

TWENTY-ONE DAYS

21 DAYS

OF PRAYER & FASTING

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WELCOME TO 21 DAYS OF PRAYER + FASTING

Every year at Journey, we begin the year with 21 Days of intentionally seeking God through Prayer and Fasting.

The 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is really about **3 THINGS**:

1. It's about declaring our **DEPENDENCE** on God.

I want to grow. I want to know you better. I want to go deeper. I need your provision.

2. It's about asking God for **DIRECTION**.

*I need wisdom, Lord. What do I do about _____?,
Where should I _____?*

3. It's also about **CHANGING YOUR WORLD**.

*Praying for your family, church, community, nation, etc.
How can I help, Lord?*

During these 21 Days, we are encouraging our church to seek God through two spiritual habits, and the first is **PRAYER**.

In this journal, you will find daily entries that include Scripture and guided writing sections. They serve as tools to help you seek God, process what you sense He might be saying to you, and then commit it to prayer.

So make it a goal for the next 21 days to **set aside at least 15 minutes each day** to read the Bible and pray.

Also, once a week, walk your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors. Pray that hearts will be open to God.

Not only will we be seeking God through prayer, but we also believe **FASTING** can be a next step to bring clarity and revelation into your life.

Fasting is setting aside something so that you can be more focused on God. It's saying **NO** to one thing so you can say **YES** to something bigger and better. It's saying to God — *"I'm more hungry for You than I am for _____."*

There are many ways to fast. Primarily, when the Bible talks about fasting it's speaking of food. So, you could fast from certain types of food or certain days or certain meals. Some people fast from sunrise to sundown. Some people, believe it or not, fast from all solid foods for 21 Days!

You can also fast from certain types of activities such as social media, television, etc. It can be anything that takes up time and instead use it to focus on God.

BUT ... It's not just about what I'm fasting **FROM** — it's what I am fasting **FOR**.

Maybe it's **clarity** or to **return** to the Lord or for God to work in a particular situation or a breakthrough in a relationship.

For me personally and for our church, I know this year is going to bring really exciting opportunities and challenges. Some I know are coming and others I have no idea are on the horizon. I simply want to be open to God. I want to have His heart.

So jump in with us for the next 21 days as we collectively pray, fast, and see how God leads us.

Take Your Next Step,



Scotty Priest

SENIOR PASTOR

Journey Church Colorado

PICK A FAST

Fasting is withholding from something we want so we can set our minds and attention on God. Food is an important part of life, and Scripture is full of invitations to go without it for a period of time to connect with God and be more mindful of our reliance on him.

Fasting for the next 21 days will enhance your experience as you fill out this journal. Read through the various fasts and decide which is best for you. If you don't feel comfortable fasting from food, or would like to fast from something else including food, consider the soul fast as an option.

Complete Food Fast

In this fast, you drink only liquids. Drink a lot of water, and then add in juice and shakes as needed.

Partial Food Fast

This fast is sometimes called the “Jewish Fast” and involves abstaining from eating any type of food for a certain period of time each day. For example, you can choose to skip a certain meal or abstain from eating until sunset.

Selective Food Fast

This type of fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example of a selective fast is the “Daniel Fast”, during which you remove meat, sweets, and bread from your diet and consume water, juice for fluids and eat fruits and vegetables for food (Daniel 1:8-17).

Soul Fast

A soul fast is choosing something other than food to abstain from. If you don't have much experience fasting from food, have health (or other) issues that prevent you from fasting from food, or if you wish to refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance, this is a great option for you. For example, you might choose to stop using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast and then carefully bring that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast.

MAKE A COMMITMENT

This journal belongs to: _____

Today's date is: _____

For the next 21 days, I will be fasting from:

During the fast, I am praying for:

During the fast, I am praying specifically for these 3 people:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STAY CURIOUS

Albert Einstein, regarded as one of the most accomplished humans to ever live, once explained his genius when he famously said, “I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”

Passionately curious. Maybe Einstein was on to something.

In other words, if curiosity was a defining practice that led Einstein to some of the greatest discoveries we’ve known, maybe curiosity needs to play a key role in how we follow Jesus. Think about it...what would happen if we simply became and remained deeply interested in Jesus?

It was curiosity that made the shepherds scurry off to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus (Luke 2:8-20). Jesus honored them.

Curiosity led Nicodemus to seek a meeting with Jesus at night. (John 3:1-21). Jesus spoke to him.

Curiosity led a woman to touch the edge of Jesus’ cloak. (Matthew 9:20-22) Jesus healed her.

Curiosity inspired Zaccheaus to climb a tree to see Jesus. (Luke 19:1-10) Jesus forever changed his life.

It’s interesting that what started with eager wonder about Jesus moved them forward toward experiencing him in a way they never imagined. In fact, some of the first listeners of Jesus “were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority...” (Matthew 7:28-29). There was something about

Jesus. Something about him that attracted crowds. Something about him that led both men and women to give up everything and follow him. Something about him that changed lives...and something that can also change yours.

And it began with curiosity.

Jesus was a master at triggering people's curiosity. This is why Jesus told stories. Stories were one of Jesus' strategies to nudge people forward spiritually. Another word the Bible uses for Jesus' stories is "parables". Simply put, parables were earthly stories that contained spiritual truths. They were examples of real life narratives, yet with a heavenly twist. Through stories, Jesus' heart was to teach right-living under God's leading in a world that encourages otherwise. And the role of the curious listener was to search out the meaning.

So during these 21 days we are going to read some parables... some of the stories Jesus told. And as you read, be curious. Be interested. Be open to learn from Jesus who wants to teach you a different way to live...a life in what Jesus calls "God's Kingdom".

Start each day by finding a quiet place to sit for 15 minutes and fill out your daily exercises.

There are four sections:

- Gratitude** Life can be stressful, but when you start each day with gratitude, you are deciding to trust in and focus on God’s provision over your life. Gratitude shifts your perspective. It takes what you have and makes it enough, regardless of your circumstances.
- Observe** Every day there will be a story Jesus told. It could be long or very short. This journal section will challenge you daily to write down thoughts and observations from Jesus’ story about living under God’s rule in your life. Remember well the words of the Apostle Paul when he writes, “Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, MSG).
- Next Step** We often overestimate how much we can get done in a day and underestimate how much we can get done in three weeks. The key is consistency in the same direction. This section invites you to write down one small step you will take each day to help you to follow Jesus.
- Prayer** Prayer is the best way to put down our agenda and trust God. End your time of journaling by writing out a prayer for your day.

Verse - Matthew 13:44 (Story of the Hidden Treasure [Jesus said,] “God’s kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The find is ecstatic — what a find! — and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy the field.”

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

1. My family. I’m grateful to have people in my life and my circle who I love. 2. My job. Even though it’s stressful at times, I’m thankful I have a job that supports my family. 3. My dinner plans. I’m grateful to have something fun planned tonight that involves good food with great friends.

Observe

Reading
Jesus’
story, what
sparked my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts or
insights?

Jesus’ story teaches that the value of the kingdom of heaven is worth any sacrifice. It also hits me that in everything, God is the real treasure and that being with him is the greatest value-add in my life.

**Next
Step**

Today,
I will::

I will prioritize the value of my relationship with Jesus above all else by spending intentional time praying and listening to him. I’m going to set the alarm on my phone to pray for 10 minutes at 9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm, and 6 pm.

Prayer

Father, help me to understand the truth that you are the greatest treasure in life that I have found. And help me to make whatever sacrifices are necessary today so that others may know how much I value you. Amen.

Day 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal
Day 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal

Gratitude

Observe

Next Step

Prayer

WEEK ONE

The Stories Jesus Told

As they went from town to town, a lot of people joined in and traveled along. Jesus addressed them, using this story: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it. Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted, but withered because it didn’t have good roots. Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it. Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

His disciples asked, “Why did you tell this story?”

He said, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren’t going to get it:

 Their eyes are open but don’t see a thing,

 Their ears are open but don’t hear a thing.

This story is about some of those people. The seed is the Word of God. The seeds on the road are those who hear the Word, but no sooner do they hear it than the Devil snatches it from them so they won’t believe and be saved.

“The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn’t go very deep. It’s only another fad, and the moment there’s trouble it’s gone.

“And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun.

“But the seed in the good earth—these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there’s a harvest.”

LUKE 8:4-15

(Story of the Sower)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
sparked
my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

[Jesus] told another story. “God’s kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.

That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

“The farmhands came to the farmer and said, ‘Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn’t it? Where did these thistles come from?’

“He answered, ‘Some enemy did this.’

“The farmhands asked, ‘Should we weed out the thistles?’

“He said, ‘No, if you weed the thistles, you’ll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.’”

Jesus dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, “Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field.”

So he explained. “The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

“The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.”

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43
(Story of the Weeds)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
sparked
my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

[Jesus said,] “God’s kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.”

MATTHEW 13:45-46

(Story of the Pearl of Great Price)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
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my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

”The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

“The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

“The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

“The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

“The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

MATTHEW 18:21-35

(Story of Forgiveness)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
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my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

[Jesus said,] “God’s kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work.

“Later, about nine o’clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

“He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o’clock. At five o’clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, ‘Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?’

“They said, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

When the day’s work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, ‘Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.’

“Those hired at five o’clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, ‘These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.’

“He replied to the one speaking for the rest, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn’t we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?’

“Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first.

MATTHEW 20:1-16

(Story of Hired Workers)

Gratitude

Today,
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grateful
for:

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Next Step

Challenged
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Prayer

Today, I am
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[Jesus said,] “God’s Kingdom is also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

“After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

“The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

“The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’

“The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

“‘Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’”

MATTHEW 25:14-30
(Story of Investment)

Gratitude

Today,
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Observe

Reading
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Any
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Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
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Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!”

MARK 4:26-29

(Story of the Growing Seed)

Gratitude

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Prayer

Today, I am
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WEEK 1 IN REVIEW

What is one pattern I've noticed in my gratitude lists this week?

What "win(s)" did I experience this week? Take a moment and celebrate God's goodness.

What obstacle(s) did I face this week? Is there something I observe about how I responded?

What is the biggest lesson I feel like God has taught me this week through the stories Jesus told?

Gratitude

Observe

Next Step

Prayer

WEEK TWO

The Stories Jesus Told

[Jesus said,] “How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It’s like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it.”

With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

MARK 4:30-34

(Story of the Acorn/Mustard Seed)

Gratitude

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Prayer

Today, I am
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[Jesus said,] “You don’t get wormy apples off a healthy tree, nor good apples off a diseased tree. The health of the apple tells the health of the tree. You must begin with your own life-giving lives. It’s who you are, not what you say and do, that counts. Your true being brims over into true words and deeds.”

LUKE 6:43-45

(Story of a Tree and Its Fruit)

Gratitude

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Challenged
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Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

Jesus said to him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Oh? Tell me.”

“Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver pieces, the other fifty. Neither of them could pay up, and so the banker canceled both debts. Which of the two would be more grateful?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one who was forgiven the most.”

“That’s right,” said Jesus. Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, “Do you see this woman? I came to your home; you provided no water for my feet, but she rained tears on my feet and dried them with her hair. You gave me no greeting, but from the time I arrived she hasn’t quit kissing my feet. You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has soothed my feet with perfume. Impressive, isn’t it? She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal.”

Then he spoke to her: “I forgive your sins.”

That set the dinner guests talking behind his back: “Who does he think he is, forgiving sins!”

He ignored them and said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

LUKE 7:40-50

(Story of a Canceled Debt)

Gratitude

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Challenged
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Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?”

[Jesus] answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?”

He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.”

“Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.”

Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbor’?”

Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’

“What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

“The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

LUKE 10:25-37

(Story of the Good Samaritan)

Gratitude

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Challenged
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story Jesus
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Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

One day [Jesus] was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, “Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

So he said, “When you pray, say,

Father,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.”

Then he said, “Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don’t have a thing on hand.’

“The friend answers from his bed, ‘Don’t bother me. The door’s locked; my children are all down for the night; I can’t get up to give you anything.’

“But let me tell you, even if he won’t get up because he’s a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he’ll finally get up and get you whatever you need.

“Here’s what I’m saying:

Ask and you’ll get;
Seek and you’ll find;
Knock and the door will open.

“Don’t bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need.”

LUKE 11:1-10

(Story of Praying Boldly)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
sparked
my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.”

[Jesus] replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?”

Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.”

Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’

“Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’

“That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

LUKE 12:13-21

(Story of a Greedy Farmer)

Gratitude

Today,
I am
grateful
for:

Observe

Reading
Jesus'
story, what
sparked
my
curiosity?
Any
thoughts
or insights?

Next Step

Challenged
by the
story Jesus
told, I will:

Prayer

Today, I am
praying for:

[Jesus] went on to tell a story to the guests around the table. Noticing how each had tried to elbow into the place of honor, he said, “When someone invites you to dinner, don’t take the place of honor. Somebody more important than you might have been invited by the host. Then he’ll come and call out in front of everybody, ‘You’re in the wrong place. The place of honor belongs to this man.’ Embarrassed, you’ll have to make your way to the very last table, the only place left.

“When you’re invited to dinner, go and sit at the last place. Then when the host comes he may very well say, ‘Friend, come up to the front.’ That will give the dinner guests something to talk about! What I’m saying is, If you walk around all high and mighty, you’re going to end up flat on your face. But if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

Then he turned to the host. “The next time you put on a dinner, don’t just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You’ll be—and experience—a blessing. They won’t be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God’s people.”

LUKE 14:7-14

(Story of Inviting Misfits)

Gratitude

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Any
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Next Step

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Prayer

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WEEK 2 IN REVIEW

What is one pattern I've noticed in my gratitude lists this week?

What "win(s)" did I experience this week? Take a moment and celebrate God's goodness.

What obstacle(s) did I face this week? Is there something I observe about how I responded?

What is the biggest lesson I feel like God has taught me this week through the stories Jesus told?

Gratitude

Observe

Next Step

Prayer

WEEK THREE

The Stories Jesus Told

That triggered a response from one of the guests:
“How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God’s kingdom!”

Jesus followed up. “Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, ‘Come on in; the food’s on the table.’

“Then they all began to beg off, one after another making excuses. The first said, ‘I bought a piece of property and need to look it over. Send my regrets.’

“Another said, ‘I just bought five teams of oxen, and I really need to check them out. Send my regrets.’

“And yet another said, ‘I just got married and need to get home to my wife.’

“The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was outraged and told the servant, ‘Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and down-and-out you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.’

“The servant reported back, ‘Master, I did what you commanded—and there’s still room.’

“The master said, ‘Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full! Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get so much as a bite at my dinner party.’”

LUKE 14:15-24

(Story of the Great Dinner Banquet)

Gratitude

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Prayer

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By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

[Jesus responded,] “Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.”

LUKE 15:1-7

(Story of the Lost Sheep)

Gratitude

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Today, I am
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[Jesus said,] “Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she’ll call her friends and neighbors: ‘Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!’ Count on it—that’s the kind of party God’s angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.”

LUKE 15:8-10

(Story of the Lost Coin)

Gratitude

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Then [Jesus] said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’ ...

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

LUKE 15:11-32

(Story of the Prodigal Son)

Gratitude

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Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

“He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’”

Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?”

LUKE 18:1-8

(Story of the Persistent Widow)

Gratitude

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Prayer

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[Jesus] told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: ‘Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.’

“Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, ‘God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.’”

Jesus commented, “This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat on your face, but if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

LUKE 18:9-14

(Story of the Tax Man and the Pharisee)

Gratitude

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Next Step

Challenged
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Prayer

Today, I am
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“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

MATTHEW 7:24-29

(Story of Two Builders)

Gratitude

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Prayer

Today, I am
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21-DAY REVIEW

What is one pattern I've noticed in my gratitude lists over the last 21 days?

Which of the stories that Jesus told sparked my curiosity the most? Why?

Which of the stories that Jesus told challenged me the most? Why?

What is ONE NEXT STEP I sense God is wanting me to take as I reflect over that past 21 days?

CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT THROUGH THE 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING!

Thank you for doing the best you can to dive into the Bible, pray and fast throughout the experience. We hope it's been a great way to start off the year!

Now that the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is over, you might be wondering... **“What can I do next?”** This is a great question, and I wanted to offer **3 next steps you can take.**

ONE

Keep Spiritual Habits Going

We have some great tools available for you to keep spending time with God everyday. Learn more by visiting our Spiritual Habits webpage.

JourneyColorado.com/SpiritualHabits



TWO

Jump Into Crash Course

Crash Course is a series of 2 steps designed to help you connect to Journey, discover your purpose, and make a difference with your life. You can take your next step by registering for the first step in the Crash Course series today (Membership Class).

JourneyColorado.com/CrashCourse



THREE

Join a Small Group

Finally, if you haven't yet, try a Journey small group! We have a ton of groups for different life situations and hobbies. Click on the link to access our online Groups Directory to view all available groups to join.

JourneyColorado.com/GroupDirectory



