal evangelism as a church. In August of last year, we heard a message from our pastors on Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king which was a job that allowed him to have the trust and the ear of the king, but when he heard about the state of Jerusalem, he began to pray and fast. In Nehemiah 1, we see the process in which Nehemiah began to pray for a burden. Nehemiah knew that you care for what you pray for. If we are going to care about lost people and be passionate about personal evangelism, then we need to become burdened like Nehemiah. Nehemiah provides a pattern for us to pray and for the next month, we are going to pray for a burden. The recipe is found in Nehemiah 1:5-11:

Week 1 (v. 5): Praising God for Who He is. Week 2 (v. 6): Praying for forgiveness and lost people. Week 3 (v. 8): Reminding God of His promises. Week 4 (v. 11): Praying for success in our evangelism.

Nehemiah was tasked with rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, but in reality, he was rebuilding the hearts of the people. Overland Park and Olathe are our Jerusalem. This year let's embark on a journey of rebuilding the hearts of the people by praying for the burden to take root in our hearts.

***If you have school-aged kiddos, the Grace Kid's podcast will have additional information! Check it out on whatever platform you get your podcasts!

A NOTE ON FASTING

Like any spiritual discipline, fasting should have a purpose. As a church, our heart is not to simply fast because the Bible tells us to; our heart is that we desire to fast because we desire deeper oneness with Christ. Fasting should bring us excitement. It should bring us joy! It should cause us to love God more deeply, and to rely on Him more often. It should build a longing within us - for more of God, for His will to be done on Earth, and for His triumphant return.

As we pray for a burden for the lost and a passion for evangelism, we want to strengthen our relationship with God through fasting. There are numerous passages in scripture that show how fasting helps us become more sensitive to God's voice and direction (Ezra 8:23, Joel 2:13, Acts 13:3), expresses our repentance for not having a burden (1 Sam 7:6, Jonah 3:5), and helps us to seek out God's will and guidance for our lives (Judges 20:26, Acts 14:23). Fasting was a regular practice in the church at Antioch (Acts 9:9, 13:2, 14:23). It is expected of Jesus followers. In Matthew 6:16, Jesus didn't command us to fast; He simply expected that we would.

In this booklet, we've given you a fasting challenge for each week. Read it. Pray about it. Consider how to fit it into your week in a meaningful way. Adjust it if necessary to meet your family and medical needs. Add it to your calendar and commit to it! Take that time you would have spent eating, watching TV, scrolling through social media, etc. and spend it with God. Pick one of the purposes listed above, or simply spend time meditating on scripture. Here are five practical tips:

1. Start small. Journal about how you feel after spending that time with God. Allow that to encourage you to fast more often, and for increasingly longer intervals. Remember, the goal is intentionally spending focused time with God.

2. Plan what you'll do instead. Plan to spend that time with Him! Spend the time you would have been preparing and eating food meditating on His will, the scriptures, or talking with Him.

3. Consider how your fast will affect others. Consider if you have meetings over meals, if family members are relying on you for food preparation, or if mealtimes are the best time you have to interact with your kids. Don't allow your fasting to damage other relationships or friendships.

4. Try different kinds of fasting. We've provided a specific option each week, but feel free to make it your own. Feel free to abstain from things other than food: television, computer time, social media, books, or anything else you regularly do for enjoyment. Fasting doesn't have to be done alone. If possible, include your family, your kids, your coworkers by inviting them to fast with you!

5. Focus on Jesus. Have we said it enough yet? The purpose is not a legalistic action, or to obey this booklet word for word; the purpose is to develop a sense of longing that will help us fall more in love with Jesus.

Main praise point: God is our Creator.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his creation!
- Thank God for creating you!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their creator.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: God is our Savior.

Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Luke 2:11

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his salvation!
- Thank God for making a way for you to get to heaven!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their savior.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: The Hope of the Gospel.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:19-20

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for the good news of the Gospel!
- Thank God for giving your life hope and purpose!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know Your hope.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: God is our Forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his forgiveness!
- Thank God for forgiving you!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs Your forgiveness.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: God is Righteousness.

Genesis 18:25

Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Romans 3:23-26

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his righteousness!
- Thank God for justifying you!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to understand Your nature of righteousness.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: God is Love.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His love!
- Thank God for loving you!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know Your everlasting love.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Happy Sunday!

If you missed a day of prayer this week, that's ok! Take this time to go back to that day, read the scriptures, and pray for the prayer prompts created for that day.

If you didn't miss a day, pick the day of prayer that spoke most to you this week, and pray it again! Or simply spend some time praising God and giving thanks!

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Pray for the Nations.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation .

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Psalm 22:27-28

All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his plan for all nations to bring glory to Him!
- Pray for the Gospel to be proclaimed to every tribe, nation, tongue, and family!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to hear the Gospel.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Pray for Kansas City.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Jeremiah 29:7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for the churches and evangelists in KC!
- Pray for revival to break out, for all of KC to believe in God!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to hear the Gospel.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Pray for yourself.

John 17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

Psalm 34:6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 41:4 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for giving you the task of reconciling people to Him!
- Ask for forgiveness.
- Pray for boldness to share with my friend ______.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Pray for your friend (your one).

Ephesians 1:17-19

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Romans 6:17

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for redeeming us from slavery to sin and enlightening us so that we can follow Him!
- Pray that God would open the eyes of the lost and encourage them to call upon Him.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to be enlightened in the knowledge of Him.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Pick a meal this week. Instead of preparing and eating that meal, spend that time praying for someone you know who is not a believer. Consider what might be the most effective way for them to hear the gospel. As you feel hunger pangs while leading up to the next meal, pray again for them, asking God what your role is in

bringing them to salvation.

Main praise point: Pray for our church.

Acts 26:29

And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

Romans 1:9

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Ephesians 3:10-11

that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His church, the body of Christ!
- Pray for your church that they will have a heart to evangelize others.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to come to church.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Pray for America.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for creating America, where we can worship God in peace!
- Pray for the leaders of America that they will lead us in peace and righteousness.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to rely on God rather than this world.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Happy Sunday!

If you missed a day of prayer this week, that's ok! Take this time to go back to that day, read the scriptures, and pray for the prayer prompts created for that day.

If you didn't miss a day, pick the day of prayer that spoke most to you this week, and pray it again! Or simply spend some time praising God and giving thanks!

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Every tribe will come to know Christ.

Genesis 22:18

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Revelation 7:9-10

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His faithfulness and revealing Himself to you!
- Pray that God will continue to make Himself known to all nations!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to confess You as Lord.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Our Salvation is secured by Christ.

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

John 10:28-29

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His faithfulness and His salvation!
- Thank God that nothing can separate us from Him!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their Savior.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Christ atoned for all our sins.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Isaiah 53:5-6

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:22-24

"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for his atonement!
- Thank God for promise to hold us blameless!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their righteousness.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Promises from the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 43:2-3 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

Isaiah 54:10

For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His presence with us each day!
- Thank God for His kindness, healing, guidance, and peace!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their protector.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Promises from the book of Psalms.

Psalm 110 The Lord said to my Lord. "Sit at My right hand. Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your vouth. The Lord has sworn And will not relent. "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at Your right hand: He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies. He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside: Therefore He shall lift up the head.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for His righteous power to rule, conquer, and overcome!
- Thank God for His promise to make us priests, giving us direct access to Him!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their righteous judge.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Christ has promised to return.

Zechariah 14:4

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God that He is coming back to make all things right!
- Thank God for His promises, and His everlasting faithfulness.

• Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their returning King.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Happy Sunday!

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If you didn't miss a day, pick the day of prayer that spoke most to you this week, and pray it again! Or simply spend some time praising God and giving thanks!

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success in Evangelism.

Isaiah 6:8-9

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

Acts 22:14-15

Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for choosing to make us ministers of reconciliation!
- Ask God to give you the boldness to go where He is asking you!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to hear about You.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success in the workplace, or in school.

Genesis 24:42

"And this day I came to the well and said, 'O Lord God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go,

Psalm 118:24-25

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

Joshua 1:7-8

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God that he went before you!
- Thank God for giving you strength.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to know You as their master.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success in the home.

Psalm 112:1-2

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Psalm 103:17-18

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.

Today's Prayer Points

- Ask God to show you how to delight in Him.
- Thank God for His mercy.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to learn to fear You.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success in disciple making.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 4:19-20

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God that He is with you!
- Thank God for His invitation to follow Him.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to follow You.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success in Opportunities.

Proverbs 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity;

Psalm 90:17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

1 Kings 2:3 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn:

Today's Prayer Points

- Ask God for wisdom.
- Thank God for giving us instruction.
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to learn to walk in Your ways.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Main praise point: Success with your One person.

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 he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Ephesians 1:17-19

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Matthew 9:38

Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Today's Prayer Points

- Praise God for the gift of prayer.
- Thank God that chooses to partner with us!
- Pray for my friend _____ who needs to be enlightened about You.

Weekly Fasting Challenge

Happy Sunday!

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Weekly Fasting Challenge

ONE MESSAGE

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