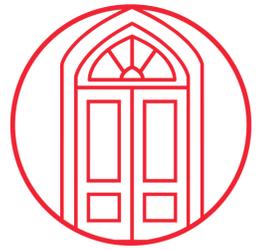


21 DAYS

OF PRAYER & FASTING



WEEK # 2

AMBITION

BIG IDEA

God's Kingdom is upside-down. Instead of trying to gain worldly authority, our authority comes through surrender and worship, serving God alone. Our faith in practice looks like taking bold steps of surrender.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1, Luke 18:1-8, Luke 4:5-8, Matt. 8:5-13

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What emotions come up when you think about surrendering to God?
 2. How is surrender an act or demonstration of faith?
 3. What does it look like to walk in authority that comes from God?
 4. Where might some of your worldly ambitions be focused? How might God want to reorient those ambitions to Him?
 5. What would your life look like if your authority came from God in this area of life instead of striving for it?
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PRACTICES

Option 1: Surrendering your ambitions to Jesus

Place an empty chair in the center of the room. Give everyone a piece of paper and something to write with. Turn some instrumental music on in the background. Use the following prompts to have everyone write on their paper.

1. What is an ambition or dream you have? For some of us, it may be a promotion or certain status we're trying to achieve. For others, it might be something we're waiting on, a spouse, a child, etc. It might be something that feels really big, or perhaps it's an ambition that's a little less obvious – wanting to be the best performer on your work team, have the most well-behaved kids, or that 6-pack. This is anything we desire to feel better than the next person, and if we're really honest is something we may even want more than God. As we follow Jesus, He asks us to surrender every piece of our hearts to Him, so ask Him to reveal the ambition in your heart he wants you to surrender. Be bold.
 2. Next, write down any fears that come up in surrendering this to Jesus. What's coming up for you? Maybe it's a fear that He won't provide for you, or that you'll be looked over at work, you'll lose a sense of identity or purpose. Be as honest as you can be – it's between you and God. No one is going to see it.
 3. Next, ask God what holding onto this dream or ambition might be keeping you from experiencing with Him. Perhaps you're looking for something *He* actually wants to give you in *His way*.
 4. Finally, take a moment to count the cost. Surrender means that we are giving up our lives so that we will have more of Jesus. Take an honest inventory of your heart now that you've processed what might be keeping you in this place. Ask yourself, are you ready to hand it over?
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5. Once you are ready, place it at the feet of the “throne.” Our dreams are in the best places they can be when they’re in Jesus’ hands.

Option 2: Activate your Faith

Give everyone a piece of paper and something to write with. It’s a good idea to have some instrumental music playing in the background.

Read [James 2:14-26](#) out loud. Oftentimes obedience actually looks like a step of faith. We want to be people who put our faith to action, not just a theory we believe or something we know. We might be praying for something, waiting on God to move, while He’s actually waiting for us to take an initial step of faith.

Sometimes we have to activate what we want to see in our lives, done in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

1. Write down the bold thing you want to have more faith for. Maybe it’s a dream, a miracle, someone to be healed, a big problem you want to be solved. He asked the guy by the pool if He wanted to be healed, sometimes we have to have an active role in the thing we want to see.
 2. Ask God what it looks like to activate your faith in this area. Is there a step He’s asking you to take? Write that down. It’s ok if you’re not 100% sure. Your heart is to honor what you *think* God is saying.
 3. What is the first step you need to take? Maybe the thing you heard isn’t something you can do immediately (i.e. write a book), but there is a step you can take in order to create momentum in that direction (i.e. write an outline to get your ideas on paper). This should be something you can do in the next week or so.
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4. Acknowledge any fears you have around taking this step. Fear is usually the thing that keeps us from moving out in faith, so lay these out before God.
5. We're not made to do this alone. It can feel scary and vulnerable, but we're more likely to follow through on our steps of faith when we have a little accountability. So, get with a buddy. Share the bold thing you want to see an increase of faith around and the steps God is asking you to take to activate your faith. What are the fears that hold you back? And what is one thing you can do in the next week to start activating your faith? After each person shares, pray for each other. Declare the step you're going to take and when you're going to do it. Be sure to follow up with your buddy next week.

OBEDIENCE

What is one way you can serve someone this week? (Maybe it's paying for someone's meal, giving above what you normally would, helping a neighbor around their house, etc.)
