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21 Day Prayer  
Journal

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JANUARY 2020



By Pastor Brad Stroetz  
LifeSong Church, Monticello



# Week 1 | Introduction

The focus of week one is getting our hearts and minds settled and focused on God, Jesus, and His Holy Spirit. We want to hear from God over these next few weeks. We specifically want to hear what God is asking us to do next on our journey with Him. Discovering what's next is a mandate for us both as individuals and as a congregation. With that in mind we want to lay a foundation that prepares us spiritually to properly fast and to hear from God. So, each day we have written specific prayers which are intended to get you started. We encourage you to pray those prayers sincerely. Also, there are families listed each day. Please pray for those families as well. Don't stop there, we also encourage you to pray however the Lord leads you and whenever you feel prompted.

Here are some extra things you can pray for this week.

▶ The Leadership at LifeSong Church.

(Wendy Altman, Bob & Cheryl Houser, Linda Hoover, Andie & Jill Mears, Mark Mills, Paxton & Jane Snowberger, Andy & Sherry Stoll)

▶ The Pastoral Staff at LifeSong Church.

(Brad & Colleen Stroetz, Bryan & Michelle Ewing)

▶ The congregation at LifeSong Church.

(Individuals are listed each day)

▶ For God to clearly speak to us during the 21 Day Fast.

▶ For the Holy Spirit to move in our congregation to spark revival.

▶ For an increase in our awareness of God.

# Sunday, January 5th

***1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”***

Start your fasting off right by praying for strength. It is inevitable that during your fast, especially the first week, you are going to experience the temptation to give up, but you don't have to yield to temptation, you can power through it with God's help. In fact, the enemy is going to try his best to derail your fast, knowing the rich spiritual rewards that it will certainly produce. Don't worry about him, just keep your eyes on the prize and remember that God is the business of strengthening those who chose to follow Him. Invite Him to be your strength.

Today's Prayer - “Dear God, As I begin this year's fast, would you inspire my heart to be solely focused on you. I declare right now that you are the center of these next 21 days. Remove the distractions, clear the temptations, give me strength, and prepare a way for me to connect with you deeply. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Altman - Jeff, Wendy, Anabelle, Abigail, Wyatt

\* Altman - Ryan, Mandy, Cobe, Chatney

\* Allen - Deb

\* Ault – Aaron, Ashley

What is God saying to me today?

# Monday, January 6th

***Psalm 119:18, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.”***

A major part of our fast is hearing from and experiencing God as we pray. For some people this is a natural occurrence. Yet for others the idea of hearing from God is foreign. However, if we are going to mature, it is vital for Christians to hear from God. Even Jesus stated that His sheep would know His voice. We all want clear direction. We all want renewed passion. We all want a powerful faith. I would suggest that the key to all of that is not found in our efforts, but on how well we connect with the Lord. Why don't you welcome God to make Himself known to you, even today?

Today's Prayer - “God, would you open my eyes that I might see you? Open my ears that I might hear you? Open my heart that I might receive you? I give you permission to meet with me, talk to me, teach me, and lead me during this fast. I am asking that business as usual will cease and a new fire and passion for you would emerge in my prayer life. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Barnes – Jill, Riley, Rowan

\* Black - Ethan

\* Brown - Lisa, Logan

What is God saying to me today?

# Tuesday, January 7th

***Romans 8:26-27, “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”***

Ever notice your own limits? Have you ever thought that you wished you could be better at something, but you recognize that you just don't have the skill or even knowledge to make it happen? Ever feel limited in your prayers? You'd pray more and with greater fervency if you only knew how. God knew that we would have our limits, that is why He gave us the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is to fill in the gap where we fall short. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you pray, to inspire your words, and get beyond the basics?

Today's Prayer - “Holy Spirit, give me a genuine encounter with you. Meet with me, so that I might know you. I want to get beyond my limitations, especially in prayer, and I want to experience God's supernatural power, insight, and wisdom. Open up a two-way street, one where I talk to you and one where you talk to me. Take me beyond my laundry list and into your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen!””

\* Burns - Brian, Heather, Nate, Taylor

\* Culver - John, Gina

\* Douglass – Craig, Cindy

What is God saying to me today?

# Wednesday, January 8th

***James 4:8, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”***

It’s something that should probably be obvious, but our prayers are not meant to be solely about us. In fact, just like a good conversation, a good prayer is equal parts about you and equal parts about the other person. Unfortunately, far too many of us unwittingly fall into the trap of coming to God with our agenda and forget that maybe God has something He wants to contribute. Are your prayers one-sided? Do you see your prayer times as just giving God your wishlist or do you meet with Him as two friends might?

Today’s Prayer - “Jesus, what is it you want me to know? What is it you want to say to me? I pray that during this fast that my prayers stop being times where I just come to you with my agenda and it becomes a time when we can meet. May there be room in my prayers for you. Help me to see my time as a time to meet and spend with you as two friends might. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Ewing - Bryan, Michelle, Malachi, Titus

\* Finny – George

\* Flory - Rich, Barb

What is God saying to me today?

# Thursday, January 9th

***John 5:19, “Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”***

I can sometimes be near sighted. Not that I have a vision problem, but I get so busy that I do not see the world around me. I just go about my business completely focused on what I am doing, disregarding the needs of people around me. I simply wouldn't know that someone needed a kind word, a prayer, or for me to minister the Gospel to them, unless the opportunity jumped up and bit me. Much less that I make room for the Holy Spirit to point me in the right direction. Jesus was the opposite of this. He was so in tune with the Father that everything He did was something that the Father led Him to do. How do we become more like Jesus with full awareness of what God was doing in the lives of people around Him?

Today's Prayer - “Father God, expand my vision to not stop with what is right in front of me. Help me to start being more like Christ, who only did and said what He witnessed you saying and doing. He was about your work, because He was so deeply connected to you. I long for that kind of connection. Take me beyond myself and let me see what you are up to. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

- \* Freshour – Jordan, Amanda
- \* Gilbert - Holly, Emma
- \* Greer - James, Shanna, Brady, Kylie
- \* Harrison - Bill, Susan, Ally, Rylee

What is God saying to me today?

# Friday, January 10th

***Psalms 42:1-2, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...”***

How much do you want to hear from God? How much do you want to know the Lord? Are you thirsty for Him like a deer who who is parched and will go to any extent to find water to drink? During the fast, especially when we fast food, we get hunger pangs. You know that hungry feeling in your stomach which is accompanied by your brain crying out for food? As the pangs grow your thoughts get louder. This is a physical reminder of how we should thirst and hunger for God. If we are hungry for God our soul would be unsatisfied with anything other than Him. Are you satisfied with having enough God? Or do you always want more?

Today’s Prayer - “Lord, as I feel a hunger in my stomach or I feel the withdrawal of giving up habits and behaviors, let those pangs be a symbolic reminder of the hunger that I should have for you. Help me to hunger and thirst for you above all else. Let me not become satisfied with you or where I’ve been on my journey of faith, create within me a desire for more, a desire to go deeper, an insatiable desire to know you. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Hoover - Dale, Linda

\* Houser - Bob, Cheryl

\* Huse - Anthony, Emily, Anthony Jr., Sophia, Joslyn, Jack

What is God saying to me today?

# Saturday, January 11th

***Romans 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”***

If you’re reading this, then you must have made it through the first week. Congratulations! You’ve done something that many others have not done and that is to fast for 7 days. Don’t give up now. It is time to continue to press forward, because greater breakthrough is coming. Remember that it took 21 days of fasting for Daniel to get his breakthrough and 40 days of fasting for Jesus to prepare for His ministry. What does that mean? It means the good stuff is ahead of you and now is the time to double down.

Today’s Prayer - “God, thank you for this week! I ask that next week only gets richer and sweeter. I pray that you will build upon what you have done this week. I ask that new doors would be opened. That greater understanding would occur. That deeper encounters with you would happen. You are God and I declare that I want more of you. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Johnson - Brooke, Elexis, Kyree, Olivia

\* Lindley – Bob, Bernice, Akina

\* Lovvorn – Maxine

What is God saying to me today?



# Week 2 | Introduction

The focus of week two is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we enter into a new season with the Lord, we are reminded that our true calling is not to build organizations, but to make disciples. Disciple making is the last command that Jesus gave the disciples and the first priority of His church. It is something that we take seriously and something that we want to continue to get better at doing. You see transforming people's lives with the good news is the central mission of LifeSong Church. I can say that, beyond a doubt, and we have been faithful on our journey so far. Yet this is no time to rest on what we have done and where we have been. No, we need to take new ground, get more bold in our witness, and make saving the lost a greater priority. The question we need to ask as we enter into this next season is, "How do we do more?" How will we, or better yet, you, reach our community for Christ? Well, I believe that it all begins with prayer. This week we are going to lay the foundations for evangelism. This week we are going to begin to cast the net and pray this community into salvation. Let's see what sparks God ignites in us, now that we have an opened ear.

Here are some extra things that you can pray for this week.

- ▶ Write down the names of "un-saved" people you know and pray specifically over them starting this week.

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- ▶ A renewed passion for Evangelism.
- ▶ For God to "send" us/you.
- ▶ For love to abound for others as the scriptures teaches us.

# Sunday, January 12th

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

As Jesus was about to ascend into Heaven, He left the disciples with one last command, to make disciples of all nations. You see it was God’s good plan that salvation would be procured for all mankind by His son, Jesus and given freely to all those who would follow Him. It may have been Jesus’ last words, but it is our first priority to become disciples that would multiply. Your mission is not just to take care of yourself, but to share the good news with others and in effect raise up other disciples that raise up other disciples. Have you duplicated yourself? I’d like to encourage you to pray that God would raise up the desire and awareness in you to share your faith.

Today’s Prayer - “Jesus, you went to great lengths to defeat sin and the devil so that we could have victory over our sinful nature. You have saved my soul and if it wasn’t for someone who shared their faith with me, I would not have a leg to stand on. Lord, would you give me the desire to share my faith and the boldness to do it? In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Loman - Josh, Jessica, Addison, Easton, Malachi, Sofia, Trinity

\* Lytle - Steve

What is God saying to me today?

# Monday, January 13th

***Matthew 18:12, “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?”***

God is not ok with letting anyone go astray. He has a heart for all men. Even those who have done heinous things. Why? Because He knows the suffering that they deal with in life and He knows the suffering they will face in eternity and He wishes it upon no man. In fact, Hell was not made for mankind. So in His eyes it is not good that the ninety nine are ok and one is in peril, even if that one deserves it. He wants all 100. Do we carry that kind of urgency? Or do we curse those who seem far from God and are getting what we deserve. Perhaps you know a “one”? Someone who seems very happy rejecting God and living a bad life. Is our best response to simply shake our head and opine about their sad state? Or are we ready to do battle with dark forces to save a soul?

Today’s Prayer - “God, sometimes I am ok with people getting what they seemingly deserve. I am reminded, however, that because of you, I will not get what I know I deserve. Help me to see even the worst of us through your eyes and give me the urgency to chase down the “one” that they might not suffer hell’s fate. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Matthews - Matthew, Kim, Bella, Dakota, Lissia, Ryker

\* McMIndes - Miles, Haley

\* Mears - Andie, Jill, Nolan, Lacie

What is God saying to me today?

# Tuesday, January 14th

***Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”***

How bold are you when it comes to talking about Jesus to others? Its an area that many people struggle with. I’ve said it before, but I think that most people struggle not because they are ashamed of Jesus, but more because they feel pressured to do so. But Jesus wasn’t about high pressured situations, He was about heart felt instruction and guidance. The same should be true for us. It’s not about us anyway, the Gospel has the power to save, I just have the power to open my mouth. Ever get stuck? Ever not exactly know what to say in the right moment? Ever been tongue tied? Maybe we could ask God to loosen our tongues and give us good words. I think that God is ready to help if we let Him.

Today’s Prayer - “God, I declare that I am not ashamed of You or the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let the good news about Jesus always be on my lips. Give me words when I cannot muster a thought. Give me clarity on how to talk naturally about you, like Jesus modeled. Use me and my mouth as a tool to speak life and salvation into others. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Messer - Pam

\* Mills - Mark, Michelle

\* Mygrant – Dennis, Rebecca

\* Nichols – Bill

What is God saying to me today?

# Wednesday, January 15th

***Luke 12:11-12, “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”***

So, I have some good news for you, you don't have to develop some great speech. You don't even need to be the most educated or most clever Christian out there. You just need to get yourself before people and let the Holy Spirit instruct you on what you should say. Honestly, some of the most influential Christians I have ever been around were very humble people. They had very little greatness in them, they just loved God intensely and listened to the Holy Spirit's guidance and when they did they were an unstoppable force for God. To be a good evangelist, means that you have to be a good listener. You have to listen to the Holy Spirit. Are you ready and able to let go of your effort and are you ready to take a leap of faith?

Today's Prayer - “Holy Spirit come and help me to spread the good news. Alone I really cannot do much of anything and I feel that I am probably not even the kind of person that other are compelled to listen to. But I trust that with what little I have to offer that you can move mountains. There are mountains before me that must be moved so that people can come to you, use my words to move those mountains. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Overmyer - Chris, Heather, Clarissa, Derek, Dylan, Kayleigh, Maxton

\* Pala - Joe

\* Peacock - Nate

What is God saying to me today?

# Thursday, January 16th

***Acts 4:29, “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence.”***

Fear keeps us silent. When people are faced with persecution and discomfort they generally look for a way out. It's easier to just keep silent and avoid being singled out. The Apostle Peter knew this all too well. Before he received the Holy Spirit he denied Jesus three times, even after Jesus warned him what was coming. Why? Because He was afraid that they might do to him what they did to Jesus. We face the same fear today. With a growing rejection of Christianity people have become increasingly cruel and hateful towards us to a point where expressing your faith could cost you family, friends, your job, and could even get you targeted for violence and bullying. So, what's a Christian to do? Shut up? Most certainly not. We accept persecution as a part of our following Christ and we pray for boldness in the face of our fear.

Today's Prayer - “Lord God, I admit that it scares me sometimes all of the anger and hatred that I see aimed at Christians. It feels like it will only get worse and it would be really easy for me to just be silent to avoid any trauma. But you call us to push back against the darkness. Give me courage to be bold despite the pressure that is mounting against our beliefs. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Peace - Ben, Denise

\* Peters - Pat, Judy

\* Propes - B.J., Darlena

What is God saying to me today?

# Friday, January 17th

***2 Thessalonians 1:4-5, “therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.”***

Believe it or not, persecution in any form is actually a sign that you are doing something right for God. The enemy does not have to raise a stink or a fuss over someone who is inactive, but anyone who he perceives as carrying out the will of God, well that is someone that he will go after. So, persecution is almost a badge of honor in the Kingdom, because it is a sure sign that you are advancing the Kingdom. Worthiness is accredited by God to the individual who carries out the work of God in the face of resistance because on this earth you are a part of the resistance. Have you joined the fight for freedom?

Today’s Prayer - “Jesus, you have recruited me to advance your kingdom, to push back the darkness, to set the captives free, and to take back what once was yours. I pray that no persecution would cause me to cower and that I will do your will no matter what. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever and ever, Amen!”

\* Propes - Jammie, Jamie

\* Propes - Chris, Delilah

\* Price - Ethan, Elizabeth

What is God saying to me today?

# Saturday, January 18th

***Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”***

I’ll wrap up week two with a quote from the hymn, “This little light of mine”. I encourage you to sing along.

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? NO! I’m gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I’m gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I’m gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine  
Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine  
Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Shine it all over the neighborhood, I’m gonna let it shine  
Shine it all over the neighborhood, I’m gonna let it shine  
Shine it all over the neighborhood, I’m gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine”

Today’s Prayer - “Father God, May the light of Christ shine so brightly in me in that wherever I go that you would illuminate the world around me with your presence. When people see me, let it be you that they see and would it draw people to you. I am not the light, but oh that I may carry it into the dark recesses of this community. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Rardon - Chad, Amanda, Clayton, Emmalyn, Keeven

\* Rardon - Mike, Vicki

\* Roy – Bill, Gretchen, Addie, Grace, Josie, Colton

What is God saying to me today?



# Week 3 | Introduction

The focus of week three is **your** mission and ministry. The scripture is clear we have all been called into ministry. Sure, there are some people who are called into “full-time” ministry, meaning that they make it their profession, but each one of us has a ministry none the less. The universal mission of spreading the gospel all over the world, is not something that is reserved for a select few. God in His infinite wisdom does not rely on our expertise, but on our willingness to pursue our calling. It’s more of a matter of who is ready to step out in faith and follow God’s lead than who has the best training. So, the truth is that any one of us can carry on the ministry and legacy of Christ as long as we are willing and obedient. The question that we need to ask is not whether or not we should be ministering, it really more of a question of what, how, and to whom?

As we head into the home stretch and as we have prayed for the ability to hear and recognize God, and as we’ve prayed for the kingdom to be advanced, this week I hope you are going to see that you are the answer and can bring the solution to all you’ve been praying for. This week I hope that the switch flips in your heart and mind to understand that it is not everyone else who is supposed to get the job done, but that it is you. I believe that once you give yourself over to being the solution, you’ll find that with God’s guidance that you’ll do ever more amazing things for the kingdom.

An old Chinese proverb says that the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. I’m praying that this week you’ll begin the first step of stepping out in faith and ministering to those in need around you.

Here is something extra that you can pray for this week.

- ▶ Pray that everyone at LifeSong would become a minister in their own right.
- ▶ Pray that we would get motivated to minister to the lost and hurting.

# Sunday, January 19th

***Romans 12:3-5, “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”***

The key to this verse is that Christianity is not a me thing, its an us thing. Together we make up the body of Christ. Together we bear each others burdens. Together we care for one another. Together we are called to continue the work that Christ started. Which means that each of us has a function and each one of us contributes. There is no one that comes into the Kingdom, there is no disciple, who is not a vital part of what God is doing through the local congregation and what God is doing globally. All of us matter.

Today’s Prayer - “Dear Lord, I confess that I lose sight of my place in your kingdom. Sometimes I feel that I don’t matter and that things can go on just fine without me. I recognize that this is just a lie that the enemy tells me. I am important to you and I carry your spirit within me, and so I acknowledge that I am an image-bearer of Jesus and wherever I go that image transforms the world around me. Help me see me how You see me. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Reynolds - Shelby

\* Roush - Jerry, Cyndi

\* Rucker – Ryan, Jeana, Dawson, November, Bailey, Rynne, Jayden

What is God saying to me today?

# Monday, January 20th

***1 Corinthians 3:4-6, “Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant...”***

So what, you're not the greatest speaker? So what, you're not the most mature Christian to ever roam the earth? So what, you're not even that knowledgeable when it comes to the Bible? Well, guess what? Each one of us has our inadequacies. The good news is that our confidence and competence to carry out the work of Christ does come from within, it comes from God. If Paul, an Apostle, referred to the work of God in Him as the source for his successes in ministry and teaching, then why do we think that somehow we should be any different? What you do for the kingdom has more to do with your ability to yield to God than it has to do with any giftedness, talent, or skill you bring to the table, so stop disqualifying yourself and trust that God is way better than your shortcomings.

Today's Prayer - “Dear Lord, help me to understand that you are not asking for my ability, but my availability. Give me confidence as I step out in faith to trust in Your strength and guidance, and would all of my successes bring you glory. I declare that I am your humble servant. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Saltwell - Bill, Mary

\* Sattler – Paul, Nancy

\* Sims – Randy, Susan

\* Snowberger - Jayne, Paxton, Gabby

What is God saying to me today?

# Tuesday, January 21st

***1 peter 2:9-10, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”***

Once you were lost and an inheritor of perdition, an exile from God. Now, you are His prized possession and the recipient of grace through Jesus Christ. Once your value was fleeting and your influence was small. Now, you are included in God’s chosen people, you are a royal priesthood, and set aside for God. That is a substantial title you’ve been given and a significant connection to God Himself. It is because of this significant transfer of grace and acceptance from God that we have a mission to declare the good news of transformation and forgiveness found in Jesus. We are called to declare the good works of God in us. You are not called into a lifetime of monotonous servitude but of joyful encounter with God of which you cannot contain. Don’t keep the good things that God has done to yourself, but let others know how good God is.

Today’s Prayer - “Lord God, I receive your goodness. I am thankful that you have saved a wretch like me. It is because of you that I have peace. God there are so many people who have not received your mercy, give me courage to share my story of your good works to others that they might see that you are good and praise you. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Spille - Doug, Paulette

\* Stichnoth - Rachel, Jaden

\* Stinson - Trevor, Sara, Gracie, T.J.

What is God saying to me today?

# Wednesday, January 22nd

***1 Peter 4:10-11, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”***

Did you know that everyone who is a disciple of Christ has received a gift to serve others with? God has wired us with certain gifts, things that come natural, but when the Holy Spirit comes He takes those gifts and makes them truly powerful. Sometimes, God even gives us gifts through the Holy Spirit which we never had before. Either way, God loves to give each of us some way that we can reflect His nature and character to the world around us. Did you know that you have a unique gift of service that only you can fulfill? Did you know that God partners with us and our gifts? What is your gift?

Today’s Prayer - “God, you love to give good gifts to us. You have given me so many good gifts in life like forgiveness, answered prayers, moments with You, and hope. You also give me gifts that help me to serve others. God, I want to make the best use of these, that people might know You and give You glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Stoll - Andy, Sherry, Melinda, Kristy

\* Stroetz - Brad, Colleen, Genevieve, Tyler

\* Stroetz - Bud, Marlene

\* Stroetz - Jennifer

What is God saying to me today?

# Thursday, January 23rd

***Luke 10:27, “He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”***

Serving the Lord is born out of the great commandment. If we truly love God and we truly love others than we will have no choice but to minister to God and man. Our lives cannot be centered on our own selfish pursuits if our lives are centered on pursuing our faith. You see when God is the most important thing to you then you gain a new perspective and material things just don't hold the same importance. Suddenly, knowing God becomes the priority and people are no longer seen as an enemy but the object of God's affection. How can we not love what God Himself loves? One of the greatest ways we can serve others is simply to love them. If you say you love God, then loving others is simply an expression of that.

Today's Prayer - “Jesus, your life demonstrated the love of God towards mankind. In the scripture we can see the passion that you had for God and the compassion you had for people. Draw me into that kind of love. One that see past the nonsense and calls people out of the darkness. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Taulbee – Howard, Becky

\* Wagner - T.J., Lacie, Elizabeth, Emma, Eelijah

\* VanCleve - John, Julie, Megan

What is God saying to me today?

# Friday, January 24th

***John 13:35, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”***

The people of God are to be loving. This is an easy thing to say, but not always and easy thing to do. Trust me, people get under your skin. You might have even thought about one of those people as you read these words. However, In Jesus’ perspective the most notable marker of His disciples would be that they would be known for their love. How are we doing, church? When people see us do they notice how loving we are? Do people feel loved when they are near? How is it that we struggle with the key character that Christ called out in us? It really only happens when our heart are in the wrong position. When we get caught up in worldliness. When we forget that God pursues even the worst of us and even loves the very people we struggle with. What we need is a great transfer of God’s heart for others. How does He see the world? That’s what we need to pursue and capture.

Today’s Prayer - “Holy Spirit, unveil my eyes. Cause me to see people the way that you do. Transfer your love into my heart that I might feel love towards all men. Help me not get caught up in pettiness, but to keep my eyes on the prize of Heaven, which as far as I understand is redeeming your creation. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

\* Warf – Logan, Erica, Mia, Layla

\* Webb - Edie

\* Webb – Jill

\* Yocum - Stacey

\* Wolff - Jed, Christina, Tanner

What is God saying to me today?

# Saturday, January 25th

***James 1:23-24, “Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”***

Today is the final day of the fast. If no one has said it, then let me be the first to congratulate you on a job well done. And let me also encourage you to not immediately forget or move on from this experience. Fasting is powerful and I am sure that you have experienced some breakthroughs and changes for the better in the last 21 days. It's easy to get back into old habits and lose the gains that you have received. Be wise and build on what you have done. Let some of your new habits become permanent. Let your prayers continue and your study only get more powerful. Be intentional about advancing your faith from here. Otherwise, we might fall into the trap that James writes about in this passage. We might be like a man who forgets his own image immediately after he sees it. Lets not be the kind of Christians who forget what God has done as soon as our fast is over. Let's grow in our faith and ability to serve God and never look back.

Today's Prayer - “Lord, You have done great things over this past 21 days. I have grown and I cherish what has happened. Continue to spark a hunger for the things that I have learned and keep me moving forward that I might not lose what I have so desperately fought for. Give me grace to carry on from here. In Jesus' name, Amen!”

\* Wasson – Adam, Erica, Brock, Erica, Halle, Lauren

\* Welch – Martin, Pam

\* Young - Travis, Christie, Allura, Weiland

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