



2026 Fast Devotional & Prayer Guide

Join us as we seek God's face at the beginning of this year.

1. You'll find our fasting guide on the app or the website @ www.graceunited.com/fasting
2. You'll find the link to our daily prayer call at the same location.
3. Devotionals are from our 2 Year Bible Plan that you can join @ www.graceunitedlr.com/bible-reading-plan

Day 1 – Jan 4

“The whole community wept aloud... ‘Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?’ They plotted, ‘Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!’” – Numbers 14:1,3–4

LONGING FOR SLAVERY

God had set Israel free. But...
FREEDOM FELT HARD.
SLAVERY FELT FAMILIAR.
So they longed to return.

And we do the same.

Sin feels easy... familiar
It promises comfort.
It promises life.

Problem is... Jesus said,
“Everyone who sins is A SLAVE to sin.” (Jn 8:34)
Paul said sin leads to death. (Rom 6:16)
There’s a war inside us –
pulling us back toward SLAVERY. (Rom 7:23)

Jesus calls us to something harder -
to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. (Luke 9:23)

Following Jesus FEELS HARD. But it leads to life.
Don’t go back to Egypt. Don’t go back to sin.
Because CHRIST HAS SET YOU FREE.
And “if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.” (Jn 8:36)

Prayer: Father, thank You for offering freedom from slavery to sin and death. Help me not return to what You’ve delivered me from, but to live fully in Christ.

- **Core Value:** Unity Over Uniformity
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Pastor Joshua
- **Elder:** Leon Jones (President)
- **Ministry Leader:** Barbara (Devotional Team)
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Evan & Jenel Nesbitt - Kyrgyzstan
- **Local Ministry:** Grace Gives

Day 2 – Jan 5

“You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit; you will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.” - Psalm 51:16 - 17

THE SACRIFICE GOD ACCEPTS

God is more concerned with what's going on INSIDE you than what's happening OUTSIDE you.

David knew it. He still brought sacrifices to the altar. (Ps 51:19)
But he realized God wanted his HEART first.

Jesus said the same.

“First clean the INSIDE of the cup,
and then the OUTSIDE will be clean also.” (Matt 23:26)

The truth is, we can go through all the motions -
sing the songs, pray the prayers,
serve at church, give our offering -
and still miss the sacrifice God desires.

What He won't reject is this:
A BROKEN AND REPENTANT HEART.

Repentance isn't shame. It's surrender.
It's admitting our need. It's running back to grace.

And it's His kindness - shown most clearly at the cross -
that leads us there. (Rom 2:4)

Do you give God the sacrifice He desires?

Prayer: Father, thank You for giving grace when I turn to You. Break my pride, cleanse my heart, and let my repentance bring You glory.

- **Core Value:** Simple Church, Complex World
- **Vision:** Connect to Church
- **Staff:** Bishop Arnold
- **Elder:** Mike Clowers (VP)
- **Ministry Leader:** Iris (Grace Groups)
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Evan & Emily McCall - Thailand
- **Local Ministry:** IFO

Day 3 – Jan 6

“The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers... The earth closed over them, and they vanished from among the people of Israel.” - Numbers 16:32-33

THE REAL GOD VS YOUR MADE-UP GOD

I'll never forget when a teacher read this passage -
God swallowing people whole -
and then asked: “Is THIS your God?
Is this the God you worship? Can your God do this?”

The catch is - of course - THE REAL GOD did.

Whether you understand it... agree with it... like it...
THE REAL GOD did.

And He has done, and will do,
countless things beyond our comprehension.

Because His thoughts are higher.
His ways are greater. (Isa 55:8-9)

Even the disciples often misunderstood Jesus.
They questioned His choices. They struggled to agree.
But He was still right.

The goal of faith is not make-up a god that conforms to us.
It's to be transformed – to conform to HIM. (Rom 12:1-2)

The real God will not shrink to fit us.
We are called to surrender to Him.

Prayer: Father, thank You that You are higher than me. Teach me to trust Your ways,
even when I don't understand, and to follow the real You with faith.

- **Core Value:** Our Gifts Are for Giving
- **Vision:** Connect to Community
- **Staff:** Pastor Roderick (Executive Pastor)
- **Elder:** Ken Rice (Secretary)
- **Ministry Leader:** Frankie (Grace Groups)
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Kelsey McCall - Thailand
- **Local Ministry:** Young Lives

Day 4 – Jan 7

“Everything in Israel that is set apart for the Lord also belongs to you... The Lord said to Aaron, ‘You priests will receive no allotment of land or share of property among the people of Israel. I am your share and your allotment.’” – Numbers 18:14,20

YOU OWN NOTHING AND EVERYTHING

The priests had a unique role in Israel.
They received no land. No inheritance. No share of property.

God was their portion. Their allotment. Their everything.

And yet - the offerings brought to God
were also given to them for provision.

They owned NOTHING. And... they owned EVERYTHING.

Here’s the kicker - WE ARE PRIESTS too.

In Christ, we are a royal priesthood. (1 Pet 2:9)
We are made to serve the Father. (Rev 1:6)

And as His priests:
Everything we have belongs to Him. (1 Cor 6:19–20)
And everything He has belongs to us. (Rom 8:16–17)

Through Jesus, we simultaneously hold NOTHING...
and inherit EVERYTHING.

That’s what it means to be His.
Fully surrendered. Fully provided for. Forever secure.

Prayer: Father, thank You that everything is Yours—and yet, in Christ, You share it all with me. Help me live surrendered to You, trusting in Your provision.

- **Core Value:** Real Faith Is Obedient Faith
- **Vision:** Connect to Calling
- **Staff:** Cristal (Communications)
- **Elder:** Jud Jones (Groups)
- **Ministry Leader:** Claire (Grace Groups)
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Wanda Jennings – Bible Translation
- **Local Ministry:** College Station Elementary

Day 5 – Jan 8

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.” – Psalm 56:8

GOD’S DEEP CARE

Can you imagine someone collecting your tears?
Every single one?
In a bottle?
Written down in a book?

To do that, they’d have to be:
Always with you. Always attentive. ALWAYS ready to care.

That is who God is.

Jesus promised, “I am with you ALWAYS.” (Matt 28:20)
He knows the very number of hairs on your head. (Matt 10:30)
He weeps with us when we weep. (John 11:35)

Your pain is not forgotten.
Your tears are not wasted.
Your sorrow is not unseen.

God is close. God cares. God comforts.

And in Christ, we see this most clearly.
The Man of Sorrows bore our griefs.
The Savior of the world carried our pain.

And the Spirit remains with us -
our Helper, our Comforter, our Friend. (John 14:16)

Prayer: Father, thank You for caring so deeply for me. Thank You for Jesus who weeps with me and the Spirit who comforts me. Help me rest in Your presence today.

- **Core Value:** Practice His Presence
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Travis (Finances / AV)
- **Elder:** Xavier Cannon (Prayers)
- **Ministry Leader:** Tomiko (Missions)
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Tomiko Covington - Africa
- **Local Ministry:** Jericho Way

Day 6 – Jan 9

“Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. So the entire community and their livestock drank their fill.” – Numbers 20:11

JESUS WAS STRUCK SO WE CAN DRINK

Israel was thirsty. Dying in the desert - or so they thought.

So God told Moses to strike the rock.
And from that blow came water.
Life. Sustenance. Enough for everyone.

But this was more than survival. It was a sign.

Paul says, “They drank from the spiritual rock... and THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST.” (1 Cor 10:4)

Because we rebelled, God sent His representative—Jesus.
HE WAS STRUCK - on the cross.
And from Him flows LIVING WATER. (John 7:38)

The blow that killed Him became the source that gives us life.

Water for the thirsty. Grace for the guilty.
Hope for the hopeless.

So drink deeply.
Not from your own efforts.
Not from the world’s empty wells.

But from the Rock that was struck for you.
From Jesus - the living water that never runs dry.

Prayer: Father, thank You for striking Your Son so that I might live. Help me drink deeply from Christ, my Rock, and never thirst again.

- **Core Value:** The Gospel Is the Gospel
- **Vision:** Connect to Church
- **Staff:** Rachel (Grace Kids)
- **Elder:** Rick Perry (Benevolence)
- **Ministry Leader:** Traci (Missions)
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Rob & Liz Hudson - USA
- **Local Ministry:** Center for Innovation

Day 7 – Jan 10

“The Lord said, ‘Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it.’ So Moses made a bronze snake and lifted it up, and anyone who looked was healed.” – Numbers 21:8–9

LIVE BY LOOKING AT THE ONE LIFTED

Israel grew impatient with God. So... they rebelled.
Their rebellion brought judgment - a curse of death.

But God provided a way out.
A bronze serpent lifted high.
All they had to do was look - and live.

The same is true for us.

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.” (John 3:14–15)

We grew impatient with God. So... we rebelled.
Our rebellion brought judgement - death.

But God provided a way out.
A Savior lifted high on a cross.
All we have to do is look - and live.

Not by our effort. Not by our merit.
But by faith in the One lifted up for us.

Eternal life is given. All who look to Him will live.

Prayer: Father, thank You for lifting Your Son on the cross so that I might be lifted to eternal life. Teach me to look to Jesus always.

- **Core Value:** Unity Over Uniformity
- **Vision:** Connect to Community
- **Staff:** Cara (Grace Kids 5th/6th)
- **Elder:** Roger Von Edwins (Finance)
- **Ministry Leader:** Shanta (Grace Women)
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Chad & Mandy Mary - UK
- **Local Ministry:** Prison Ministry

Day 8 – Jan 11

“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land.” – Psalm 63:1

LONGING FOR GOD

One of my favorite pastors once asked
three questions fake Christians can't answer.

One of them is:

“How real has God been to your heart this week?
Do you actually sense His presence in your life?”

Real Christians PINE for God's presence.
Fake Christians ARE FINE without it.

Real Christians SEEK HIM daily, hourly, regularly.
Fake Christians feel NO URGENCY TO MEET with Him at all.

David shows us the difference.
He searches for God. He thirsts for God.
He longs for God. He praises God.
That's why... David was called a man after God's own heart. (Acts 13:22)

God's unfailing love was better to him than life itself. (Ps 63:3)
Better than comfort. Better than success. Better than survival.

So what about you?
Are you content without Him?
Or do you long for Him in the desert places -
thirsty until He fills you?

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your presence. Stir my heart to thirst for You, to long for You, and to praise You as my greatest treasure.

- **Core Value:** Simple Church, Complex World
- **Vision:** Connect to Calling
- **Staff:** Aaron (Grace Students)
- **Elder:** Larry Clark (Missions)
- **Ministry Leader:** Sonja (Grace Women)
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Rafael & Carol O - Spain
- **Local Ministry:** Filter of Hope

Day 9 – Jan 12

“How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I condemn those whom the Lord has not condemned?” - Numbers 23:8

THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION

Balak wanted Israel cursed.
He wanted them condemned.
But they were God’s people.
And God’s people could only be blessed.

The same is true for us in Christ.

Paul declares, “There is now NO CONDEMNATION for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” (Rom 8:1)

Why?

Because JESUS TOOK THE CURSE on Himself. (Gal 3:13)
The condemnation we deserved fell on Him at the cross.

And once you belong to Him,
you are free. No curse. NO CONDEMNATION.

Just to make sure we get it, Paul piles it on:
“Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8:38–39)

Not sin. Not death. Not powers. Not anything in all creation.

In Christ - you are secure.
You are loved. YOU ARE BLESSED.

Prayer: Father, thank You for sending Jesus to take the curse so that I might receive the blessing. Help me live in the freedom of no condemnation.

- **Core Value:** Our Gifts Are for Giving
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Cordell (Worship)
- **Elder:** Mike Clowers
- **Ministry Leader:** Dwight (Deacons)
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Thomas & Agnes Schneider - Brazil
- **Local Ministry:** Robinson Elementary

Day 10 – Jan 13

“Alas, who can survive unless God has willed it?” – Numbers 24:23

GOD DOES WHAT HE WILL

A lesson we all must learn: God does what He will.

- “Our God is in heaven;
He does whatever pleases Him.” (Ps 115:3)
- “He does according to His will.” (Dan 4:35)
- “I will accomplish all my purpose.” (Isa 46:10)

No one can stop Him, overrule Him, or change His hand.

But here’s the good news -
the God who does what He will has plans for YOU.

“I know the plans I have for you,” He says,
“plans for good and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer 29:11)

He has plans for you.
And He WILL carry them out.
- Even when you don’t see them.
- Even when you don’t understand them.
- Even when life feels like chaos.

God is working all things together
FOR YOUR GOOD. (Rom 8:28)

The unstoppable God has tied His will to your redemption.
And nothing can undo it.

Prayer: Father, thank You that You do what You will—and that Your will includes my redemption. Help me trust Your plan and rest in Your purpose.

- **Core Value:** Practice His Presence
- **Vision:** Connect to Church
- **Staff:** Rickitha (Video Editing)
- **Elder:** Ken Rice
- **Ministry Leader:** Welcome Team
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Evan & Jenel Nesbitt
- **Local Ministry:** The Giving Tree

Day 11 – Jan 14

“Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.” – Psalm 68:5–6

GOOD NEWS ON TRUE STRENGTH

In our world, the strong eat the weak.
That’s how power works. That’s how kingdoms rise.

But God is different.

The STRONGEST ONE cares for the WEAKEST.
He defends widows. He fathers the fatherless.
He places the lonely in families. He sets prisoners free.

True strength is not crushing the weak.
TRUE STRENGTH IS SAVING THEM.
This is a hard truth for the world to grasp.

Some say God is “too great” to stoop down.
Islam insists He could never become a man.
But Christianity knows the opposite -
God is SO GREAT that He can... and He DID.

Jesus, the Almighty, became weak to save us. (Phil 2:1-11)

And now we are CALLED TO REFLECT HIM.
“Religion that God our Father accepts is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress.” (James 1:27)

Strength is not found in domination. It’s found in compassion.

Prayer: Father, thank You that You are strong enough to stoop down for the weak. Help me reflect Your strength by caring for those in need.

- **Core Value:** The Gospel Is the Gospel
- **Vision:** Connect to Community
- **Staff:** Chervonne (Social Media)
- **Elder:** Leon Jones
- **Ministry Leader:** Alicia (Care)
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Evan & Emily McCall
- **Local Ministry:** The C.A.L.L. in Arkansas

Day 12 – Jan 15

“O God, you know how foolish I am; my sins cannot be hidden from you. Don’t let those who trust in you be ashamed because of me, O Lord.” – Psalm 69:5–6

WE NEVER SIN IN ISOLATION

The psalmist knew his sins didn’t stop with him.
They had A RIPPLE EFFECT.

Our actions - good or evil - are like throwing a rock into a pond.
The ripples reach everyone around us.

My sin affects my spouse, my kids, my church.
My sin can even affect people I’ve never met.

That’s why David prayed: “Don’t let those who trust in You
be ashamed BECAUSE OF ME.”

Sin always spreads further than we think.
It wounds reputations. It damages witness.
It shames God’s people.

That’s why Jesus taught us to pray:
“Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matt 6:13)

We cannot afford to take sin lightly. Not for our sake.
Not for the sake of others.

God didn’t take sin lightly.
The Sinless One took on our sins for us (1 Cor 5:21)
An that has RIPPLE EFFECTS into eternity.

Prayer: Father, thank You for paying the penalty for my sins. Help me resist temptation and walk in holiness, for the good of others and the glory of Your name.

- **Core Value:** Real Faith Is Obedient Faith
- **Vision:** Connect to Calling
- **Staff:** Nathan (Janitorial)
- **Elder:** Larry Clark
- **Ministry Leader:** Claire (Grace Groups)
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Kelsey McCall
- **Local Ministry:** Grace Gives

Day 13 – Jan 16

“The Lord said, ‘Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.’” – Numbers 27:18

HIS SPIRIT OUR POWER

Joshua wasn't chosen to lead
because of skill, charisma, or strategy.
He was chosen because HE HAD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE. That was his power.

And when the Spirit filled him, the gifts followed.
Wisdom. Faith. Leadership. Power. Guidance.
(1 Cor 12:4–11, Rom 12:6–8, Acts 1:8, Rom 8:14)

But behind every gift was the same source - the Spirit of God.

And here's the good news:

- If you belong to Jesus,
YOU HAVE THE SAME SPIRIT. (Eph 1:13–14)
- The Spirit who empowered Joshua empowers you.
- The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead
lives in you. (Rom 8:11)

He gives gifts for service.
He gives power for witness.
He gives guidance for life.
And He gives His abiding presence forever.

The question isn't whether you have the Spirit.
It's whether you're walking in Him.

Prayer: Father, thank You for giving me the gift of Your Spirit. Help me walk in His power, depend on His guidance, and rest in His presence.

- **Core Value:** Unity Over Uniformity
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Joshua
- **Elder:** Rick Perry
- **Ministry Leader:** Shanta
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Wanda Jennings
- **Local Ministry:** IFO

Day 14 – Jan 17

“Give your love of justice to the king, O God, and righteousness to the king’s son. Help him judge your people in the right way; let the poor always be treated fairly.” – Psalm 72:1–2

GOD’S JUSTICE THROUGH THE KING

Psalm 72 was Solomon’s prayer.
He asked God to give him justice.
To grant him wisdom to rule.
To bless him so he could bless his people.

It was a noble prayer.
But like every earthly king,...Solomon failed.

The good news is - there is another King.
A greater King. A true King. Jesus.

He came to bring justice. (Luke 4:18–19)
He called out the oppressors. (Matt 23:23)
He blesses His people with a kingdom
that turns the world upside down. (Matt 5:3–11)

Where Solomon stumbled, JESUS SUCCEEDED.
Where earthly kings failed, JESUS REIGNS.

He is the King of righteousness, of justice, and of blessing.

And one day, He will return to set all things right.

That’s the King our hearts long for.
That’s the King we follow.

Prayer: Father, thank You for sending Jesus as the true King of justice and blessing.
Help me live under His reign and reflect His kingdom to the world.

- **Core Value:** Simple Church, Complex World
- **Vision:** Connect to Church
- **Staff:** Paul
- **Elder:** Jud Jones
- **Ministry Leader:** Barbara
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Rob & Liz Hudson
- **Local Ministry:** Young Lives

Day 15 – Jan 18

“As for me, I almost lost my footing; my feet were slipping, and I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.” – Psalm 73:2–3

LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE

The psalmist looked at those who rejected God.

They looked beautiful. (v 4)

They looked powerful. (v 5)

They thrived.

They claimed self-sufficiency. (vv 9,11)

And when he looked too long - HE ENVIED.

Makes sense, doesn't it?

The wicked seem to win. To prosper. To get ahead.

But then...

HE REMEMBERED THE LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

The rich without God will be eternally poor.

The famous without God will be eternally forgotten. (vv 18–20)

What looks like strength is only temporary.

What looks like success is only fleeting.

That's why Jesus told us: “Do not store up treasures on earth, but store them in heaven.” (Matt 6:19–21)

Because the proud will fall. The wicked will fade.

But eternal life belongs to those who trust in Him.

When you see the world prosper, don't envy. REMEMBER.

Prayer: Father, thank You for calling me to more than this fleeting life. Give me eternal perspective and help me treasure You above all.

- **Core Value:** Our Gifts Are for Giving
- **Vision:** Connect to Community
- **Staff:** Cristal
- **Elder:** Roger Von Edwins
- **Ministry Leader:** Dwight
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Chad & Mandy Mary
- **Local Ministry:** College Station Elementary

Day 16 – Jan 19

“They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the place that bears your name. How long, O God, will you let our enemies insult you?” – Psalm 74:7,10

WHEN GOD ALLOWS EVIL

The Babylonians tore Jerusalem down.
They burned the temple.
They defiled God’s holy place. IT WAS EVIL.
And yet - GOD ALLOWED IT.

Why? Because His people had blatantly disobeyed Him.
So God used another nation
to discipline His own. (Jer 25:8–14)

But the psalmist DIDN’T UNDERSTAND. “How long, O Lord?”

The same was true with Jesus.
He told Peter about His coming suffering and death.
Peter DIDN’T UNDERSTAND.
It looked like evil had won. . (Matt 16:21–23)

And the same is true for us.
We face moments where EVIL SEEMS unchecked.
Where suffering makes no sense. Where God seems silent.

But Scripture is clear:
- God never causes evil. (James 1:13)
- Yet He redeems it FOR OUR GOOD. (Rom 8:28)

When God allows evil, it is never without purpose.
It is never beyond redemption. And it is never outside His love.

Prayer: Father, thank You for redeeming the evil in my life and using it for good. Help me trust Your purposes even when I don’t understand.

- **Core Value:** Real Faith Is Obedient Faith
- **Vision:** Connect to Calling
- **Staff:** Roderick
- **Elder:** Xavier Cannon
- **Ministry Leader:** Frankie
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Rafael & Carol O
- **Local Ministry:** Jericho Way

Day 17 – Jan 20

“Human defiance only enhances your glory, for you use it as a weapon.” – Psalm 76:10

OUR EVIL, GOD’S GLORY

God uses everything - even human evil - to bring Himself glory.

Joseph knew it. “You meant it for evil,
but God meant it for good - to save many lives.” (Gen 50:20)

THE CROSS proves it.
Jesus was handed over by God’s plan,
yet wicked men nailed Him there. (Acts 2:23)
Evil thought it had won.
But it ONLY FULFILLED GOD’S PURPOSE.

Death itself shows it.
It’s been “SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.” (1 Cor 15:54)
And our lives confirm it.
“We know that in all things God works for the good
of those who love Him.” (Rom 8:28)

This is not an excuse for sin.
Evil is still evil. Sin is still rebellion.
But none of it can thwart His plan.

Even the worst intent cannot undo His goodness.
Even the darkest act cannot eclipse His glory.

What others mean for evil,
God transforms for good.
EVERY TIME.

Prayer: Father, thank You for using everything—even our evil—for Your good plan.
Teach me to trust Your power to redeem what seems lost.

- **Core Value:** Practice His Presence
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Travis
- **Elder:** Mike Clowers
- **Ministry Leader:** Sonja
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Thomas & Agnes Schneider
- **Local Ministry:** Center for Innovation

Day 18 – Jan 21

"I said, 'This is my fate; the Most High has turned his hand against me.' But then I recall all you have done, O Lord; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago." - Psalm 77:10–11

REMEMBERING OUR FUTURE

The psalmist prayed - but didn't feel heard.
He was troubled - but found no comfort.
He was depressed - and wanted to give up.

But then... HE REMEMBERED.

He remembered WHAT GOD HAD DONE IN THE PAST.
And since GOD NEVER CHANGES (Mal 3:6; James 1:17),
he could TRUST GOD TO ACT IN THE FUTURE.

That's why remembering matters.

- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit
to remind us of His words. (John 14:26)
- He gave us communion
to remind us of His sacrifice. (Luke 22:19)
- He calls us to remember His faithfulness -
so we don't lose heart when the present feels dark.

When despair whispers, "This is your fate":

- Remember the cross.
- Remember the empty tomb.
- Remember His Spirit within you.

What He has done before, He will do again.
His faithfulness in the PAST
is your confidence for the FUTURE.

Prayer: Father, help me remember what You've done in the past, so I can trust You with the future. Thank You for never changing and always keeping Your word.

- **Core Value:** The Gospel Is the Gospel
- **Vision:** Connect to Church
- **Staff:** Rachel
- **Elder:** Ken Rice
- **Ministry Leader:** Tomiko
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Tomiko Covington
- **Local Ministry:** Prison Ministry

Day 19 – Jan 22

“They gave Him lip service; their hearts were not loyal to Him. Yet He was merciful and forgave their sins, holding back His anger again and again.” – Psalm 78:36–38

HE IS LOYAL WHEN WE ARE NOT

Israel lied to God.
They honored Him with their lips, but not their hearts.
They broke His covenant. THEY WERE UNFAITHFUL.

But... GOD WAS NOT.

He forgave them.
He held back His fury.
He showed mercy instead of wrath.

The same is true for us.

We all sin and fall short. (Rom 3:23)
We give Him lip service. We wander. We fail.

But GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL.

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)
“When we are faithless, He remains faithful.” (2 Tim 2:13)

Our loyalty wavers. His never does.
Our hearts are divided. His is steadfast.
We may abandon Him. But He will never abandon us.

That is our only hope. Our confidence. Our salvation.

Prayer: Father, thank You that You are faithful when I am faithless. My only hope is in Your mercy and steadfast love through Jesus Christ.

- **Core Value:** Unity Over Uniformity
- **Vision:** Connect to Community
- **Staff:** Paul Catron (Church Administrator)
- **Elder:** Leon Jones
- **Ministry Leader:** Traci
- **People Group:** The Sick
- **Missionary:** Evan & Jenel Nesbitt
- **Local Ministry:** Filter of Hope

Day 20 – Jan 23

“They did not remember His power or how He rescued them from their enemies.” – Psalm 78:42

GOD REMEMBERS YOU

Psalm 78 gives us a striking contrast.

The Israelites DID NOT REMEMBER GOD and His power.
They forgot His rescue.
THEY TURNED TO SIN and suffered destruction.

But GOD REMEMBERED THEM.
“He remembered they were but flesh,
a passing breeze that does not return.” (v 39)
So He showed mercy. HE FORGAVE THEIR SINS. (v 38)

Our story is the same... WE ARE FORGETFUL PEOPLE.
We forget His power. His mercy. His presence.
But... HE REMEMBERS US.

That’s why the thief on the cross prayed,
“Jesus, REMEMBER me
when You come into Your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42)

That’s why we take communion each week, hearing Jesus say,
“This is my body, given for you.
Do this in REMEMBRANCE of Me.” (Luke 22:19)

When we forget Him, He still remembers us.
When we fail Him, He still forgives us.
When we wander, He still welcomes us home.

Prayer: Father, thank You for remembering me when I forget You. Help me to live in constant remembrance of Your power and mercy.

- **Core Value:** Simple Church, Complex World
- **Vision:** Connect to Calling
- **Staff:** Cordell
- **Elder:** Jud Jones
- **Ministry Leader:** Welcome Team
- **People Group:** The Hurting
- **Missionary:** Evan & Emily McCall
- **Local Ministry:** Robinson Elementary

Day 21 – Jan 24

“O God, nations have conquered your land, your special possession. They have defiled your holy temple and made Jerusalem a heap of ruins.” – Psalm 79:1

THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD

The exile of Israel fascinates me.
God told His people what to do.
He told them what would happen if they didn't.

“If you disobey, I will allow your enemies to conquer you.”
(Lev 26:27 & Deut 28:25)

They disobeyed. And... He allowed it.

So what did Israel do?
The only thing they could. They cried out:
“Don't stay angry forever.” (v 5) “Forgive our sins.” (v 8)

And God answered.
He brought them out of exile when they turned back to Him.

Here's what amazes me:
GOD WILL LET YOUR ENEMIES CAPTURE YOU -
SO THAT... HE CAN SAVE YOU. (See: Prodigal Son)

God is willing to let it look like evil is winning -
so good can triumph. (See: the cross)
God will even use the evil we cause
to accomplish our good. (Rom 8:28)

A God who lets us fall SO THAT He can lift us up.

Prayer: Father, thank You for using even the evil we cause to bring us back to You. Help me trust Your discipline as mercy and Your purposes as good.

- **Core Value:** Our Gifts Are for Giving
- **Vision:** Connect to Christ
- **Staff:** Cara
- **Elder:** Larry Clark
- **Ministry Leader:** Alicia (Care)
- **People Group:** The Lonely
- **Missionary:** Kelsey McCall
- **Local Ministry:** The Giving Tree