

SEEKING GOD

21 DAYS OF PRAYER + FASTING



The Lakes
CHURCH

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

James 5:16-18 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

James reminds us that “the prayer of a righteous person has great power.” You are righteous because of Christ. God has adopted us into His family. There are no orphans in the Kingdom of God. He becomes our Father when we believe in Jesus and we have access to Him. Your prayers have great power. The Greek word for power here is *energeho*. It means to work, to aid and effect. It has been said before that a person is more powerful in prayer than anywhere else.

We pray because it changes things. Sometimes we think “prayer changes me, that's why I should do it.” While that is true, it does change you because you are in God's presence. It gives you a deeper spiritual experience, firmer confidence, and joy in your walk with the Lord. Yes and amen to those things. But, it's more than that. It's also powerful! Prayer changes things. The Lord has designed it that way.

We struggle with prayer because we don't understand how effective it is. Our vision is to be a church that prays and seeks after God. There is a difference between a church that prays and a praying church. Every church “prays,” but not every church is a praying one. This means that prayer is our identity and part of our DNA and drives what we do at The Lakes. It's not lip service. We learn how to pray, we watch God move and we seek after Him.

This is why we put together this prayer guide for The Lakes Church. We encourage you to use this every day whether that is by yourself, with your spouse or whole family, or with friends. Each day includes a Scripture reference, a short devotional, and a prayer point. We are seeking God as a whole church for the next 21 days and we are going to watch the Lord do immeasurably more than we can ask or even think!

Guide to Fasting

We are so excited about what the Lord is going to do in us and through us during this time. I am so glad that you are seeking after the Lord together as His church. I wrote a brief description of fasting for your spiritual growth.

Fasting is a grace given to us by God. We fast to draw near to the Lord and experience Him more deeply. We fast for breakthroughs. We fast in times when we need the Lord to move powerfully. Fasting is like prayer on steroids. It focuses our hearts and is a way to humble ourselves before the Lord. Jesus tells us not to seek approval or make it self-centered. What we see throughout the Bible is individuals fasting but also whole communities and churches fasting and praying together.

Jesus also told us that man does not live on bread alone but on every Word from the mouth of God. I encourage you to read the Word and pray over your normal meal times. Pray for the Lord to move in the hearts and minds of our church. Pray for the gospel to spread in our community. Below you will see some different types of fasting and tips.

24 HOUR FAST

Eat dinner and then the next day go without food until sundown.

WHOLE DAY FAST

Wake up and go the whole day without food until the next morning. It is about 36 hours in total.

PARTIAL FAST

Usually for a long period of time such as in Daniel 10. Daniel spent three weeks fasting in prayer and ate sparingly with a simple diet.

You might be tempted to abandon your fast. Jesus was when He fasted for 40 days, so don't be surprised. You could get a little tired or grumpy. The Lord is growing you through those moments as you depend on Him and seek after Him.

If you have health restrictions that could harm you, like diabetes or you are a woman who is pregnant, it would not be wise for you to fast from food. There are other things to fast from than food as well, such as TV, social media, your phone, etc. The Scriptures even give us an example of couples fasting from normal sexual relations in the context of marriage to focus on prayer for a time (1 Corinthians 7:5).

Please sign up for a day to fast here so we can all share in this together



DAY 1

Matthew 6:9-10

Pray then like this, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gave us a powerful model for prayer. He showed us the privilege to call upon God as our Father. Take a moment to ponder the amazement of that truth! The Creator of the Universe wants us to know Him as our Father, who adopted us through faith in Christ. Jesus also shows us the importance and priority of the Kingdom of God. When we pray, The Kingdom of God should always be on the forefront of our hearts and minds. We want to see our Lord's name held in the highest place with people worshipping the living God. The Kingdom of God is seen when Jesus' name is exalted, when people are following Him, are under His rule, and experiencing His peace. The Kingdom is already here but it is not yet in its fullness. One day every knee will bow to Jesus as Lord and be under His rule. When we truly know God and His grace, we want to be about our Father's business. We have been plucked out of the kingdom of darkness and freely brought into the Kingdom of God. Praise God that we are beginning our 21 Days of Prayer with our hearts becoming aligned with God's for His Kingdom to come.

PRAYER - God's Kingdom to advance through our area. That the Holy Spirit would open people's hearts and minds to the power of the gospel. That God's will would be done in every situation in your life. Ask that your will would become His will in every situation.

Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

DAY 2

AW Tozer once said, "What comes to your mind when you think of God is the most important thing about us." Does the idea of Shepherd come to your mind? Do you think of the Lord that way? Shepherds were not passive or weak. They were tough, and they had to be. Their duty and concern was to lead and protect the flock...

...They had to fight off enemies like lions, bears, and robbers. Shepherds also had a special connection with their sheep. Good shepherds would risk their lives to protect their flock. In John 10, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He says that He came to bring life, and life abundantly. He came to lay down His life for us in order to give us redemption. The Lord also walks with us through dark valleys, even the shadow of death. There is nothing to fear because He is with you and will see you through any crisis.

PRAYER - Ask the Lord to lead you and MAKE you lay down in green pastures. Pray for Him to be near and for your heart to be open to His presence.

DAY 3

Acts 2:42, 46-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostle teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The book of Acts shows us that the Holy Spirit's purpose was to start local churches in cities around the world. The Holy Spirit came to bring a movement of the gospel! Acts 2:42 gives us the archetype of what this looks like. There are four things that mark a healthy church when God's Kingdom is advancing:

- Centered on God's Word and the gospel (the apostles teaching)
- Fellowship and community with other believers
- Communion (The breaking of bread in the book of Acts usually refers to communion; it keeps us grounded in Christ's sacrifice for us and shows us our true identity.)
- Faith-filled, fervent prayer

These four tangible signs that marked the early church should be a passion of ours to see fulfilled in The Lakes! When these signs are manifested, the church is marked by the presence of God and dynamic worship. It seems that we easily lose sight of the importance of these four pillars. One just has to look at the local prayer meetings at churches, they are usually the least attended or anticipated. May this not be the case for The Lakes! When we stand in awe of who God is and His grace through the gospel, prayer is the natural overflow.

PRAYER - That our church would have a deep hunger for the Lord. That we would be committed to each other in love and community. That the Holy Spirit would pour out on us, and that we would worship God with passion and zeal.

DAY 4

If you have children you know there are many things they ask of you that you cannot fulfill. My children have asked me if I could fly, pick up a semi-truck or jump over a house. The answer to all of those is a resounding no (though I might have told them maybe). When in prayer, you cannot ask too much of God when it is all for His glory. He is able to do far more than anything

we can envision, plan, or even ask. How incredible is that promise?!? It is according to the power of the resurrection of Christ that is working in us. One day, every knee will bow to Jesus Christ as Lord. We know the end of the story; the war is already won! Because of this, let's pray bold prayers and dream big dreams for God's glory. Let's get our eyes off of ourselves and focus on what truly matters; eternity.

PRAYER - That God would bring a renewal and revitalization into our church and community. That the Lord would use our church to forever change our community and that we would be an avenue where the gospel goes forth in power.

Ephesians 3:20-21

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

Philippians 1:9-11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Apostle Paul has recorded many powerful prayers and requests in the New Testament. His desire is always focused on the Kingdom of God. In Philippians 1 you see his prayer, that the church would be abounding with love for God and others. This is not a superficial idea of love that is based off of a feeling. Instead it is one that is filled with the knowledge of God's will. This love keeps us pure and ready for the Day when Jesus returns. When we are in God's will and close to Him, love is the natural overflow. Just look at Jesus; He was filled with so much love, even as He was being put to death on the cross He prayed for forgiveness for His enemies. The world cannot produce this love, it is only found in Jesus.

PRAYER - That the Lord's perfect love would overflow in our hearts and be shown through the Holy Spirit. That our church would be marked by love for others and God.

DAY 5

DAY 6

Psalm 67:4-5

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

The Lord's plan was always for all nations to worship and know Him. In Psalm 67 there is a passionate plea that the nations of all people would worship God. This would be shocking for many Jews during Jesus' times because they thought they were the only chosen people. They missed not only the Scriptures (especially Psalm 67), but also God's plan and purposes for the world. We can miss this as well when we get so inward focused instead of having our eyes fixed on God. Our joy and gladness in the Lord should produce in us what the writer of Psalm 67 is saying, "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy." Let us refocus our prayers and mission in life to seeing the gospel spread, and lost people be found through Christ.

PRAYER - That the gospel would spread to the nations. That our community would worship the Living God and be glad in Him.

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

What Jesus was teaching His disciples in these verses is incredibly important. There are many people in need of redemption from the Lord, but there are few people doing the work of the Kingdom. The reasons for this are endless. We get distracted with life, we get bogged down with sin, we lose our passion for God's glory, our love grows cold, or we drift toward being lukewarm and indifferent in our faith. May that not be true with The Lakes! Let us fervently ask the Lord to do a work in us, and through us, that will last for eternity. May we be a church that can be used to labor for the glory of the Lord in everything we do! Let us be a church that trains and raises up laborers for the harvest field. Let us also answer the call to preach the gospel to others.

PRAYER - Just as Jesus told us, pray that the Lord would raise up and send out men and women from our church to serve Him. That pastors, elders, church-planters, and missionaries would be raised up and sent out from The Lakes.

DAY 7

DAY 8

Revelation 5:11-13

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

I once saw a story about D-Day during WWII that interviewed veterans regarding their experiences. It was riveting to hear testimonies from these courageous men. They shared their unique experiences and perspectives of that fateful battle that turned the tides of the war. There was one man who was on the ground during the invasion of Normandy. He stormed the beaches under heavy gunfire and artillery. As he was watching all that was around him unfold and some of his friends fall in battle, he said to himself, "We can't win this fight, we can't do it, the enemy is too strong and we are going to fail." Then they interviewed a pilot who was flying over the battlefield and could see everything unfolding. He said, "We can't lose! Everything is going our way. We are about to put an end to this battle." Both soldiers were in the same battle with two completely different perspectives. The one who was on the ground thought there was no way to win. The one who could see everything unfolding knew that there was no way they could lose. As followers of Christ we already know the outcome! We have the perspective of heaven; Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! One day soon, as Revelation shows us, every creature will be praising God! The ultimate throne, the only throne that matters and lasts for eternity, has Jesus seated as the King of kings and Lord of lords. In the midst of the battle, remember the war is already won. Christ is risen and He is risen indeed!

PRAYER - That our hearts would rest in the finished work of Jesus and God's sovereign rule over everything. That our hope would be unshaken in the midst of trials and tribulations knowing that the war is won and Jesus rules over all.

DAY 9

Isaiah 40:27-29

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God" (28) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (29) He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

There are times when we feel like the Lord does not see or hear us. Either you are facing a crisis moment or will be facing one in the future. Trials and hardships are not uncommon for God's people. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of." Something else to note as well, everybody, no matter whether they trust in Jesus or not, will face difficulties.

We live in a broken world that is waiting to be restored and redeemed. The Lord is continually and constantly telling us, "don't be afraid of the crisis, anticipate it." He is also saying, "I am in control, trust me. I am the Creator of everything, I won't let you fall." In desperate moments, let us lean in to the Lord and not away from Him. Let us put our minds and hearts on the things above where Christ is seated.

PRAYER - Read verse 29 again and pray that back to God. If you are desperate, tell the Lord that you are trusting in Him and need your strength renewed. Bring to Him all your pain right now.

DAY 10

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

This is one of my personal favorite verses in the Bible. It is "tattooed" on my soul and I have it memorized. When I was facing an overwhelming situation and a debilitating disease that left me so weak, this verse (and promise) is something I clung to. Everybody faces weaknesses. No one is immune to experiencing weariness. Isaiah reminds us of this but also shows us how to renew our strength. It is through waiting on the Lord. What does it mean to wait on the Lord? It means to rest in the fact that your life is in God's hands. It means to trust Him. It means to seek after Him and His power. It means to stop being anxious and thinking that everything depends on you. When you wait on the Lord, you are putting your problems in God's hand and He always comes through. Jesus Christ is enough for us and He will never leave or forsake us.

PRAYER - Where do you need to "wait" on the Lord? Pray that God would strengthen your faith. Pray for someone you know who is going through a trial or weakness that they would wait on the Lord and experience His power.

DAY 11

Is there anybody or anything more powerful than God? Is there anything more wise than Him? Can anything beat the Lord? The answer to all of those questions is simply, no. The Lord is all-powerful and all-wise. Now think about the promise He has given us. If He is

for us, who can be against us? If you are in Christ, trusting in Him alone for your salvation, God is for you. He has adopted you into His family. He gave up His Son for you. What would keep Him from giving us what we need right now? In whatever desperate situation or trial you are facing, trust in the goodness of God. Just look at the cross and resurrection of Christ and let your soul find deep rest.

PRAYER - Thank God for Jesus' incredible sacrifice for you. Thank God that He is now for us. Ask Him to give you a deep assurance of His love. Pray that our church would realize the overwhelming power of God.

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DAY 12

Nothing is stronger than God. Nothing can separate us from Him. Nothing outside of us (circumstances, difficulties, demons, hardships, even death itself) and nothing inside of us (fear, anxiety, doubt). If we are in Christ we are absolutely secure in God's love. Elisabeth Elliot once said, "God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have now, we don't need now." She experienced many difficulties and even lost her husband, the famous martyr Jim Elliot, serving the Lord. Elisabeth knew the firm foundation of the love of Christ and the ultimate security of belonging to Him. Don't mistake what you don't have right now as the Lord not being enough for you. He is enough in any and all things. Nothing can separate you from His love. NOTHING.

PRAYER - Thank God for His amazing love in Christ Jesus. Thank Him for the security that it gives and nothing can keep you from Him. Ask Him for greater faith to trust Him during trials.

Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. (2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. (3) For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

DAY 13

Lean into the Lord. Sometimes we are tempted to lean away from Him. This is especially true when we go through hardships. We need to remember who the Lord is and what He has done for us. Knowing Him as our Redeemer has to be a rock solid foundation for our lives, because there are crisis moments that we will face. We do not need to be afraid of trials. We should actually anticipate them. You will be tested, there will be pressure and pain and hardships. This could come in so many different ways. Maybe a health

crisis, or a broken relationship, a job loss, or a prodigal child. The Lord is doing something through all of this. We are not walking through them alone, He is with us. And if He is with us we will not be overwhelmed, but will come through unscathed. My friends, lean in deeply into God's abundant grace and promises. Choose to trust and look to Him.

PRAYER - We are prone to wander. Ask the Lord to keep your heart from wandering from Him and to know His grace more deeply. Pray for someone you know who needs to lean in to the Lord.

DAY 14

If you count the number of times that the Lord told Joshua not to be afraid, it would shock you. There are 7 times where God tells Joshua not to fear. 7! Why

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

so many? I think it is because we forget. We look at the things that oppose us. Our "enemies" try to make us tremble. It is in the midst of fear that the Lord commands us to be strong and courageous. He is not suggesting it for us, but telling us, "I am with you. I see these enemies, you have nothing to fear just follow me." Joshua believed the Lord and acted on it. He led the people to the Promised Land and through faith defeated Israel's greatest enemies.

PRAYER - What are you afraid of? Bring that before the Lord. Tell the Lord all of your anxiety and fears, don't worry, He can handle it. Now remember His promises.

DAY 15

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Every single person who is alive today is made in God's image and likeness. There are things that are intuitive in us because we are created by God. People have a sense of justice and love. We want community and relationships on different levels. We all know the difference between right and wrong. People can suppress this (Romans 1:18-25) and harden their hearts, but the truth still stands. We also all know that death is not natural. The Lord placed in each of us the sense of eternity no matter what we believe. People are all seeking answers even if they are not aware of it. This sense of eternity is used by the Lord to draw men and women to Himself.

PRAYER - Think of a family member or close friend or neighbor or co-worker who does not know Jesus. Pray that the truth of eternity would be used by God to draw them to Himself. Ask that God would give you opportunities to share the gospel.

DAY 16

Some people believe that there are many roads to heaven. They would say that all religions basically believe the same thing and therefore all will lead to God. You just have to be a "good person." If that is the case, who

defines what a "good person" is? This could not be further from the truth. First, all religions believe things that are radically different from each other. All other religions out there are about what we do to get to God. You have to perform and be good enough or devoted enough. Christianity is uniquely different. It is not what we do for God but what God did for us. In John 14:6 Jesus is making an exclusive and bold claim. He says clearly that there are not many roads to heaven but just one. Praise God for that one! He is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. He is our only hope for mankind. It is through His life, death and resurrection that the path to heaven is open to all who believe and receive it. The cornerstone and foundation of our faith and salvation is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ...

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

...Oxford University professor Thomas Arnold wrote, "I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence...than that Christ died and rose again from the dead."

PRAYER - Pray for the good news of Jesus to spread in our community and through our cities. Ask that the Lord would open people's hearts to Jesus and that He would draw people to Himself through The Lakes Church.

DAY 17

Imagine for me this scenario. Two people go to plant apple trees. One is a seasoned farmer who is very skilled. The other one has no idea what an apple tree is. They both plant seeds in the ground. What will come up? The same thing will come up. It does not matter who is planting the seeds, but it matters what the seed is. The same is true for the gospel. One man plants and another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-9). The Lord has called us to be faithful and to share with others. You don't need a degree or special skills to do it. He is the One who opens up blind eyes and saves. We don't, and can't save anyone. All we can do is faithfully plant seeds and watch the Lord bring the growth.

Acts 16:14

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

PRAYER - Ask the Lord to give you opportunities and open doors to share the good news of Jesus with someone this week. Ask that He would give you courage and boldness.

DAY 18

Romans 6:17

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed.

The gospel is not the ABC's of the Christian faith, but the A to Z's. It not only saves us but sustains and transforms us. The Lord is about freedom. He wants us to be free in all areas and spheres of our lives. God is in the business of taking people who are slaves and setting them free. It is a theme throughout the entire Bible. Think about the book of Exodus how Israel is set free from the Egyptian captors. This is all...

...foreshadowing the ultimate freedom that is found through Jesus Christ. Apart from the Lord, all people are slaves to sin. Jesus says in John 8:34, "everyone who sins is a slave to sin." Jesus came to free us, not only from the penalty of sin, but from the power of sin as well. He saved us from death and hell and saves us to life and heaven.

PRAYER - Think of someone you know who needs to be set free from sin's power. Pray that they would meet Jesus and know His incredible love and grace. Pray also for any area that you feel enslaved in your life that the Lord would set your free.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

DAY 19

We have a terrible enemy who opposes God and hates mankind. He is the devil and is a deceiver. His goal is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). He is doomed, and already defeated through Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. He has no power over us in Christ, but his goal is to keep people from seeing who Jesus is. Through temptations, trials, and many distractions he attempts to "blind" people from believing the gospel. Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one. He has come to bring us life and life abundantly. The same God who said, "let there be light," is showing the true Light of the World to all people.

PRAYER - Pray that God would remove the blinders over people's hearts. Pray that God would be working in the next generation and youth to not believe the lies around them but to come to trust in Christ.

DAY 20

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

What does it mean to fear the Lord? It does not mean that we are walking around terrified of God. Or to think that He is always perpetually disappointed in us. We don't fear God as being terrified of Him. His character is perfect. He does not change, and that is good news. He does not have bad days. His wrath and anger are never on a whim or inconsistent or out of control. The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in perfect love. The fear of the Lord is spoken throughout the Bible and almost every reference is a positive, good...

...and life-giving thing. It frees us. The fear of the Lord means to worship and reverence Him. He is what I build my life on. He is my salvation. I love the Lord because He first loved me. He is my rest. He is the One I glorify. I want to make another connection for us as well. To fear the Lord means to follow Jesus. Because Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God. Listen to 1 Cor 1:30, "And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

PRAYER - Pray that God would give us a reverence and a good healthy fear of Him. Pray for The Lakes Church that we would never drift from fearing the Lord and following Jesus.

DAY 21

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Heaven is our destiny because of Jesus. Far too many times we lose sight of this. We also have some wrong understandings on what heaven will be like. Growing up I really thought heaven was a place where angels fly around and play harps all day. Or that when we die, we go up to hover around and sing forever and ever. Or that it will be just like a long church service that keeps going on and on. This is not what the Bible teaches. Heaven will be the place when every wrong is righted, every tear wiped away, every longing fulfilled. Heaven is where we belong and what we were made for. Jesus Christ has purchased eternal life for us. Let us be grateful that we will receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Let us set our hearts and minds on what is to come. Let us pray that many would join us for all eternity in heaven with God.

PRAYER - Pray that we know the hope that is laid up for us to come in heaven.

Family Moments

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING INCLUDES A WAY TO ENGAGE OUR YOUNGEST PRAYER WARRIORS: KIDS! FIND PRAYER IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS HERE!

- Work on memorizing the Lord's Prayer together. Draw pictures or print images for each line, and give them to your family. Say the prayer together several times each day this week. To make it a challenge, remove an image daily to see if your family can remember it.
- Set aside reflective quiet time to worship Jesus. For older children, provide some prompts for them to journal their praise to God, such as "I know God loves me because ..." or "I know God's goodness because He..." Younger children can draw, sing or dance to their favorite songs about God.
- Start a family prayer wall. Write or draw requests on sticky notes and place them on the wall. Pray daily with confidence in God's faithfulness for each request.
- Make two lists: One of all God has blessed you with, and one of people with whom you can share your blessings. Let's pray: "God, You supply for our every need and have been faithful, thank You. Help me to share with others. Amen."
- Look through family photos this week, and take time to talk about your family tree; you may even want to draw one. Now, talk about those whom God has provided to act like family to you in His love. Place God at the top, or head, of your family tree. Thank Him for adopting you into His holy family.
- Talk about some reasons why you might need spiritual armor every day. Discuss the importance of each item from Ephesians 6, and how they help us withstand temptation and face hard situations.
- Talk with your family about someone in your community you can bless— maybe it's another family or the local homeless population. Put together a basket of food or bag of supplies to bless them. Include encouraging letters and cards. Talk about the many ways God provides for those in need through us when we are obedient to Him, and how that helps share His love with the world.
- Pray together for healing in our world. Start locally, then continue nationally, and finally focus globally.
- One way to overcome anxiety is to count your blessings. Write them on strips of paper and throw them in the air like confetti. Thank God for each of them as you help pick them up.
- Write a note to a leader in your life (like a teacher, coach, parent or pastor) and tell them why you are thankful for them. Pray for that person every day this week.
- Write the names of friends or loved ones on small index cards. Some examples are relatives, neighbors, friends or classmates. Put the cards in a jar you keep on the table. Before each meal or bedtime prayer, pull a card and pray for the person on the card.

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