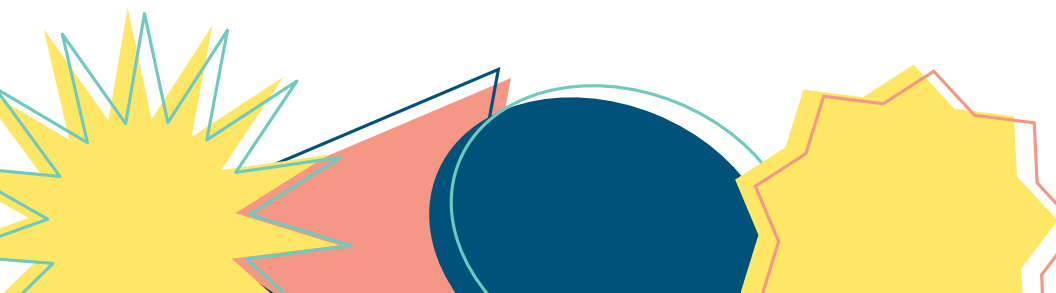


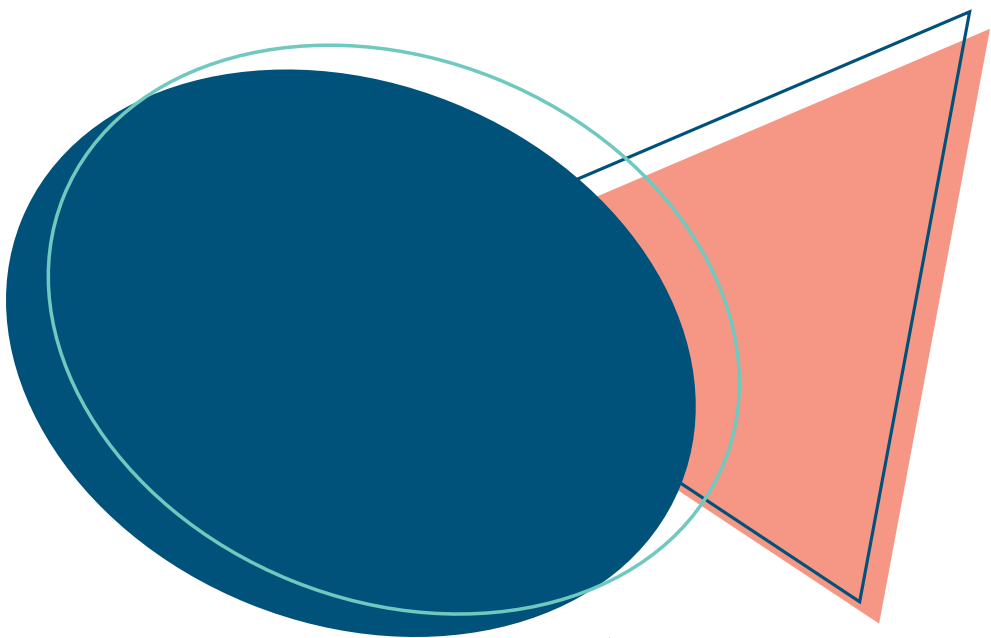
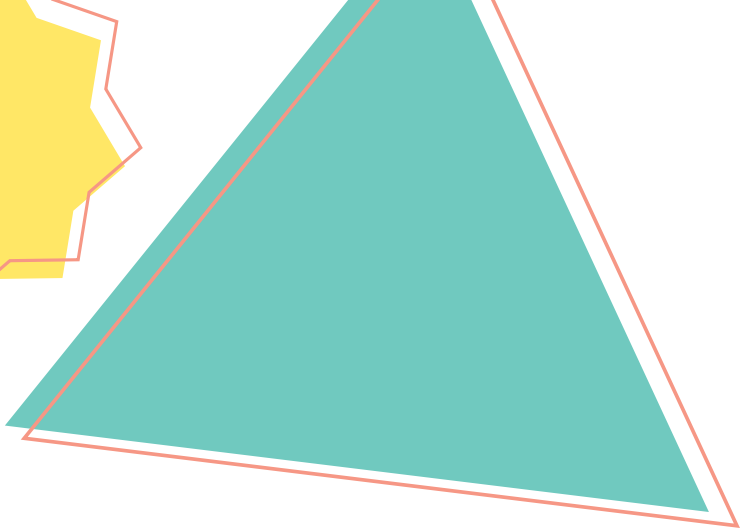
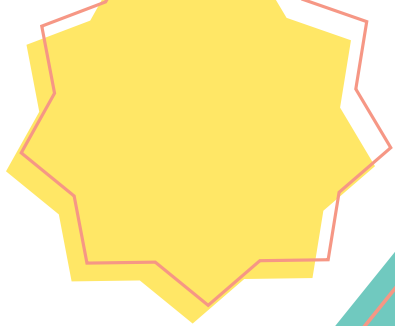
21 Days of Prayer

Guide

Christ Fellowship

kids





Day 1 - New Year, Fresh Start

Read: Nehemiah 1:1-4 & Matthew 6:16-18

Devotional: Welcome to the start of 21 Days of Prayer and the start of a New Year. God wants to do something new in your life this year and these next 21 days are going to help set you up for it.

There are many stories in the Bible of people taking time to pray and fast. In the passage we read from Nehemiah, Nehemiah fasted and prayed so He could know how to help the Israelites returning to Judah. Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness before beginning His ministry. Esther and her people fasted and prayed before she headed into the king's throne room and asked him to save her people. These times helped them slow down, focus on God, be open to hearing from Him, and prepare them for what they were getting ready to do.

In the same way, as we spend time in this season praying, we are turning down the noise around us and positioning ourselves to hear from God in a fresh way. We're moving closer and closer to God and preparing ourselves for what we are getting ready to do.

It's a new year. It's a fresh start. So let's prepare ourselves for what God wants to do in and through us.

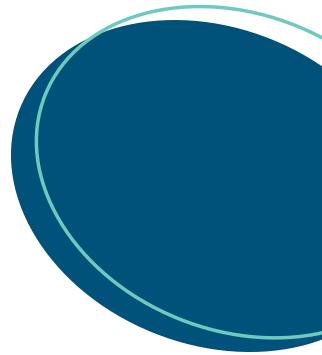
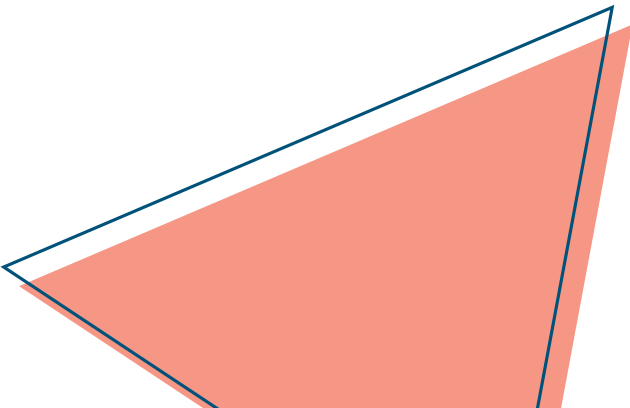
Prayer: God, we're excited for this new year and all that You want to do in us and through us. Help us as we enter into these next 21 days. We want to turn down the noise, focus on you, open our hearts to hear from you, and prepare for what is coming. We can't wait to see how much more we learn about you and the plan you have for us this year. In your name, we pray, amen.



Activity: Journal

What You Need: Pen

Directions: In the space below, take some time to write down some of the things you want God to teach you in these next three weeks. Then, spend some time praying and asking God to help you in each of these areas.



Day 2 - Removing Distractions

Read: Luke 5:16 & Matthew 14:23

Devotional: Have you ever been in a room or outside and it all just seems really loud? Maybe if you're inside, there are always people talking, or alarms going off, and the TV is really loud. Or if you are outside all you hear is the sound of rushing cars trying to hurry to get somewhere or car alarms going off. It can all be overwhelming at times. Have you ever felt that you just needed to be in a quiet place?

In our world today, being alone is seen as a weird idea. People are always around others and fear missing out. Although friends are great, being alone is important. Today, we read two verses about Jesus going away to a quiet place to be alone with God. Think about that... Jesus the Son of God... our Forgiver and Friend. The Savior of the World had to go and be alone with God. If He had to, how much more do we have to?

Our world today is filled with noise and distractions—the new video game, the newest phone, or the latest song. It all plays for our attention. But God wants your full attention. He wants to talk with you and spend time with you. So what do you need to do to remove the distractions and find space to listen to God?

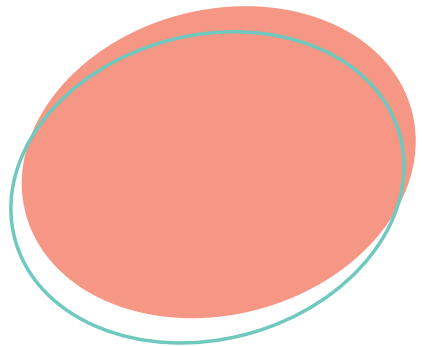
Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you so much for loving me. Thank you for wanting to spend time with me. Holy Spirit, help me to remove all the distractions that keep me from being alone with you. Today I quiet my heart. I want to hear your voice. Here I am, Jesus. Speak and I will listen.



Activity: Listening to God

What You Need: Pencil

Directions: Find a quiet place, your room or outside. Ask God to speak to you and then take three minutes and just be quiet and wait for the Holy Spirit to speak. In the space below, write down what you think God spoke to you.



Day 3 - What Do You See?

Read: Nehemiah 1:1-11 & Proverbs 29:18

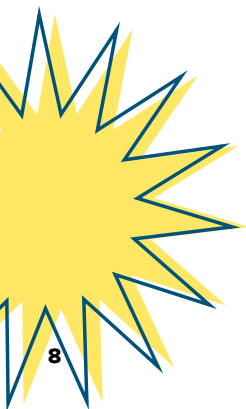
Devotional: The passage we read in the Book of Proverbs gives us an important reminder that we have a hard time looking UP to God unless we obey Him. There is a man in the Bible named Nehemiah who understood this even as he served a king in another country.

In Nehemiah 1, we start to understand that God's people did not obey God and were taken to a land far away from their home in Israel. As Nehemiah hears about the condition of Israel his heart is broken. His eyes were opened to what God sees and because he saw the need, he knew he needed help. However, before he could help he knew that he had to look up to see God's plan.

Nehemiah had a vision of what God wanted him to do. God has a vision for our lives too! All we have to do is look to God and ask Him for His vision. Then let Him lead us where He wants us to go.

Let's take a moment to pray like Nehemiah did and ask for God's vision and help for our day.

Prayer: Lord, you are the God of Heaven. You are a great and wonderful God. You keep the covenant you made with those who love you and obey your commandments. You show them your love. Please pay careful attention to my prayer. I know I haven't always



obeyed the commands, rules, and laws you give me. I do take delight in bringing honor to your name. Help me to see how I can serve you even today. Give me success today when I go about my day.

Activity: 2025 Vision

Supplies: Pencil

Directions: Try giving someone a high five. That seems simple enough. Now try giving that same person a high five with your eyes closed. How did that go? Chances are that you probably struggled.

Without our vision, it is hard to know where we are going and what we are supposed to be doing. The same is true when we don't look for the vision God has for our lives.

In the space below, take some time to write or draw out what your vision is for this year. While you are working, ask God to show you His vision for you this year.



Day 4 - How to Hear God's Whisper

Read: 1 Kings 19:8-12 & John 17:17

Devotional: Have you ever tried to hear someone in a noisy room? It's tough. That's because listening to someone requires us to focus and listen carefully. Did you know that God sometimes speaks to us in a quiet whisper?

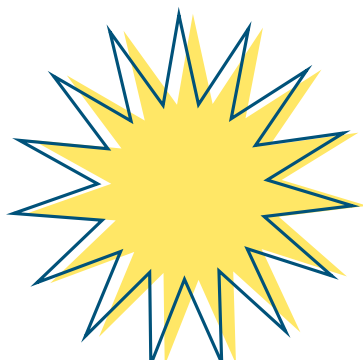
In the passage we read in 1 Kings, Elijah was on a mountain waiting for God to speak. Normally we would think God would be in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire. But God did not come in those big ways. God came to Elijah in a gentle whisper. That's when Elijah knew God was there to speak with him.

God doesn't always use big, loud ways to get our attention. Instead, He often speaks softly, and we must learn to listen.

There are a couple of things we have to do to hear God's whisper. We need to get close to God by reading our Bibles, praying, and coming to church. We have to remove the distractions, like we talked about on day 2. And, we need to get quiet. You can't hear a whisper if you are loud, right?

Remember, God isn't far away—He's right here, speaking softly, waiting for you to hear Him. All we have to do is position ourselves to hear from Him.

Prayer: Lord, sometimes my life feels loud and busy. Thank you

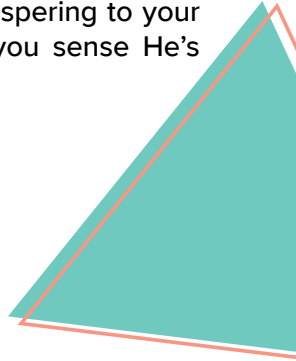


for being patient with me. Help me to quiet my heart and hear your gentle whisper. Show me how to find you in the stillness and trust your Word to guide me. Amen.

Activity: Journal

What You Need: Bible and Pen

Directions: Today, try spending just five minutes sitting quietly with God. Read one verse or passage from the Bible, then listen. It might initially feel strange but trust that God is whispering to your heart. In the space below, write down anything you sense He's saying.



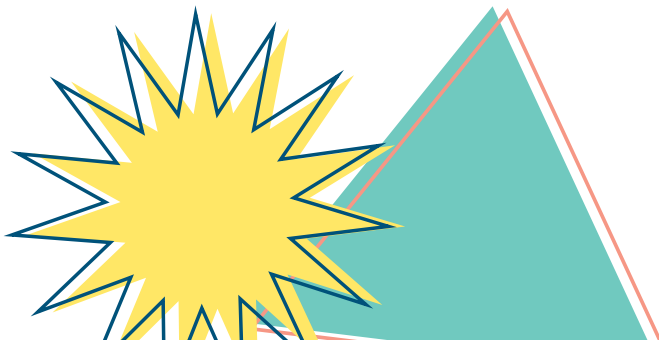
Day 5 - Fast to Slow Down

Read: Matthew 5:6, Psalm 63:1-5, & Psalm 46:10

Devotional: Has anyone ever told you to hurry up? Sometimes it can feel like all we ever hear is hurry up. Hurry and finish your homework, hurry and get your shoes on, hurry and get into bed. We have amazing and full lives but it might seem like we are rushing through them, hurrying to finish one thing so we can move on to the next. Well, what if I told you that God wants you to slow down?

One of my favorite rides at Disney World is Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. It's a really fun, really fast roller coaster with lots of twists and turns. Big Thunder Mountain looks like a mountain and all around the ride there are things to see. There are animals, a funny goat, a stagecoach, and even dinosaur bones. All the things surrounding the ride tell a story. The problem is when you're going that fast, you can't see all there is to see, let alone try to understand the story.

Our journey with God can be that way too. Sometimes we are going so fast in life that we are missing things that God wants us to see. We might not notice when a friend is sad, or maybe we don't take time to stop and help when someone needs help. Even worse, we might miss things that God wants to say to us. Just like the creator of Big Thunder Mountain had a story to tell, our Creator has things He wants to say to us too, but we need to slow down so we can hear His voice. It's important to make sure we are slowing down and making room for God in our lives.



When we fast, we are really slowing down so that we can make more room for God in our lives. We don't want to miss all the things He wants us to see and the amazing story He has for us along the way.

Prayer: God, Thank you for loving me and creating me to know you. Help me to see what you want me to see and hear what you want me to hear. Help me to find ways to slow down and make more time for you in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activity: Journal and Pray

What You Need: Pen

Directions: Find a quiet place to be alone with God. Then answer these questions:

What is God teaching me?

What can I praise God for?

Day 6 - Let Go

Read: Matthew 5:6, Psalm 63:1-5, & Psalm 46:10

Devotional: In today's reading, we see a common theme of letting go and making room for God to do only what He can do. The hardest part is that we are human and we typically don't like to let go. We'd rather stay in control and do what we want.

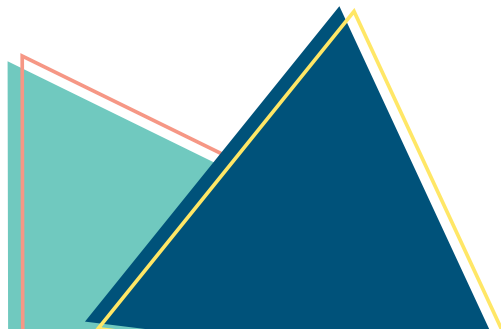
This is what we want to focus on today. So often, we seek after things that will fill our time instead of allowing God to fill our time. Fasting may be an uncommon word for believers, and it's probably because we really don't understand why we need it. We understand the need for prayer, Bible reading, worship, and spending time with other followers of Christ; even if we don't do them as often as we should. But what is the purpose of fasting?

Fasting allows you to deny your own wants or needs and focus instead on God. Imagine wanting to play your favorite video game or watch your favorite movie but instead, you fasted from those types of activities to focus more on prayer with God. It takes a lot of hard work to stay focused on God during that time but it's well worth it.

God wants to connect with us and hear from us.

So what is it that you're going to let go of today and make more room for God?

Prayer: God, thank you for everything that you have done for me. Thank you for the blessings that you have given me. I pray that I put my trust more in you today. Help me to let go of the things in my life that are pulling me away from you. Give me the strength to do what is right. In your Holy Name, amen.



Activity: Word Search

What You Need: Pencil

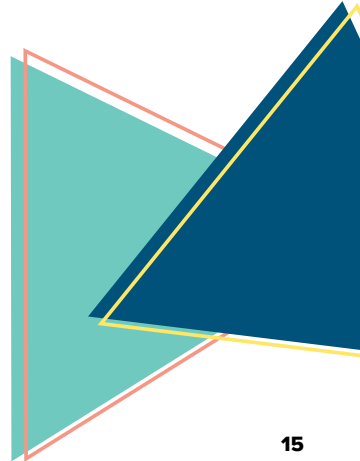
Directions: Find all the words listed below.

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Z A R Q Y Y G O I M R A A D K
J R C E J E S U S W N P D D E
B L P R A Y E R Q J X Y M Z Z
H S O Y N D S W Z S T R U S T
H O U V F I I J A U G E I C C
M F L R E E U N L C O Q C J F
Q K A Y R Z L O G O D U R O A
W V S I S E E L A B K L E H S
X O Y N T P N G O F I F P G T
C N R Z O H I D L W A B N U I
C Q A S D I M R E Z S V L Q N
R F F L H W A P I R I H Z E G
Y B Q F V I Z X D T G C I A M
W I B J H Q P J D U S J U P S

Reading Bible
Holy Spirit
Trust
Love

Fellowship
Worship
Faith
Fasting

Surrender
Prayer
Jesus
God



Day 7 - Keeping Connected to Jesus

Read: John 15:1-7 & John 10:10

Devotional: Jesus is the source of everything we need in life, right? So staying connected and close to Him means we have everything we could need. But sometimes, the world will try to take our eyes away from Jesus to not focus on Him, and not stay close to Him. Sometimes we mess up and we do take our eyes off of Jesus, and that is okay. Here are three ways that we can stay focused on Jesus and keep our connection to Him:

- **Pray!**

Prayer is essential for us to stay connected to Jesus. Prayer isn't just a time when we close our eyes and say some words. It is a way that we can talk with God. It's a time when we can bring our worries and concerns to Him, ask Him for help, and guess what? He hears everything you say. So every day, take time to pray and talk to Jesus.

- **Be in your Bible!**

The Bible is God's Word, the truth that we should live our lives by. The Bible is also a way that God speaks to us. As we read it, it will help us know how to live and answer the questions we might have. That's why it's so important to read it every day. Pick out a few verses or a story to read and let it speak to you. If you don't know where to start, ask a parent or leader for help.

- **Obey God's word!**

Not only should we be reading and listening to God's Word, but we should also be obeying God's Word. This can look like anything from praying, being nice to your friends, and also listening to your



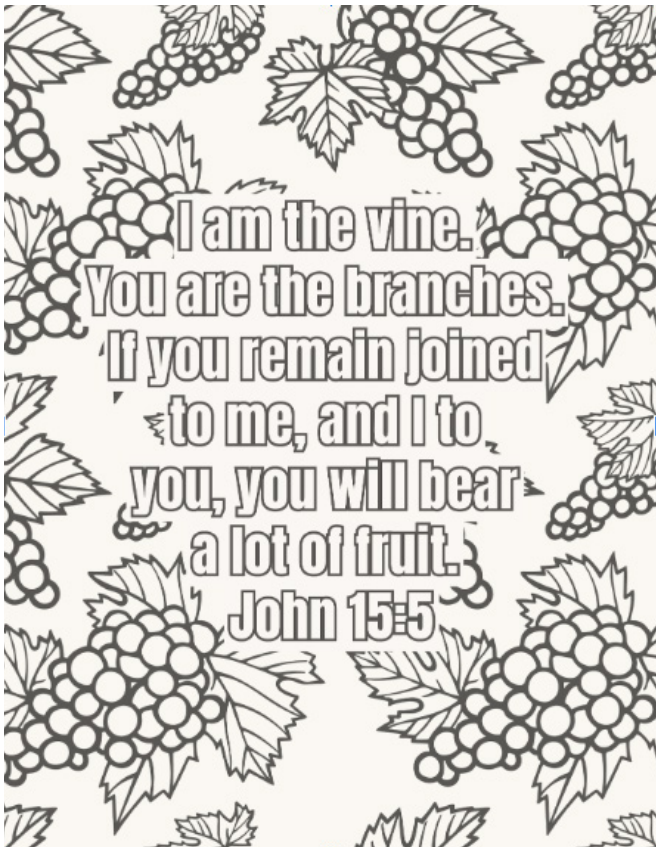
parents. When we obey God’s Word, that means we are remaining in Him, and in return, He remains within us.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for everything you have done for me. I pray that you will help me remain in your Word and stay on the path you made for me. Let me learn more and continue to stay connected to you. Thank you for my church, my family, and my friends. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

Activity: Vine & Branches

What You Need: Coloring Supplies

Directions: Take some time to color in this picture to remind you to stay connected to God.



Day 8 - The Inside vs. The Outside

Read: Matthew 9:36 & John 13:34

Devotional: Have you ever had a bad day? Of course! All of us have bad days every now and then, right? Here is another question: Can it be harder to be nice when you are having a bad day?

It's not very easy to be nice when you are in a bad mood, but do you think Jesus loves us even in our bad moods? Yes, he does! This is so important for us to remember because if Jesus loves us no matter what and we are supposed to be like Jesus, then we need to be kind to those around us. Because that's what Jesus would do!

Think about a time when someone wasn't very nice to you. On the outside, all you could see was how mean they were being! But most of the time we don't know what they are feeling on the inside. Maybe they are sad or angry about something in their life that they can't control. Because of how hurt they feel on the inside they might be mean on the outside. When that happens, we need to be kind to them anyway. Jesus tells us in John 13:34, "You must love one another, just as I have loved you."

It can be hard to be kind to someone who isn't kind to us. We need to remember that God loves them too, and He sees when we are kind to them, and that makes His heart happy.

If you come across someone who is having a bad day try being kind to them just like Jesus would.

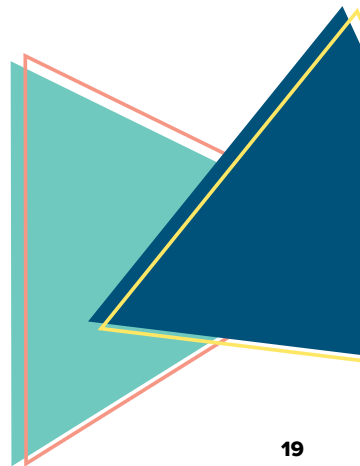
Prayer: God, thank you for loving me even on my bad days. Help me to remember to love the people in my life whether they are

having a good day or a bad one. Help me to be more like you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activity: Gratitude Letter

What You Need: Pen/Pencil and Paper

Directions: Think of one person who you could write a letter to tell them how much you love them and are thankful for them. Pray and ask God to help you think of who to write a letter to. Your letter might just turn that person's bad day into a good day.



Day 9 - Trust in God

Read: Jeremiah 17:7-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Devotional: Have you ever said, “I’m so good at _____” (sports, art, music, reading, memorizing, cooking, helping others, having fun, or something else)? I am sure you are! God uniquely gifted you with special talents, all to bring HIM glory! But, sometimes we get so confident in our own abilities that we forget that we have to trust God. We forget that He is the one who gives us our next breath, makes our hearts beat, and allows us to use our bodies to do some really cool things. Next time you catch yourself thinking, “Wow, I’m so good at this,” turn that thought into a prayer of praise by saying, “God allows me to do this thing really well so that I can point others to Him!”

If you plant a tree, you would want to make sure it’s going to get a good amount of water. It needs to grow strong in order to have lots of fruit on its branches for others to see and enjoy. If you forget to water it, it won’t grow. You are like a tree. When you trust in God, you are planting your life in His Word. The “water” you need to help you grow is to keep reading the Bible, keep praying, and keep coming to church. Your actions and how you use your gifts and talents, are “the fruit” that help others to see and know that you are God’s child.

When you feel like it’s hard to stay humble and kind, sing a praise song, pray, and give thanks for everything God has blessed you with. God says it’s His will that we do this. When we realize that everything (good or bad) that happens to us is all part of His plan to save more people, we can thank Him, because we know He is in control. What do you need to do to remind yourself that you can trust God every day? Do you need to read your Bible more? Praise



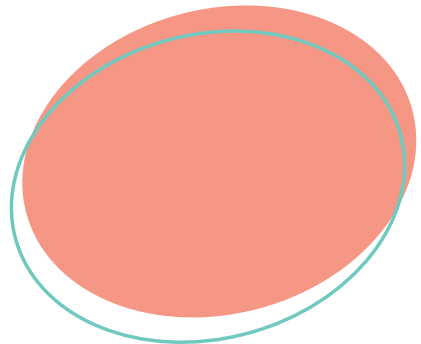
Him more? Pray more? Or thank Him more?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you that I can trust you. You are good no matter what is going on around me. Help me to remember that you give many blessings when I follow your ways. Remind me that the good things in my life are from you. Teach me to praise you with my voice, my actions, and my life. Guide my mind with the words to pray when I don't know what to say. Please, give me a grateful heart that remembers to thank you all day long. Give me a desire to read your Word every day. In Your Name, amen!

Activity: Sticky Reminders

What You Need: 4 Sticky Notes and a Pencil

Directions: Write each set of these words on a sticky note: "Read my Bible," "Praise God," "Pray to God," and "Thank God." Stick the notes somewhere to remind you to do these things every day this week.



Day 10 - Even The Little Things

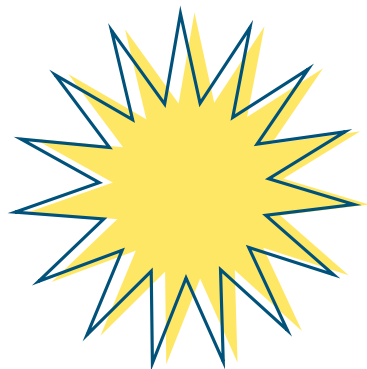
Read: James 5:16, Philippians 4:6-7, & Matthew 7:7-11

Devotional: Did you know that God is always listening? It may be hard to believe, but God listens to every prayer that we pray. Even the silly ones like when we pray for a dog or a present that we really want for our birthday. What's even better than knowing that He hears our prayers, is knowing that He also cares. He cares about every little thing we pray about. Whether we pray prayers about wanting a puppy or about something that upsets us, He wants to hear from you.

Too often, though, we only pray to God when things aren't going so well. We pray when there is an issue in our family or our friendships, and not enough when life is good. Scripture tells us to give thanks to God, not just when life is going good, but when life is a little rocky too. Give thanks to God in the midst of the storm, even when you can't see a way out. Our God is a God who provides.

As you are spending time with God today, make sure you pray. Prayer is powerful and is a tool that we have to talk to God. Don't just pray when you can, but make intentional time daily to be in communication with our Creator. Remember He wants to hear every little thing

Prayer: God, thank you for being a God who listens to our prayers. Thank you for all that you have done in my life, all that you are doing



and will continue to do. Help me to make intentional time with you daily. Thank you for loving me and calling me your child. We love you and we praise you. In Jesus' Name, I pray, amen.

Activity: Journal

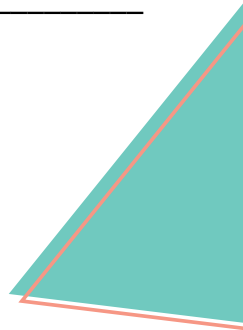
What You Need: Pencil

Directions: Answer these questions:

How can I make time for God every single day?

What was my most recent prayer about?

What has God done in my life that I can be thankful for?



Day 11 - The Greatest Gift

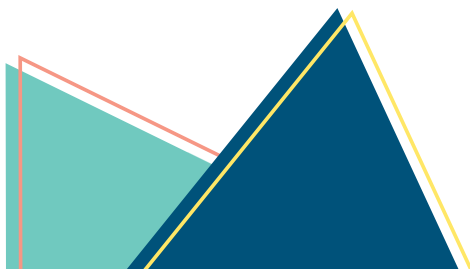
Read: Matthew 21:22, Philippians 4:6-7, & Romans 8:28

Devotional: Imagine it's Christmas morning! The excitement of opening presents fills the air, and you're hoping for that one special gift you've wanted for so long. But the greatest gift you can ever receive isn't something wrapped in paper. It's the peace and joy that Jesus brings into our lives every day. When Jesus was born, He came to give us a new life, one filled with hope and the ability to live without fear or worry.

When we pray, we're connecting with God and asking Him to help us live in that new life. Matthew 21:22 reminds us that when we believe and pray with trust, God will answer. It's not just about asking for what we want—it's about living with the confidence that God is always with us, working everything for our good. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us that when we bring our worries to God in prayer, He will give us peace that we can't even fully understand. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God's plan is always for our good, and we can trust Him no matter what happens.

This week, as you pray, remember that Jesus is the gift who helps you live a life full of peace and joy. No matter what's going on around you, you can walk through each day knowing that God has a plan, and you're never alone.

Prayer: God, thank you for the gift of Jesus, who gives me peace and joy every day. Help me trust you with all my heart and live with the confidence that you are always with me. In Jesus' Name, amen.



Activity: Ready Reminders

What You Need: Colorful Paper/Sticky Notes and Coloring Supplies

Directions: Write down these Bible verses on colorful paper or sticky notes, and decorate them with drawings. Put them up in places where you'll see them often, and remember that Jesus is always with you, filling your life with peace and joy.

- God's Peace for You: Philippians 4:6-7
- God's Plan for You: Jeremiah 29:11
- God Works All Things for Good: Romans 8:28



Day 12 - Make God a Priority

Read: Luke 5:16, Luke 4:14-16, Luke 6:12

Devotional: Did you know that on average, a kid your age spends anywhere from 4-6 hours a day on an electronic device? We are living in a time where the amount of distractions in our lives is at an all-time high. Some of these distractions are not bad! But if we are not careful and not intentional, these distractions will consume all of our time.

We are all given 24 hours in a day and it is up to us how we use those hours. Some will be spent in school, eating, hanging out with friends, on social media, or video games. But outside of all these things, have you made God a priority in your time?

When we look at the life of Jesus, He actually had spiritual practices that helped Him keep God at the center. There would be times when He was busy with people, healing and teaching. But then there were times when He would often get away from the busyness and all of the people to pray to His Father in Heaven. He went to the temple each week. He read the Scriptures. He found spaces in His day and His week to make God a priority.

So today, I want to encourage you to find spaces in your day to get away from the busyness to spend time with God. Read your Bible and pray. Attend church and learn all you can about God and His one big story. As you make God a priority in your life, you'll start to deepen your relationship with Him and grow into the follower He wants you to be.

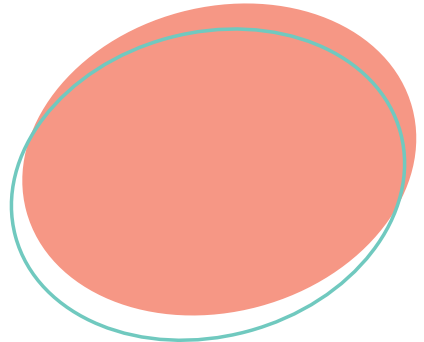


Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you that you love me. Today I come to you. Help me slow down and spend more time with you. I want to know more of you and always prioritize you in my time. I love you. Amen.

Activity: Prayer Journal

What You Need: A Quiet Space and a Pencil.

Directions: In the space below, journal a prayer asking God to help you slow down and spend more time with Him.



Day 13 - A Rhythm of Rest

Read: Matthew 11:28-30 & Genesis 2:3

Devotional: What do you think about when you hear the word “rest”? (Jot it down or say it out loud.)

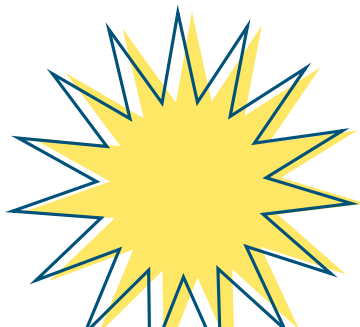
Did you ever picture “rest” as something that was holy (godly, spiritual, blessed)?

When God was creating the earth, He used six days to create the earth and everything in it and He used the seventh day to rest. If our almighty, powerful God, who created the heavens and the earth by just speaking, needs rest, how much more do you and I need it?

God actually commands us to rest. He wants us to stop, slow down, and come to Him for rest. When we go to God for rest, we can hear Him better and stay connected to Him.

Find a day, one day, during your week that you can make your “rest” day. Use this day every week to stop, slow down, and come to God for rest. That day can be a Saturday, or maybe even a Sunday after church! Keep that day as your special “rest” day and maybe even invite your family to join you. You can spend it in prayer, reading your Bible, in fellowship with family and friends, or even doing something that makes you happy!

How are you going to create a “rest” day and spend time resting in God?

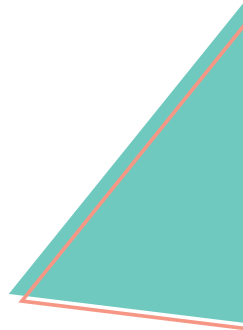


Prayer: God, thank you for rest. Help me to find a day that I can spend with you every week to stop, slow down, and rest with you. I want to learn from you. I want to hear you and stay connected to you. Amen.

Activity: Calendar

What You Need: A Blank Piece of Paper, Coloring Supplies, and Tape

Directions: Sit with someone at your home (a parent, a guardian, an older brother or sister) and work together to find a day that can be your/your family’s special “rest” day. Once you come up with that day, with your supplies, create a calendar for either the month you are in, or the next month, and mark your special “rest” day in each week. Feel free to fill in the rest of the calendar with anything you will be looking forward to that month! Decorate your calendar and make it special. Once you are done, tape it somewhere where everyone can see it (the refrigerator, near the front door...). Use this calendar to help remind you and everyone in your household to stop, slow down, and rest with God on your special “rest” day!



Day 14 - Fact Vs. Fiction

Read: Philippians 4:8, John 8:32, & 2 Corinthians 10:5

Devotional: Sometimes, we hear things that just aren't true. People might say things that make us feel bad, or we might think things like, "I'm not good enough" or "I can't do this." These are lies that can make us feel sad, worried, or unsure of ourselves. But guess what? God's truth is so much stronger than any lie!

Jesus tells us in John 8:32, "Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free." That means when we learn God's truth, it can help us feel better and get rid of the lies that try to hurt us. God's truth tells us who we really are—loved, important, and capable of doing great things because He is with us!

In Philippians 4:8, the Bible says, "Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those things." This verse reminds us that we can choose what we think about. When we think about things that are good, kind, and true, it helps us replace the lies with the truth that God gives us.

2 Corinthians 10:5b says, "I keep every thought under control in order to make it obey Christ." That means we can choose not to listen to thoughts that make us feel bad or scared. Instead, we can grab onto God's truth and remember what He says about us. We don't have to listen to lies. We can make our thoughts line up with God's Word!

The more we focus on God's truth, the less we believe the lies.

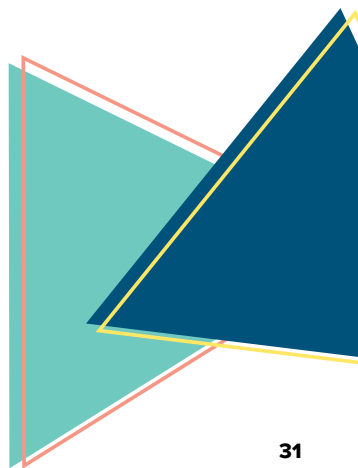
And when we know the truth, we feel stronger and more confident. God’s truth helps us to see ourselves the way He sees us—with love, purpose, and hope! So, the next time you hear a lie, remember that you can replace it with God’s truth. God’s truth makes us free and gives us the courage to face anything!

Prayer: Dear God, help me to remember your truth when lies try to make me feel scared or sad. Thank you for showing me how much you love me. Help me think about what is good and true, and let your Word fill my heart. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Activity: Truth or Lie Cards

What You Need: Index Cards or Small Pieces of Paper, Markers, and a Container

Directions: With your parents, write down a few statements on the cards. Some should be lies (things that are not true about you or about what God says), and some should be truths (things that are true according to God’s Word). Mix the cards up in a container and take turns drawing a card. Read the statement aloud and determine if it is a truth or a lie. If it is a lie, replace the lie with a truth from God’s Word. Talk about how you can replace the lies you might hear with the truth from God’s Word.



Day 15 - Power of Prayer

Read: Matthew 18:18-19, Ephesians 6:10-18, & Nehemiah 4:14

Devotional: When it comes to playing a sport, if you want to become better you need to practice. When you practice, you have things you wear and bring. For example, if you play basketball, you need a basketball, good shoes to run around in, and something to drink when you get tired. Other sports might need a little bit more. In football, you'll need pads, a helmet, cleats, and more padding in your jersey.

When we play sports, we think of having the right things to play and to stay protected. It's good to be protected physically, but how about the unseen things? The Word of God says that our struggle isn't just against flesh and blood, but also the spiritual forces that don't come from God. Ephesians 6:10-18 talks about putting on the full Armor of God, so we can be protected against those forces. But another weapon we can add to our tool belt is Prayer. Prayer is a wonderful way to have a conversation with the Lord, but there is more to it. Not only can we talk to our Heavenly Father, but we also have direct access to God, who holds all the power and authority.

In football, there is a goal— get the ball to the other side. But that may require getting past the opponents. That's why they wear special pads and go over plays. In the same way, the Armor of God is like the equipment that you may wear and prayer is like the plays that you are taught. There is power in the protection that God gives us, but also in prayer. And when we suit up and use our weapon of prayer, there is nothing that we can't face.

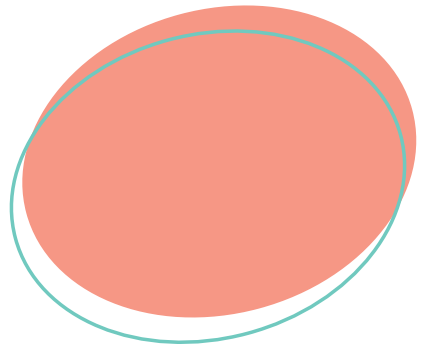


Prayer: Dear God, thank you for wanting a relationship with us. Thank you for giving your Armor and your Word to us. Help me in this battle that isn't just against flesh and blood. Help me seek you more so I can grow and love your people well. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, so we can have a relationship with you. We love you. In Jesus' Name, I pray, amen.

Activity: Hand Prayer Guide

What You Need: A Piece of Paper and Coloring Supplies

Directions: Grab a piece of paper and some coloring supplies. On the piece of paper, trace your hand. On your thumb, write "Family & Friends." On your pointer finger, write "Teachers." On your middle finger, write "Leaders." On your ring finger, write "Sick or Weak." On your pinkie, write "Me." Use this as a guide to know how to pray for yourself and others. Start by praying for your family and friends, then your teachers, then leaders, then those who are sick or weak, and finally for yourself.



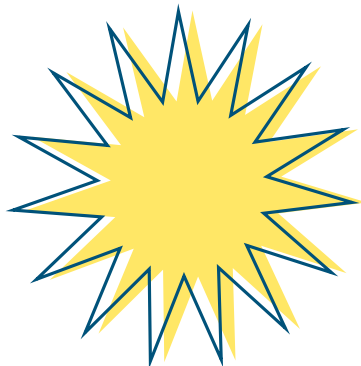
Day 16 - A Heart of Worship

Read: Acts 16:25-28, Nehemiah 8:10, & Psalm 16:11

Devotional: Did you know that sometimes trouble comes looking for you even when you are trying to do the right thing? Isn't that frustrating? If you are like me, being frustrated can sometimes lead to making choices that are not very wise. But if you ever feel like everything is going wrong in your life at that moment I want you to STOP, DROP, and PRAISE! Stop what you are doing, drop to your knees, and begin to sing your favorite worship song!

“Praise” might not be an everyday word in your vocabulary. But we do it all the time. When was the last time you were excited about something and had to tell everyone about it? You were praising! The Bible tells us that when we praise and worship our entire life changes for the better and you can even begin to feel happy and filled with joy!

In Acts 16:25-28, Paul and Silas, who were two of Jesus' followers, were being followed by a girl who had an evil spirit that was causing problems for them. Paul commanded the evil spirit to come out of the slave girl but her owners were furious and dragged them to court. Paul and Silas were beaten and then thrown in jail. Imagine everyone's surprise when they heard Paul and Silas singing praises and praying to God! Paul and Silas knew that even in the most difficult times, they needed to praise and pray to God. Their response of song and prayer led the jailer and his whole family to believe in Jesus Christ! Paul and Silas knew they could pray to God anywhere, even in prison.



Do you know that you can do that too? There is absolutely no place on this earth where you cannot stop and praise God. Even when you feel like everything is difficult and going wrong you can CHOOSE to respond by praying and praising! And you know what? Then God responds! When Paul and Silas began to praise the prison walls of the prison came down!

When you choose to respond to negative things with praise, you open the door for God to bring you joy! Nehemiah 8:10b says, “This day is holy to our Lord. So don’t be sad. The joy of the LORD makes you strong.” God’s joy will give you strength when you feel overwhelmed or under pressure. Remember: God loves you and He will always be with you to strengthen you and give you joy!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, today I choose to praise you with all of my heart! You are awesome. You are brilliant. You are creative and kind. Thank you for showing yourself to me when I don’t know what to do. Sometimes it’s really tough, but I know that you never leave me alone. Help me to have joy and rejoice in you! In Jesus’ Name, amen!

Activity: Worship Party

What You Need: Worship Songs

Directions: Turn on your favorite worship songs and have a little worship party. Celebrate all that God has done and how He will continue to work in everything you face.



Day 17 - Expectations

Read: Matthew 21:22, Matthew 17:20, & Romans 12:12

Devotional: Who likes to ask for things? Maybe you ask your parents for a toy, a treat, or even permission to play outside. When you ask for something, what do you expect? You hope for a yes, right?

Imagine you want to ask your parents for a puppy. If you think they will say no, you might not ask. But if you believe they might say yes, you're more likely to ask! In the same way, when we pray, we should believe that God is listening and wants to help us.

Did you know that when we pray to God, we can ask Him for things too? That doesn't mean He will give us a new Xbox or a puppy. But we can pray for things bigger than that. We can pray for healing and for safety. We can pray for God to guide us and help us in school. And we should expect that He will hear us!

God wants us to believe that He will answer our prayers. When we pray, we should have faith that God can do anything. Sometimes our prayers take time. Patience is a big part of expecting God to move. Jesus said that even a little bit of faith can make big things happen. If we pray with just a tiny bit of faith and really believe, we can see amazing changes!

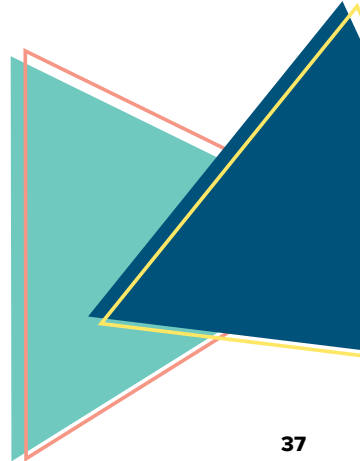
Next time you pray, remember: pray with expectation! God is listening, and He loves to answer our prayers!

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for teaching us how to pray with expectation. Help us to have faith like a mustard seed and trust in your plans. We love you! Amen.

Activity: Faith Jar

What You Need: Jar, Decorations, Stickers, Pen, and Paper

Directions: Grab your supplies and decorate your jar. On the pieces of paper, write down prayer requests you have and place them in the jar. Then pray over them. Each week, take a moment to look at the jar and pray for the requests inside, expecting God to work in your life.



Day 18 - God Knows What's Best

Read: Isaiah 40:31 & Micah 7:7

Devotional: My 2-year-old little boy loves breakfast. He especially loves eggs and pancakes! But, on the mornings we have them, I have to make them on the stove and they take a few minutes before they are ready. Sometimes, after he helps me crack the eggs and stir the ingredients, he's ready to dive right in and eat the batter! When that happens, I have to remind him that I still have to cook everything; it's not ready yet! It's disappointing for him because he is excited and wants to eat the food now! But, I have to remind him that if he waits patiently instead of getting frustrated and discouraged, the food will eventually be ready and he'll get to indulge in all the yummy goodness! And it will be MUCH better than a bowl full of batter!

But what if I just gave my son all the batter to eat just because he asked me for it? He'd probably get pretty sick! I know what's best for him better than he does. I know that he'll enjoy the pancakes and eggs most when he's waited for me to mix everything together and let it cook on the stove. He has to trust me and know that I'm doing what is best for him and I'm doing something that he'll actually like better than the immediate gratification of eating the batter. He has to be patient and wait for the extra special goodness that's coming!

That's what it's like when we ask God for things too! He always hears us, and just like I know what's best for my son (delicious COOKED pancakes!), God knows what's best for us too!! Sometimes that means we may have to wait for something to work out the way HE knows is best, rather than in an immediate way WE think is best. So, the next time you pray to God for something and it feels like you



have to wait, don't get frustrated and impatient. Instead, remember to trust Him and rest in Him, knowing that He has the BEST in store for you!

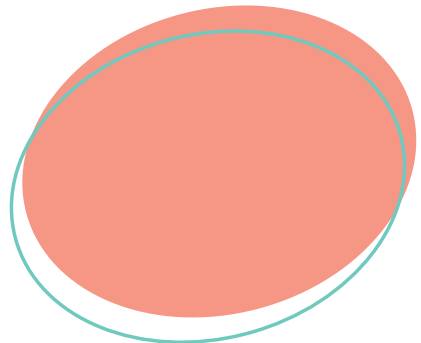
Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that I can trust you to hear my prayers and know my heart's desires. Thank you that I can also trust you to answer my prayers in the way that is best for me. Please help me always have peace and faith while I wait for you to work in my life. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Activity: Blindfolded Maze

What You Need: Blindfold and a Friend/Family Member

Directions: Put on the blindfold and have someone direct you on how to get around a room in your house. Then, answer these questions:

- Was it easy or hard to trust your friend/family member to lead you where you needed to go? Why?
- What can you do to remind yourself daily that God knows what's best?



Day 19 - Run the Race

Read: Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:7, & Galatians 6:7-9

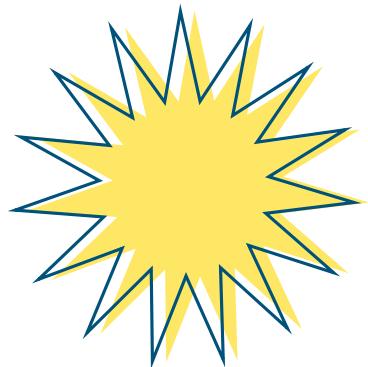
Devotional: Hey there, runners! You're so close to finishing this 21-day journey! Today, let's talk about a different kind of race: the one that God has set out for each of us. So, grab your running shoes and your Bible... and get ready to run!

Imagine you're in a real race. People are cheering on both sides of the track. They're encouraging you to keep going and finish strong. The Bible says we have a "cloud of witnesses"—all the people who've gone before us, cheering us on in our journey with Jesus. Isn't that cool? We're not alone in this race!

When you're in a race, it's important to stay focused on the finish line. But in our life's race, we're not looking at a ribbon or a trophy. We're keeping our eyes on Jesus! He's the one who started us on this journey of faith, and He'll be with us all the way to the end.

Now, races aren't always easy. Sometimes, we might feel like giving up, especially when we're tired or things get tough. But that's when we remember Jesus. He didn't give up, even when things got really hard. He kept going because of the joy He knew was waiting for Him. And He's got joy waiting for us too!

Think about this: just like you've almost completed this 21-day devotional, you can keep going in the race God has for your life.



Each day you're choosing to read, pray, and think about God, you're building up the strength to keep going.

God's race is about loving Him and loving others. It's about making good choices and not giving up, even when it's hard. And, it's about looking out for the people around us—just like Jesus did!

So, lace up those imaginary running shoes, fix your eyes on Jesus, and get ready to finish well!

Prayer: Father, we thank you for your Son Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. We thank you for this life you have called us to, to this race that we run for you. Remind us daily to keep our eyes on you each step of the way. We love you! Amen.

Activity: Gold Medal Finish

What You Need: Coloring Supplies

Directions: Go run a race! Just kidding. Unless you can! But in the meantime, create a “Finisher’s Medal” for yourself with one of the verses or a word to remind you to run the race for Jesus.



Day 20 - Planting Season

Read: Hebrews 11:1, Galatians 6:7-9, & Nehemiah 4:20

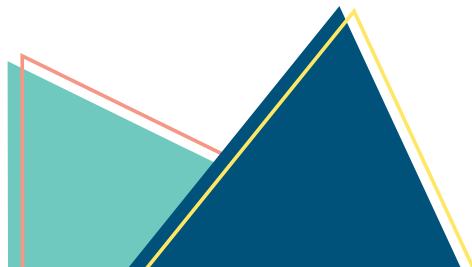
Devotional: Have you ever planted a seed? Did it grow the moment you put it in the ground and watered it? No, right? It took time and a lot of water and sunlight before it grew into the plant that was on the seed packet. A lot of things had to happen beneath the soil before you could see the plant above the soil.

The same is true in our lives. Right now, we are planting a lot of seeds. We are getting still and listening to God— that’s a seed in the soil. We’re spending time with Him and are talking with Him— that’s a seed in the soil. We are finding spaces to rest and enjoy His creation— that’s a seed in the soil. We’re discovering the importance of worship and are finding time each day to worship God— that’s a seed in the soil. Every time that we water these seeds by worshiping, praying, resting, and getting quiet, there’s work happening under the soil. God is doing a work on each of those seeds and preparing the soil of our hearts to help them grow.

And something amazing is going to happen later on when those seeds start to grow above the soil and we start to produce good fruit. But, we will never get there without first having a planting and watering season.

This is your planting and watering season— what are you going to do to make sure your seeds grow?

Prayer: God, thank you for all of the different seasons of our lives. I know that you are working in me as I am watering the seeds you have planted in me over the last three weeks. Help me to continue doing the work to make sure my seeds grow. I am excited to see the

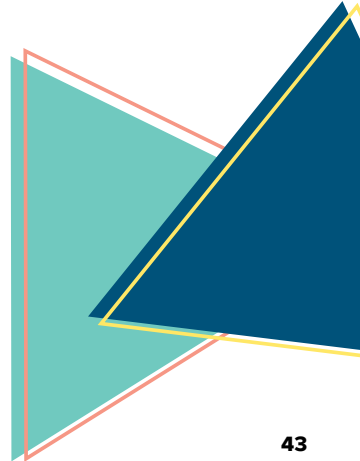


fruit that is to come later on because of the work I'm doing now. In your Name, I pray, amen.

Activity: Plant A Seed

What You Need: Soil, Seeds, a Flower Pot, and a Water Dispenser

Directions: Gather your supplies. Take some soil and add it to the bottom of your flower pot. Drop the seed in the soil, cover it with more soil, and water it. Continue watering it and letting it get enough sunlight to grow. Use it as a reminder to continue watering the seeds of your heart with the things of God.



Day 21 - The Starting Line

Read: Luke 11:9-13, Romans 5:3-4, & James 1:4

Devotional: If you've ever run in a race, you know that there is a starting line and a finish line. The starting line is what you cross to begin the race and the finish line is what you cross to end the race. 21 days ago, we crossed over the starting line and began a journey to discover more about God and all that He wants to do in and through us this year. And here we are at the end of this journey getting ready to cross what we think is the finish line.

But I have a surprise for you— what we think is the finish line is actually just another starting line. Now, I know what you are thinking, “We just finished 21 Days of Prayer. Is she saying that we have to do another 21 days now?” And the answer is no, we're not starting another 21 Days of Prayer. But we are starting a new rhythm of slowing down, getting quiet, and really listening to God.

We don't have to wait for 21 Days of Prayer again to experience more of God. He wants us to discover more of Him every day. So while this is the end of these 21 days we set aside to pray, it's just the start of what God wants us to discover about Him this year.

The 21 days might be over, but what are you going to do to continue discovering more about God this year?

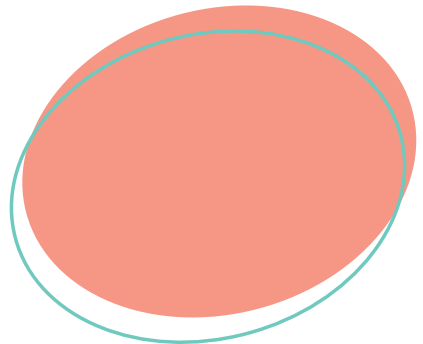
Prayer: God, thank you for these last 21 Days of Prayer. Thank You for helping me slow down, get quiet, and be prepared to hear from you. God, help me continue discovering more about you. Help me to find time to slow down, get quiet, and really hear from you. In your Name, I pray, amen.

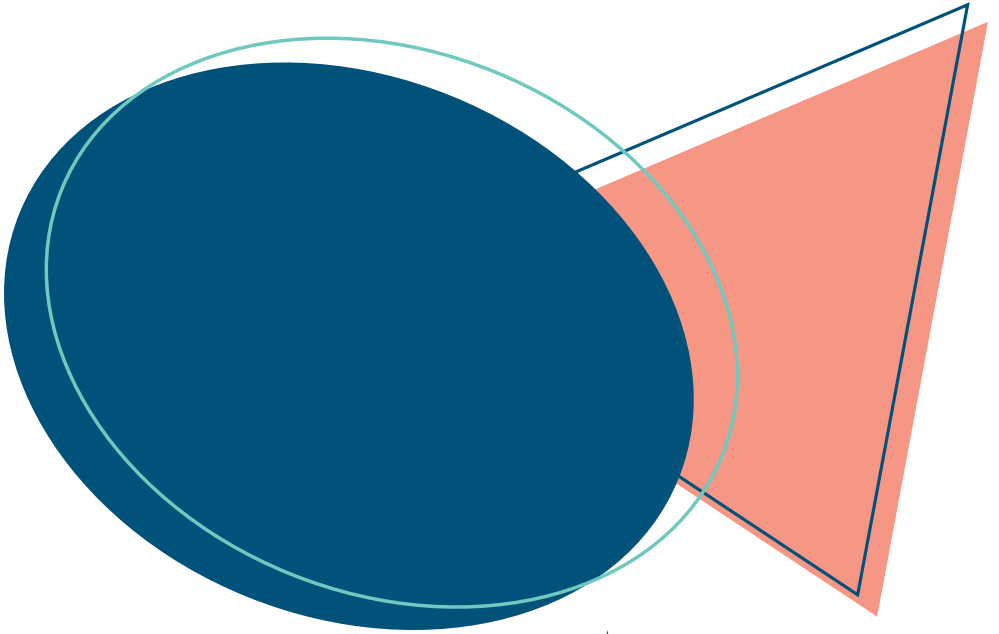
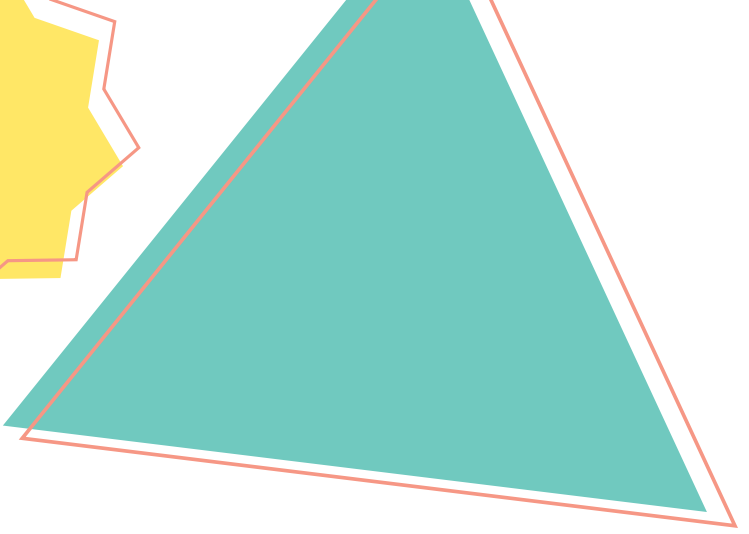


Activity: The Starting Line

What You Need: Paper and Coloring Supplies

Directions: Grab a piece of paper and some coloring supplies. Fold the paper in half and open it again. On one side of the line, write down or draw a picture of all the things you have learned about God over the last 21 days. Then on the other side, write down or draw a picture of what you want to continue doing to discover more of God this year. When you are done, put this in a place where it will remind you that we are at the starting line of all that God wants to teach and show us this year.







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