

15 days of PRAYER & FASTING



Intro

As we prepare to celebrate 15 years of Redeemer Church on January 22nd, our dependence on God is as obvious as ever.

In new ways, we feel the reality of Jesus' words "...apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5 ESV). We as a church, and as individuals, can do nothing apart from God's work. For that reason, we want to start this season of celebrating by having our church family come together for 15 days of prayer and fasting. Our hope is for this experience to anchor us to our purpose as the people of God at Redeemer Church as we look towards the next 15 years.

This is our aim: **to increase our dependence on God.**

Here are a few examples of what fasting and prayer can look like over the next 15 days:

Fasting

Why do we fast? Simply put, the goal of fasting is to turn ourselves from worldly things and set our minds and hearts fully on God. It is not a way to manipulate God or coerce him to hear and answer our prayers, but rather it acknowledges our complete dependence on him. Fasting awakens us to the reality that we are so often driven by our fleshly desires and appetites. It humbles us and awakens us to our great need for and reliance on God.

As you consider fasting, we want to encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lead you in this time of seeking his face. Without a purpose and a plan, it's not Christian fasting; it's just going hungry. Christian fasting is about putting ourselves in positions where we recognize our dependence on God. Whether you choose to fast for one day, several days, or the entire 15 days, the point is to humble yourself in a new way and draw near to God.

Here are some ideas of what you could choose.

- Some of you may feel led to engage in a complete fast, refraining from eating and only drinking liquids for particular days or even an extended period of time.
- Another option is a partial fast, which is refraining from eating for a set period of time each day. You could choose to fast from a single meal or from sunrise to sundown.
- If fasting from food is not possible or wise, you may feel led by the Lord to fast from something else which represents time or comfort to you, such as social media, television, or certain times or activities on your cell phone.
- If you would like more information and help on fasting, read these articles from cru.org: [Seven Basic Steps to Successful Fasting and Prayer](#) and [Six Ingredients That Will Help You Fast From Technology](#)

Prayer

Praying is spiritual breathing, essential for our life in God. As we meditate on God's Word, we breathe in the promises and purposes of God. In prayer, we breathe out, responding to God's Word to us. Each day in this guide, there will be one verse and a few prayer responses for you to guide your praying. Together, let's put our faith into action, trusting in the promises of God for us and our church.

Below are some helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide.

- *Commit to a specific time each day to devote to prayer. Find a place where you can be free of distractions and be alone with God.*
- *Use the prayer points and Scripture in this guide to focus and fuel your praying. Write the Scripture and prayer point on a card and carry it with you, post it on your social media, make it the screensaver on your phone—whatever you can think of to keep these prompts in front of you. Whenever you feel a hunger or desire for what you are fasting from, this prompt can be what you turn to instead. Use them throughout the day and invite others to join you in praying.*
- *You can take it a step further by journaling your prayers each day, simply writing out your prayers to God. It's a great opportunity to hide God's Word in your heart, working to memorize the verses as you meditate and pray.*
- *In addition, you may consider ways to pray with others during this season. Set up a time to call or meet with friends or members of your Gospel Community. Pray together with your family or roommates.*

Church family, let's earnestly seek the face of God as we thank Him for His grace and wait for His guidance through these 15 days of fasting and prayer.

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- Megan Hill. Praying Together

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Prayer & Fasting

DAY 1 - JANUARY 8TH

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. [Eph 1:3-10 ESV]

Every spiritual blessing is ours in Christ Jesus. Think about it—according to verse 3, God has not withheld one single glorious blessing from you. He chose you and made plans for your redemption. He adopted you. Let your heart erupt with praise and joy and thanksgiving. Additionally the same blessing he's poured out on you, he's been pouring out on countless others through Redeemer Lubbock over these last 15 years. Give him thanks for all he's done and ask him to show you more of himself through prayer in the days ahead for his own glory and praise.

Does this feel like good news to you today? Write these words down somewhere and meditate on the reality that God has declared you: "chosen", "predestined", "holy", "blameless", "adopted", "blessed", "redeemed", "forgiven", "beloved". Today, as you pray and fast, ask God for a renewed awareness of your dependence on him for your life, both in this life and in the life to come.

DAY 2 - JANUARY 9TH

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. [Heb 12:1-2 ESV]

Praise God for being the founder and perfecter of your faith—the one who establishes your faith, orders your days, and has determined them that you might know God. Today, ask God to give you insight and discernment to understand what it means to run with endurance, increasing your sensitivity to sin and temptation. Ask God, by the Holy Spirit, to reveal to you right now any places that you're walking in sin. Praise God for the victory Christ has won in the battle against sin, and receive His forgiveness.

What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you? Confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and accept God's forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and direct your eyes towards the cross of Christ. What weight are you trying to bear on your own?



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 3 - JANUARY 10TH

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved. [Eph 2:4-5 ESV]

Pray that we would remember God's great love poured out for us on the cross. Ask God to continually cause us to be amazed by his grace. Rejoice today that you have been saved by God's grace and not by your own efforts. Pray for those around you who have yet to respond to the grace of God. Ask God to stir their hearts and draw them to himself. Pray that we would see a record number of people in our community come to faith and be baptized in 2023.

Consider two people in your life today that do not know Jesus. How would this Gospel truth be good news to them today? How can you pray for each of them specifically today?

DAY 4 - JANUARY 11TH

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. 10 "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you--with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant--and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. [Deut 6:4-12 ESV]

Today as you pray and fast, ask God to deepen your hunger for his word. Ask him to speak to you as you read his Word. Pray for understanding and faith as you consider the character of your God. Pray that the people of God at Redeemer would be drawn to worship and adore him. Ask God to show you how you can encourage those around you to seek after him with all their hearts. Pray that we would lead the next generation of our church (kids, students, college) to have a right view of God from His word, that compels them to love and obey him as long as they live. May God's word be taught diligently and valued supremely in our church family.

What would it look like to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might today (v. 5)? Is the word of God on your heart (v. 6)? Why or why not? In what ways can you turn to the Word with a new willingness to obey today?



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 5 - JANUARY 12TH

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. [Col 3:1-4 ESV]

Pray that we would be people who seek God more than any other thing. Ask God to stir us to pursue Him in prayer and in his Word. Pray that He would teach you what it means that you have died with Christ and the blessing that comes from your life being hidden with Him in God. Today, ask God to enable you to set your mind on him in the midst of any trial you are facing. Ask God to grow you in prayer this year, and pray that more people at Redeemer would commit themselves to seek God in prayer.

What are you seeking today? What is your mind set on? How would setting your mind on Christ being enthroned in heaven increase your joy today?

DAY 6 - JANUARY 13TH

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. [1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV]

Pray that we would live holy lives, consistent with the message of the gospel, and faithfully declare the gospel. Ask God to fill your heart with wonder as you remember how he rescued you. Praise him today for rescuing you from darkness and bringing you into the light. Thank God that he did not simply bring you into a relationship with him, but he also brought you into a family. Ask God today to give you an opportunity to share the good news with someone around you. And pray that he would give them faith to believe. Ask God to save your neighbors and co-workers, our children and college students.

God has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. His desire is that we would live as redeemed sons and daughters, loving and serving one another. Write these words down somewhere and meditate on them today: "A chosen race", "a royal priesthood", "a people for his own possession", "a people". What do these words mean and what significance do they bear? What attributes of this new people does the world need today? How can you live out this identity with other believers this week?



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 7 - JANUARY 14TH

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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. [2 Cor 9:6-8 ESV]

Give thanks to God because he has indeed caused all grace to abound to us over the last 15 years, and we've seen him bless us in so many ways. We believe that God wants us to abound even more in the good work he has called us to. Pray that we would be a people who give generously in our time, talents, and treasure. Ask God to speak to you and show you what resources he might be asking you to give to his mission. Ask God to set you free from the love of things so that you might give freely and with great joy. Pray and ask that God would provide for our church to accomplish his purposes through us.

What are the good works God is doing right now? Reflect on the ways that God has been generous to you and thank him for those things right now. How can you cheerfully give what God has given to you?

DAY 8 - JANUARY 15TH

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. [Eph 4:11-16 ESV]

Praise God for adding you to the body of Christ and for his faithfulness to pursue your continued growth in Christ. Pray that we would actively build each other up in love (v. 16). Ask God to show you how you can encourage and spur others on to love and good works. Confess any apathy in your heart towards the spiritual good and growth of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank God for gifting our church with the things we need to grow together to the measure and state of the fullness of Christ. Pray that we would grow to become the mature body of Christ at Redeemer Lubbock.

What is the work of ministry that God has called you to? How can you intentionally focus your time and efforts towards the end of making disciples in our church and among all nations? Who is someone that you can encourage and build up today? Take the time to call, text, or write them a letter.



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 9 - JANUARY 16TH

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [Eph 4:1-6 ESV]

Consider your calling. Pray that God would fill us once again with greater devotion to one another and to his kingdom. Confess the ways in which you have approached your faith in an individualistic manner. Ask God to give us humble hearts and to uncover any selfish ambition or vain conceit that would be contrary to the unity of the Spirit. Pray for a gospel love to saturate our hearts and interactions with our brothers and sisters at Redeemer.

To live a life worthy of the gospel is to live with the same attitude that Christ had when he let go of every preference and privilege to come and dwell among us. He emptied himself for the sake of our salvation, so ask him to give you the same willingness to consider others more important than yourself. Write down these words and meditate on how Jesus embodied each description and how you can embody these today: "humble", "gentle", "patient", "bearing with one another in love", "eager to maintain unity", "peace".

DAY 10 - JANUARY 17TH

9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [1 Peter 4:9-11 ESV]

Pray that God would lead us to be faithful stewards of all that he has entrusted to us. Ask God to show you how to use the grace and gifts he has given you to advance his kingdom and bring praise to Jesus. Pray for strength and joy to serve and love others. Pray that our brothers and sisters from Redeemer both in Lubbock and around the world would not grow weary in well-doing, but would faithfully serve the body of Christ and their communities.

How can you steward the grace God has given to you today? Today, as you pray and fast, take time to pray for our God to supply strength to Goers sent out from Redeemer. If you are personally connected to them, send a text or email them to encourage them in the work God is doing in their midst.



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 11 - JANUARY 18TH

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." [Act 1:8 ESV]

Pray for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to be known among us because without him, our efforts are useless. Pray for courage and boldness to serve as witnesses to the power of the gospel. Ask God, in this season, to send many from our church to the nations, so that the good news is preached all across the world.

The gospel of Jesus Christ has reached you because of faithful witnesses, who have heard the story of Jesus and experienced the love of God. What is the truth that you have heard and experienced about Jesus that you can be a "witness" to?

DAY 12 - JANUARY 19TH

5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. [2 Cor 4:5-10 ESV]

You have a treasure. Think about it—you have heard the Gospel. His light has shone into your heart. You have His Spirit. In Jesus, you have seen God. And you have not just seen God, but have been given the gift of sharing in His death and resurrection. He did not choose the most talented or the strongest or the most powerful to carry His Gospel message. He gave this treasure to you. Let your heart erupt with praise and joy and thanksgiving. God has not asked you to be God. He knows that you are not, but He has invited you to be a vessel to demonstrate His power and glory. Give thanks to God today for the privilege of knowing Him and making Him known.

What do you treasure about Jesus? How can your life today, with all of your limitations and weaknesses, display that the power belongs to God and not to you?



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 13 - JANUARY 20TH

[1 Peter ESV] 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Pray that we would remember that our time on earth is short. Ask God to help you live every moment for his purposes and his glory. Pray for wisdom to live for the eternal purposes of God. Pray that we would be people who are alert and sensitive to the Spirit, making the most of every opportunity that we have. Ask God to use the uncertainty of the world right now to make people receptive to spiritual conversations and that doors would be open for the spread of the Gospel. Pray that you would be faithful to share boldly the message of Christ.

Where do you spend your time during the week? Today, pray and ask God to show you the relationships and opportunities for Gospel witness that He has provided in those spaces and places. Pray for open doors and boldness to speak the Gospel clearly (v. 3-4).

DAY 14 - JANUARY 21ST

[John 15:7-11 ESV] 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Pray that our church would be fruitful and effective in making disciples. Ask God to fill you with the Spirit, that the life of Christ may bear fruit for His kingdom. Praise God for the reality that you are connected to the vine and will remain in Him not through your own works, but through Christ's alone. Pray for a renewed awareness of the love of God in the face of Christ. Ask God to lead you in declaring and demonstrating that love to others. Pray that we would see people abide in Christ and experience the joy of a life surrendered to Him.

Today, as you pray and fast, ask God for a renewed awareness of your dependence on him in bearing fruit. Meditate on the words of Christ today in John 15, appreciating the reality that you are united to Christ.



Prayer & Fasting

DAY 15 - JANUARY 22ND

[Eph 3:20-21 ESV] 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

In January 2008, Redeemer Church was planted and we asked God to move powerfully. Fifteen years later, our prayer and hope is still the same. God can do more and better than we can imagine because his dreams and plans for us are better than ours. Pray that many will come to hear the gospel and will place their faith and trust in the risen Savior. Ask God to make us ready to disciple and lead others to walk faithfully with him in the years to come. He is able. He has done great things for us. He will do more than we can ask or imagine.

Right now, ask God to reveal to you one thing He wants for our church. What role does He want you to play in reaching those around you with the Gospel? Ask Him to do far more abundantly than all we could ask or think.

