



UNLIMITED
PRAYER

2022 Devotional

A LETTER FROM PASTOR JAY

I am glad you are joining us for *21 Days of Prayer*. In Scripture, we often see how important first things are. We are to give God the first day of the week, the first 10% of all we earn and He alone is to be our first love. Following that line of thought, how appropriate it is that we give God the first part of the new year.

This devotional was written to help you do just that. A daily portion of Scripture has been chosen to guide our prayer times using the S.O.A.P. method (page 4). We have also included a section to help families of kids and teens to engage in prayer together (beginning on page 28.) Also we will be sharing a special time of communion at SOAK on January 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Please consider participating in some type of fasting during this time of focused prayer. Fasting will help to enhance your prayer time and increase your hunger for God. To help you prepare for fasting, we have included a section that should answer most of your questions (pg 1-5).

This will be a great time of refreshing, seeking God's face, and preparing ourselves for the year ahead. I look forward to sharing this time with you!

Praying with you,

PASTOR JAY

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HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

I wanted to take a moment and tell you how to get the most out of this devotional. I've broken it down into three layers of depth.

Layer One- Do the S.O.A.P. devotion daily. (Example Pages 4 and 5) Spend between 15-30 minutes meditating on the Scripture and writing some thoughts.

Come to SOAK on Sunday night, January 16th at 5:30 pm.

Layer Two- The Devotional is based on Richard Foster's classic book on prayer, aptly title *Prayer*. There are twenty-one chapters that correspond with each day of the twenty-one days of prayer. Seriously, this is the best book on prayer that I've ever read! Read a chapter a day along with your devotion.

Layer Three- Each Monday, I will upload a guided prayer meditation onto our website. This prayer meditation will take you through prayer for our church and community. The first two layers of prayer focus a lot on you as an individual; however, the guided prayer meditation will focus on our church and community. You can play this after your devotional time, in the car on the way to work, during a meal time that you might be fasting, or anytime really. The goal is to give our church a time of prayer when we are all praying the same thing! Each prayer meditation will be between 15-30 minutes long.

I'm sincerely looking forward to this time of prayer together this year. Kingwood is truly a Movement of Hope!

All Is Grace,

PASTOR JEREMY

PRAYER AND SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 10 - 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting begin

Mondays - Online Guided Prayer Meditation
beginning Jan 10

January 30 - 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting ends

PREPARING FOR PRAYER AND FASTING

Below are a few questions to help you prepare for this time of prayer & fasting.

- What will be your prayer focus? It usually helps to make a list.
 - What do you sense God speaking to you about this season of prayer? Do you have a sense of what He wants to do or are there areas you long to connect with God about?
 - What type of prayer/fast will you do?
 - Is there a way to apply the prayer/fast to your family?
 - What time of day will you do the devotional S.O.A.P. reading?
-
-

TEN BIBLICAL PURPOSES TO FAST

- **To Strengthen Prayer-** Ezra 8.23, Nehemiah 1.4, Daniel 9.3, Joel 2.12
- **To Seek God's Guidance-** Judges 20.26-28, Acts 14.23
- **To Express Grief-** Judges 20.26, 1 Samuel 31.13, 1 Peter 3.18, 1 John 1.9
- **To Seek Deliverance or Protection-** 2 Chronicles 20.3-4, Ezra 8.21-23, Esther 4.16, Psalm 109.24
- **To Express Repentance & Return to God-** 1 Samuel 7.6, Joel 2.12, Jonah 3.5-8
- **To Humble Oneself Before God-** 1 Kings 21.27-29, Psalm 35.13
- **To Express Concern for the Work of God-** Nehemiah 1.3-4, Daniel 9.3
- **To Minister to the Needs of Others-** Isaiah 58.6-7
- **To Overcome Temptation & Dedicate Yourself to God-** Matthew 4.1-11
- **To Express Love & Worship to God-** Luke 2.37, Philippians 3.19

HOW TO DO A FAST

-DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL FAST

Commit to the Lord which type of fast you will do (partial, normal, absolute). If you are new to fasting, I would recommend a partial fast, especially since it will be a 21 day journey. In a partial fast, simply give something up that is important to you for 21 days in order to pray and seek God.

Examples:

- Give up T.V., internet, and movies
- Eat only fruits, vegetables, and liquids
- Only consume liquids (juices, vitamin drinks, etc.)
- Give up some category of foods

-REPENT

Submit to Jesus the excesses, attachments, the wrong thinking/beliefs, and cultural baggage that you have allowed in your life. Ask God to reveal them to you, to wash you of them, and to break the connection to them. Allow the cleansing power of God to be a reality to you.

-PRAY

Set a regular time of prayer for these 21 days. As much as possible have a regular time of prayer every day. I find morning and evening prayer for 21 days is very effective. Make a prayer list. Bring the issues of your life to God and ask Him to reveal and to move you into His will on these issues.

-SHARE

Share your journey with others who are fasting. Stay current on your devotional reading. Join us for our January Online Guided Prayer Meditations. There is great power in unity and common experiences. As you share your journey, the process will solidify and become more real to you. As you share the things God is doing in you, it will anchor them more deeply in your spirit.

-WHEN THE FAST IS OVER

Reflect on the things God did and said to you during the fast. Thank God for His answers; worship and praise Him for a powerful fast. Resolve to do God's will. Plan some ways these things can be part of your life when the fast is over.

-THE MAIN THING

The main thing is to keep the "main thing" the main thing. This is about getting closer to God. Keep worship, repentance, submission to God, and determination to do God's will at the center of the fast. If your fast does not provide opportunity for your prayer life to intensify, do a different kind of fast.

It is good for us to set aside our routines, to focus, to pursue God, and to alter our diets enough that we think about God every time we eat. A fast creates openness to God's plans, His word, and His presence. A focused time of prayer and fasting will disrupt the natural and allow the spiritual to deepen in our lives.

TECH HABITS WHILE FASTING

Technology has more influence on us than we realize. These habits will help you to focus throughout the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting.

Daily Habit 1- Scripture before phone

Daily Habit 2- Turn off your phone for one hour every day for mid-day or evening prayer by yourself or with family.

Daily Habit 3- Just before bed, reflect on your commitment to habits for the day.

Weekly Habit 1- One hour of face-to-face conversation with a friend without access to a screen.

Weekly Habit 2- All media at four hours per week or less

Weekly Habit 3- Attend church service with your phone turned off.

WHAT IS S.O.A.P.

S.O.A.P. is a way to engage the Scriptures and to help us live out God's word. A really neat part of doing this devotional is you are not doing it by yourself. Hundreds of other people are reading the same Scriptures you are. Below is an outline explaining how it works.

SCRIPTURE

Read the portion of Scripture assigned for today. Ask the Holy Spirit to use one of these verses to speak to you. One of these verses will grab your attention or shine out from the page. Copy that verse on a piece of paper or a smart device.

OBSERVATION

Quiet your heart, set aside the "to do" lists in your mind, and as best as you can, focus in on this verse. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see why this verse jumped out at you. Read the verse again and try to understand it in its context. Who wrote it? To whom was it written? Why was it written? What is happening in this passage? Take a few minutes to meditate and reflect on the meaning of this verse and let it soak deeply into your heart. What did you notice about renewal and returning to God? Write down what you observe.

APPLICATION

Write a few thoughts on how you could apply to your life what you just read. How can you put this into practice today?

PRAYER

Ask God to help you live out His word and to be faithful to the insight the Holy Spirit has brought to you. In the end, none of us can live the Christian life without God's help. Write down your prayer for the day, ask specifically for God's help, and thank Him for this insight.

S.O.A.P. EXAMPLE

Psalm 23:1-2

SCRIPTURE

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads beside still waters.”

OBSERVATION

The Lord is my Supplier, my Sustainer, my Caretaker, my Protector, and Guide. What more do I need?

APPLICATION

If God is my Supplier and Sustainer, then why do I worry so much? He who aligned the universe, who spoke and continues to speak the stars into the sky, He can certainly align my life. I have concerns because I don't see the big picture; however, seeing the big picture would negate my need to rely on God. Trust only comes when I am out of control and must rely on the God who holds the big picture. Like a shepherd who knows where the fertile pasture is, God is leading me toward purpose and destiny. And sometimes, I am led through dark valleys toward fertile pasture.

PRAYER

Lord, today your word has cut my heart. I repent of not trusting you. I repent of relying on my own wisdom and understanding. You are my Supplier, my Sustainer, my Caretaker, my Protector, and my Guide. What more do I need? Show me those areas in which you desire to stretch my trust. Teach me to move with the rhythms of your grace.

DAY ONE

PSALM 131

Our problem is that we assume prayer is something to master the way we master algebra or auto mechanics. That puts us in the “on-top” position, where we are competent and in control. But when praying, we come “underneath,” where we calmly and deliberately surrender control and become incompetent. “To pray,” writes Emilie Griffin, “means to be willing to be naive.” - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 1 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Review and implement the tech habits on page 3

DAY TWO

PSALM 22:1-8

If we could make the Creator of heaven and earth instantly appear at our beck and call, we would not be in communion with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We do that with objects, with things, with idols. But God, the great iconoclast, is constantly smashing our false images of who he is and what he is like. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 2 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Consider scheduling a time of prayer with the guided prayer meditation from the website

DAY THREE

PSALM 139:23-24

Precious Savior, why do I fear your scrutiny? Yours is an examen of love. Still, I am afraid...afraid of what may surface. Even so, I invite you to search me to the depths so that I may know myself—and you—in fuller measure. —Amen. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 3 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join a friend or your family in prayer today for Kingwood Church

DAY FOUR**PSALM 51**

Tears are a sign—not an infallible sign, to be sure, but a sign nevertheless—that God has touched this center. Through the Prayer of Tears we give God permission to show us our sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world at the emotional level. As best I can discern, tears are God’s way of helping us descend with the mind into the heart and there bow in perpetual adoration and worship.- *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 4 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY FIVE

GALATIANS 2:19-20

Do you know what a great freedom this crucifixion of the will is? It means freedom from what A. W. Tozer called “the fine threads of the self-life, the hyphenated sins of the human spirit.” It means freedom from the self-sins: self-sufficiency, self-pity, self-absorption, self-abuse, self-aggrandizement, self-castigation, self-deception, self-exaltation, self-depreciation, self-indulgence, self-hatred, and a host of others just like them. It means freedom from the everlasting burden of always having to get our own way. It means freedom to care for others, to genuinely put their needs first, to give joyfully and freely. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 5 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY SIX

JOSHUA 1

None of us will keep up a life of prayer unless we are prepared to change. We will either give it up or turn it into a little system that maintains the form of godliness but denies the power of it—which is the same thing as giving it up. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 6 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join us for our Kingwood Worship Service tomorrow at 10:30am in-person or online

DAY SEVEN

PSALM 5

Once we have made generous latitude for individual differences and schedules, we must firmly discipline ourselves to a regular pattern of prayer. We cannot assume that time will somehow magically appear. We will never have time for prayer—we must make time. On this score we have to be ruthless with our rationalizations. We must never, for instance, excuse our prayerlessness under the guise of “always living prayerfully.” John Dalrymple rightly observes, “The truth is that we only learn to pray all the time everywhere after we have resolutely set about praying some of the time somewhere.” - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 7 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join us for Soak Tonight at 5:30pm

DAY EIGHT

PSALM 34

To talk about ourselves or our activities out of true proportion is dangerous indeed, but when we magnify God, we are on safe ground. We simply cannot say too much about God's goodness or love. The most exaggerated things we can think of will still be far below what is actually the case. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 8 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Review and implement the tech habits on page 3

DAY NINE

MATTHEW 11:25-30

No teaching flowing out of the Sabbath principle is more important than the centrality of our resting in God. Instead of striving to make this or that happen, we learn trust in a heavenly Father who loves to give. This does not promote inactivity, but it does promote dependent activity. No longer do we take things into our own hands. Rather, we place all things into divine hands and then act out of inner promptings. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 9 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Consider scheduling a time of prayer with the guided prayer meditation from the website

DAY TEN

PSALM 103

I do not have a spirit: I am a spirit. Likewise, I do not have a body: I am a body. The same is true for you. Far too often, though, we pray as if we are disembodied spirits. It is high time we restore a Christian incarnational understanding of the body. God's grace is mediated to us through our bodies. We worship God with our bodies. We pray with our bodies. -

Prayer by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 10 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join a friend or your family in prayer today for Kingwood Church

DAY ELEVEN

JOHN 15:1-11

I am sure you sense the desperate need for Unceasing Prayer in our day.

We pant through an endless series of activities with scattered minds and noisy hearts. We feel strained, hurried, breathless. Thoughts dart in and out of our minds with no rhyme or reason. Seldom can we focus on a single thing for long. Everything and anything interrupt our sense of concentration. We are a distracted people. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 11 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY TWELVE

HOSEA 11:1-4

The Prayer of the Heart is abba prayer. The great Apostle Paul tells us that “God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Gal. 4:6). It is the abba experiences of Jesus that form the touchstone for the Prayer of the Heart. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 12 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY THIRTEEN

PSALM 119:33-40

It is important for us to resist the temptation to pass over many passages superficially. Our rushing reflects our internal state, and our internal state is what needs to be transformed. Bonhoeffer recommends spending a whole week on a single text! Therefore, my suggestion is that we take a single event, or a parable, or a few verses, or even a single word and allow it to take root in us. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 13 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join us for our Kingwood Worship Service tomorrow at 10:30am in-person or online

DAY FOURTEEN

PSALM 62:1-2

C. S. Lewis tells his friend Malcolm how early in his Christian experience he attempted wordless prayer with little success. He writes, “I still think the prayer without words is the best—if one can really achieve it. But I now see that in trying to make it my daily bread I was counting on a greater mental and spiritual strength than I really have. To pray successfully without words one needs to be ‘at the top of one’s form. -

Prayer by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 14 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY FIFTEEN 1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-33

Jesus, we must remember, spent most of his earthly life in what we today would call a blue-collar job. He did not wait until his baptism in the Jordan to discover God. Far from it! Jesus validated the reality of God in the carpentry shop over and over before speaking of the reality of God in his ministry as a rabbi. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 15 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Review and implement the tech habits on page 3

DAY SIXTEEN

MATTHEW 7:7-8

Do you know why the mighty God of the universe chooses to answer prayer? It is because his children ask. God delights in our asking. He is pleased at our asking. His heart is warmed by our asking.

- *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 16 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Consider scheduling a time of prayer with the guided prayer meditation from the website

DAY SEVENTEEN

JOHN 16:19-24

If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer. Intercession is a way of loving others. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 17 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join a friend or your family in prayer today for Kingwood Church

DAY EIGHTEEN

JAMES 5:14-16

Healing Prayer is part of the normal Christian life. It should not be elevated above any other ministry in the community of faith, nor should it be undervalued; rather, it should be kept in proper balance. It is simply a normal aspect of what it means to live under the reign of God.

- *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 18 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY NINETEEN

HEBREWS 12:1-2

If in all the pantheon of prayer there is one form that is totally other centered, we have now come to it. In the Prayer of Suffering we leave far behind our needs and wants, even our transformation and union with God. Here we give to God the various difficulties and trials that we face, asking him to use them redemptively. We also voluntarily take into ourselves the griefs and sorrows of others in order to set them free. In our sufferings those who suffer come to see the face of the suffering God.

- *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 19 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

DAY TWENTY

MATTHEW 6:9-13

In Authoritative Prayer we are calling forth the will of the Father upon the earth. Here we are not so much speaking to God as speaking for God. We are not asking God to do something; rather, we are using the authority of God to command something done. - *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 20 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

** Join us for our Kingwood Worship Service tomorrow at 10:30am in-person or online

DAY TWENTY-ONE REVELATION 3:14-22

Radical Prayer goes to the root, the heart, the center. The word radical itself comes from the Latin radix, which means root. Radical Prayer refuses to let us stay on the fringes of life's great issues. It dares to believe that things can be different. Its aim is the total transformation of persons, institutions, and societies. Radical Prayer, you see, is prophetic.

- *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

* Go Deeper- Read Chapter 21 of *Prayer* by Richard Foster

SUGGESTED FAST FOR KIDS & TEENS

Day 1 Fast TV, Movies, DVDs & Videos	Day 2 Fast TV, Movies, DVDs & Videos	Day 3 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 4 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 5 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 6 Fast TV, Movies, DVDs & Videos	Day 7 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy
Day 8 Fast TV, Movies, DVDs & Videos	Day 9 Fast TV, Movies, DVDs & Videos	Day 10 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 11 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 12 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 13 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 14 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy
Day 15 Fast Cell Phone	Day 16 Fast Cell Phone	Day 17 Fast Cell Phone	Day 18 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 19 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 20 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy	Day 21 Fast Sugars, Dessert & Candy

A LETTER FROM PASTOR JEREMY

Dear Parents,

If you've been around me very long, you've probably heard my spiel about technology, especially social media. It's a beast! However, we don't live in a world where we can bury our heads in the sand and pretend like it's not there. Social media is here to stay. It's not about "should we allow it?", but rather "when should we allow it?"

I met a friend earlier in 2020 who shared the following youth devotional with me. Toby did a fantastic job of harnessing what's right about social media to use it properly. I told him, "You reclaimed social media as a tool that we use, instead of a tool that uses us."

In the following pages, it'll take some time, but you'll love how it provides space to both talk about social media and use it for the highest purpose—to glorify God! Carve out about an hour, twice a week over the next four weeks (eight sessions together as a family), and I think you'll be glad that you did.

In the trenches with you,

Pastor Jeremy

CONNECTED

KEEPING FAMILIES CONNECTED THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

By Toby Bowker

Connected is a creative devotional designed to bring your family together utilizing technology. For the next four weeks, you will sit down twice a week and incorporate the Bible and some of your favorite tech platforms. From YouTube to FaceTime, Instagram, Zoom, and more, get ready to have some fun with your family. Each devotional only requires a short amount of time, but we have a feeling you will want them to last longer. You are going to have so much fun doing them. Good news! Once you have finished the four weeks, you can repeat all the individual devotionals, time and time again.

Our **GOAL** is to see families spend more time together.

Our **HEART** is to see you connect with Jesus and each other.

Our **HOPE** is that you make connecting with each other a normal part of your life.

Our **PRAYER** is that you experience and enjoy the power of spending time with family.

CONNECTED

WEEK 1 - DAY 1

TODAY'S GOAL

Experience the power of prayer using Facetime.

SCRIPTURE

“When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.”
Jeremiah 29:12 (MSG)

When you pray, God is listening. He is also faithful to answer our prayers. Take a moment right now to have everyone in your family, share something you are praying about and asking God for. Big or small, every prayer matters to God.

ASSIGNMENT

The only thing more rewarding than spending time connecting with God in prayer, is spending time praying for someone else. Today, you are each going to choose a friend to pray for, call them on Facetime, and pray for each one of them individually. Your entire family can join in, or you can pray for them on your own with your family praying while you are on the call.

STEP 1 - Everyone choose who you will be praying for.

STEP 2 - Pray for each person before you call them.

SAMPLE PRAYER

Jesus, we pray that _____ will be encouraged by our prayer for them. We ask that they feel your love through this prayer and that they will be inspired to spend time with you this week in prayer too. Thank you for listening to our prayers. In Jesus name, Amen.

STEP 3 - Call each person on Facetime and pray for them. Each call should be no longer than 5 minutes.

SAMPLE CALL

“Hi, my family and I are praying for people tonight, and I wanted to know if we could take a minute to pray for you. What can we pray for you about?”

(Pray short prayer or specifically what they asked you to pray about here)

“Thank you for letting us pray for you. I’ll talk to you later this week. We love you.”

****** If they do not pick up, spend two minutes praying for them with your family.

STEP 4 - Pray with your family to end today’s devotional. Ask God to encourage each person you called and thank him for listening to your prayers.

Have a great week and be sure to spend time in prayer.

CONNECTED

WEEK 1 - DAY 2

TODAY'S GOAL

Spend time praying for someone in your extended family through Zoom.

SCRIPTURE

“So, speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope, so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (MSG)

God loves when we encourage each other and one of the best ways you can encourage someone is to pray for them. Not only will your prayer encourage them, but the fact that you stopped your busy schedule to do it, will let show them they matter to you. Everyone loves to feel important and your prayer will show them they are to you.

ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment today is to encourage someone from your extended family through a Zoom call with them. Once on the call, you will encourage them through prayer. You can choose any extended family member you want, including Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, whoever you think can use the encouragement the most. Warning! Smiles and tears may be coming your way. You can access the Zoom website on your laptop, desktop, or iPad, but if it is easier, the Zoom app can be downloaded free of charge to your smartphone.

Please note this assignment requires setting up your Zoom call in advance. If you do not already have a Zoom account, you can set one up

free of charge. Once you set-up your Zoom account, follow the steps to create your meeting, and then send your family member (text or email) the link to log on and time the meeting starts.

STEP 1 - Choose the family member you want to encourage.

STEP 2 - Log on to your Zoom call a few minutes before your designated time.

STEP 3 - Once your family member logs on, explain why you set-up the call.

SAMPLE

“Hi _____, we set this up because we wanted you to know how much we love you, and wanted to encourage you, by praying for you. What can we pray for you about?”

(Pray short prayer or specifically what they asked you to pray about here)

After the prayer, spend a few minutes catching up, but try and keep call to 10-15 minutes.

STEP 4 - Pray with your family to end today’s devotional. Ask God to encourage each person you called and thank him for listening to your prayers.

Have a great week and be sure to spend time in prayer

CONNECTED

WEEK 2 - DAY 1

TODAY'S GOAL

Spend time as a family watching a popular pastor on YouTube.

SCRIPTURE

“Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.” 1 Timothy 4:13 (NLT)

Why are pastors so important? One of the reasons is they teach us the Word of God. Learning what Scripture says is the key to living a life that is pleasing to Jesus. Thanks to YouTube, we have access to a lot of great pastors and their teachings about the Bible.

ASSIGNMENT

Today, you are going to choose a topic together and then find a pastor on YouTube teaching about it. We encourage to choose a topic that is timely for your family. For example, if you have anyone that is sick in your family, or extended family, choosing a message on healing would be relevant. If you have a family member that has a big decision to make, choosing a message about wisdom would work.

STEP 1 - Choose a topic together relevant for your family. You can watch your message on any laptop, tablet, Smart TV and Smartphone. TV is recommended.

STEP 2 - Log on to YouTube and type this in the search bar 'Pastor preaching about (insert your topic here). Parents, please be sure your selection is a pastor you are comfortable with.

STEP 3 - Select the message you want to watch and click play.

STEP 4 - Watch 15 minutes of the message and as a family, discuss what you got from it.

If you choose to do so, you can watch the remainder of the message here, pick a time to watch it together later, or agree to watch it on your own sometime this week.

STEP 5 - Finish this devotional with a family prayer centered around the topic you just learned about.

Have a great week and be sure to finish the message you were watching if you did not already do so.

CONNECTED

WEEK 2 - DAY 2

TODAY'S GOAL

Experience the joy of preaching and the impact it can have on people.

SCRIPTURE

“And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.” Mark 16:15 (NLT)

Jesus has called all of us to preach the “Good News”. What is the good news? He is! Jesus wants the entire world to know, He loves them and has great plans for all of us. He came, lived a perfect, sinless life, died on a cross for our sins, and rose again three days later, proving He is the one and only God, and through Him, we can have eternal life. Now, that is good news!

ASSIGNMENT

Earlier this week, you watched a pastor preach a message on YouTube, and today, you get to be the pastor. Each person will preach a message, no longer than three minutes, and then upload it to YouTube for all to be encouraged by. We are thankful for our pastors, and they have been blessed to preach, but God wants all of to tell the world the ‘Good News’ of Jesus.

STEP 1 - Choose who will record your message. The easiest way to record and upload your message to YouTube is your smartphone, but you can film on any device you prefer.

STEP 2 - Each person records a two-to-three-minute message about Jesus.

STEP 3 - Upload every message to YouTube.

If you do not have a YouTube channel, you can either create one, or upload each message to another platform like Facebook or Instagram. Be sure to monitor and reply to the comments your friends and family will be leaving. You just might be the internet's greatest new preacher! If you do not have any of the above platforms, simply enjoy each message all to yourself.

STEP 4 - Pray for your pastor. Pray for his family, health, and wisdom to continue to lead your church. Finish this devotional by thanking God for the 'Good News' of Jesus.

Have a great week and look for opportunities to tell someone about Jesus.

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

CONNECTED

WEEK 3 - DAY 1

TODAY'S GOAL

Encourage your Instagram followers with one of your favorite Bible verses.

SCRIPTURE

“Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.” Hebrews 10:24 (TPT)

When you encourage someone, it motivates them to do good things. God loves it when find creative ways to encourage the people in our lives. From family to friends, there is always someone that needs encouragement, and it is awesome that God chooses us to do what he could do on his own.

ASSIGNMENT

Technology gives us a lot of creative options to encourage people and your assignment today is to use IGTV on Instagram. Whether you have five followers, or five hundred (maybe even more), you are about to experience the power of encouraging someone. Warning! Seeing your friends and family react to your creative encouragement could be addictive, and you might want to do it again and again and again.

STEP 1 - As a family (all of you at the same time) record a video centered around encouraging people. No more than two minutes long. Typically, people will not watch anything longer than that. A tripod is ideal for this or you can use the video timer on your phone.

STEP 2 - Upload your video to IGTV on Instagram. You will need to choose a select a cover photo (choose something fun of your entire family, take a new picture if need be), and write a title and short description before posting it.

STEP 3 - Post your video to IGTV.

If you do not have an Instagram account, you can either create one, or upload each message to another platform like Facebook. Be sure to monitor and reply to the comments your friends and family will be leaving. You might be surprised how God will use what may seem like a silly video to really encourage someone. If you do not have any of the above platforms, simply text it to friends and family and watch what happens.

STEP 4 - Pray that God uses your video to encourage people.

Have a great week and look for opportunities to encourage someone for Jesus.

CONNECTED

WEEK 3 - DAY 2

TODAY'S GOAL

Learn the power of words and have fun doing it.

SCRIPTURE

“Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit you choose.”
Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

What comes out of your mouth has the power to lift somebody up or tear them down. When it comes to your words, would you rather speak life or death? Instead of hurting them, it pleases God when we choose to use our words to help people. Words are some of the most powerful things God has given us, and it is our choice what we do with them. Choose wisely.

ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment today is to combine life-giving words and laughter. Those two are good enough to turn anyone’s day around. As a family, you are going to choose a filter (preferably one that makes all of you laugh) on your favorite social media platform and record a sixty-second video of you speaking nothing but positive things. Once you are finished you will post it on your stories and tag any friends you want to be the recipient of your life-giving and super fun message.

Example Filters - Dog Ears, Sparkles, Silly Face, Heart Eyes, Etc.

Example Video - We want to take the next sixty-seconds to tell you how important you are. We think you are amazing. You are special, important, extremely good looking, and if we were in front of you right now, we would all give you a giant hug. (Continue on from here) Potential Social Media Platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, etc.

STEP 1 - Choose your social media platform and your fun filter.

STEP 2 - Record your sixty-second, nothing but positive, life-speaking video.

STEP 3 - Post your video to the stories section of your social media page. If that does not apply to your specific platform, simply post to your designated timeline.

If you do not have a social media account, you can either create one, or simply save it to your phone and text it to friends and family. You might be surprised how many people will laugh at your filter but be impacted by the words you are speaking through it.

STEP 4 - Ask God for forgiveness for any words that you have spoken that did not represent life and pray for the discipline to only speak life-giving words over yourself and those around you.

Have a great week and look for opportunities to speak words of life over someone.

CONNECTED

WEEK 4 - DAY 1

TODAY'S GOAL

Experience the presence of God through the power of worship music.

SCRIPTURE

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” James 4:8 (MSG)

What a promise from God! If your desire is to get closer to Him, His promise is to come closer to you, and when Jesus comes closer, so does everything that He has to offer like peace, joy, hope, love, and so much more. The best way to invite the presence of God in your life is through worship. Whether listening to your favorite worship bands, or singing your own songs, your willingness to praise God, shows Him that you desire to be in His presence, and He loves that.

ASSIGNMENT

Utilizing your favorite music platform (see options below), you are going to create a song list of your favorite praise and worship music. Each member of your family gets to pick a song. If there are three of you, choose three songs. If there are four people, choose four songs, and so on. After creating your new worship setlist, you and your family will spend 10 minutes praising Jesus to your new worship collection.

Potential Music Platforms: Spotify, i-Tunes, YouTube, Apple Music, etc.

STEP 1 - Each person chooses one worship song they want on the setlist.

STEP 2 - Explain why you chose your specific song and what it means to you.

STEP 3 - Give your new worship playlist a name and create it on your music platform of choice.

STEP 4 - Spend 10 minutes worshipping with your family to your new playlist. If you have time, you may find yourself wanting to listen and worship to all your songs.

STEP 5 - Share your new worship playlist with friends and family who you think might enjoy it, through your music platform, or text them the link.

Have a great week and spend time in the presence of God on your own worshipping God with your new playlist that hopefully will always remind you of God and your family.

CONNECTED

WEEK 4 - DAY 2

TODAY'S GOAL

Experience the power of worship with the help of a very special guest.

SCRIPTURE

“Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord!” Jeremiah 20:13 (NLT)

The Lord loves when we take the time to worship Him. Quite honestly, with everything He has done for us, He deserves all the praise we can give Him. If you ever feel down, lost, or confused about anything going on in life, worshipping God is one of the best ways to give you a new perspective on whatever you are facing. This is the reason worship leaders are so important to their church. They help direct our attention to God, instead of our circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT

As you finish your fourth and final week of the *Connected* family devotional, you are going to have the opportunity to praise the Lord with the Worship Leader of your church on Zoom. You can access the Zoom website on your laptop, desktop, or iPad, but if it is easier, the Zoom app can be downloaded free of charge to your smartphone. This is going to be special for your entire family. Let's get started!

Please note this assignment requires setting up your Zoom call in advance. If you do not already have a Zoom account, you can set one up free of charge. Once you set-up your Zoom account, follow the steps to create your meeting, and then send your worship leader (text or email) the link to log on and time the meeting starts.

Parents, depending on the size of your church, you may need to set this up through the church office. If your worship leader is not available, ask if someone else from the worship team can sit in.

STEP 1 - Log on to your Zoom call a few minutes before your designated time.

STEP 2 - Thank your Worship Leader/Special Guest for taking the time to join you

STEP 3 - Pray for your Worship Leader/Special Guest.

STEP 4 - Have your Worship Leader/Special Guest lead you in two songs of worship. If possible, letting them know the songs in advance is ideal.

STEP 5 - Thank your Worship Leader/Special Guest one last time and end Zoom call.

Congratulations! You have completed your fourth and final week of *Connected*. We hope you enjoyed spending time with your family in this fun and creative way. The biggest compliment you can give our team is to share this devotional with friends and family. The next coolest thing you can do, is repeat it all over again, and stay connected with God while spending time with the ones you love.



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