

tuenty-one

days of prayer

KingwoodChurch

January 6-26, 2025

A Letter From Pastor Jay

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

A daily portion of scripture has been chosen to guide our prayer times using the S.O.A.P method. The scripture passages are from various books of the Bible and each is an encouraging word to help you rededicate and renew your faith walk at the beginning of 2025.

Hopefully you can find time each day to read the scripture passages following the S.O.A.P. method. But even if you miss a day, you will not get behind because each day's message stands alone. We will also be sharing a special time of communion at SOAK on January 19th at 5:30 PM.

Please consider participating in some type of fasting during this time of focused prayer. Fasting will help you to enhance your prayer time and increase your hunger for God. To help you prepare for fasting, we have included a section that should answer most of your questions (page 2).

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

Praying with you,

Pastor Jay

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Suggested Fast for Kids + Teens

Preparing for Prayer + Fasting

Below are a few questions to help you prepare for this time of prayer and fasting:

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

How to Do a Fast

Decide what you will fast

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

- give up TV, internet, and movies
- eat only fruit, vegetables, and liquids
- only consume liquids (juices, vitamin drinks, etc.)
- give up some category of foods (sweets, caffeine, breads, fried foods, etc.)

Repent

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

Pray

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

The Main Thing

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

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

What is S.O.A.P.

S.O.A.P. is a way to engage the scriptures and to help us live out God's Word. A really neat part of doing this devotional is you are not doing it by yourself. Hundreds of other people are reading the same scriptures you are. Here's how it works:

Scripture

Read the assigned portion of scripture. Ask the Holy Spirit to use one of these verses to speak to you. One of the verses will grab your attention or shine out from the section. Write that verse down.

Observation

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

<u>Application</u>

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

<u>P</u>rayer

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

scripture

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

observation

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

application

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

prayer

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

Matthew 6:5-14

January 6

Day 1

Private Appointment | Jesus teaches us that a private appointment with our Father in Heaven is not just for times of panic or great need but is designed by our Creator to be a daily norm—a daily conversation that builds a loving, intimate relationship with our God.



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pr	ayer

Acts 10:13-23

January 7

Day 2

God Speaks | We often think of prayer as a time to speak to God. But prayer is also our invitation to God to speak to us. We must never limit the way we allow God to speak with us. He may do it in a dream or vision, or through another person, or even an angel. Often, He will speak through the words of the Bible, or in a quiet whisper of the Spirit to our soul—but He always speaks. Expect Him to speak to you today.



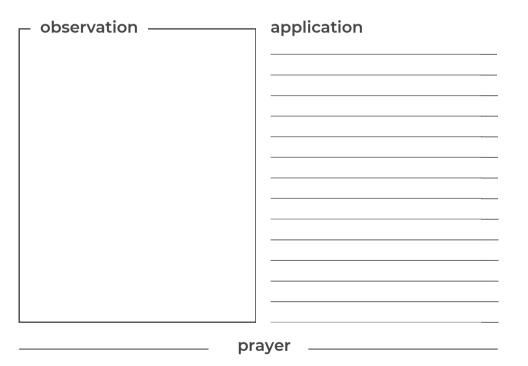
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2 Corinthians 3:18 | 1 Thess. 2:13

Day 3

Inside Job | When we truly hear what God speaks to us, it begins deep change in us from the inside out. God's word works on the inside of those who dare to believe and trust in Him. It is an internal process that grows and grows, and then eventually becomes visible in the way we live our lives.





Psalm 81:13-16 | Revelation 3:20

Day 4

Hear and Listen | At one time or another, especially as children, we have all practiced "selective hearing." It is when we don't hear what we don't want to hear. The Lord deeply desires that we hear His voice, but it is a choice that He has placed in our hands. He is always speaking, but are we listening? Ask Him today to help us be good and willing listeners.



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pr	ayer

John 10:1-6 | John 10:27-29

Day 5

The Sound of His Voice | It only makes sense that a flock of sheep can easily recognize the voice of their shepherd. As Jesus' followers, we have attached ourselves to our Shepherd and have placed our lives and souls into His hands. The longer we follow Him, the clearer His voice will become. And the closer we stay to Him, the more our souls will be satisfied by His presence.



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Isaiah 55:6-11 | Proverbs 3:5

Day 6

Higher Ground | God's Word can have two meanings: one is the meaning that originates in the mind of God, giving us divine wisdom and revelation; and the other is our human tendency to read into it what we want it to say, or what makes sense to us. Still, we must reach out to the Holy Spirit to help us discern what God really wants to say to us. He promises to help our discernment.



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1 Corinthians 2:10-16

January 12

Day 7

The Spirit Speaks | God wants to make His Word live in us. As we hunger for Him and give Him the time and space to speak to us, He will give us insight into how faith can become our daily experience, and how walking with Christ can become our norm.



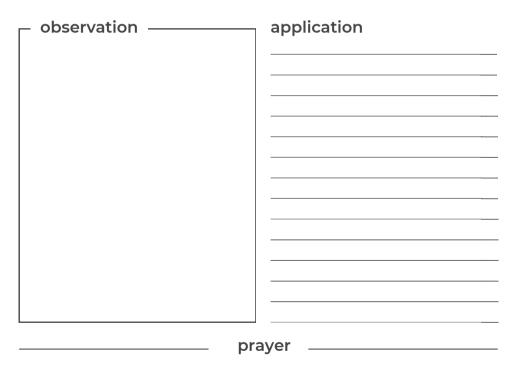
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Acts 4:13-20

Day 8

Been with Jesus | Jesus longs to reveal himself to every single person, but some are not readily open to hearing Him. The only Jesus they will see or hear is the Savior who shines through our life. Let the Holy Spirit help you today to live in such a way that it will be obvious that you have also been with Jesus.



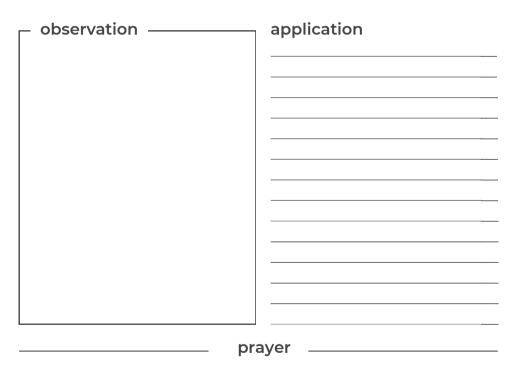


John 15:1-5 | 1 John 2:6

Day 9

Living Attached | Perhaps the Apostle John, more than any of the New Testament writers understood that living "attached to Christ" was the secret of living a life filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Living attached means seeing Jesus Christ as the very source of our life, not just the object of our religious devotion.

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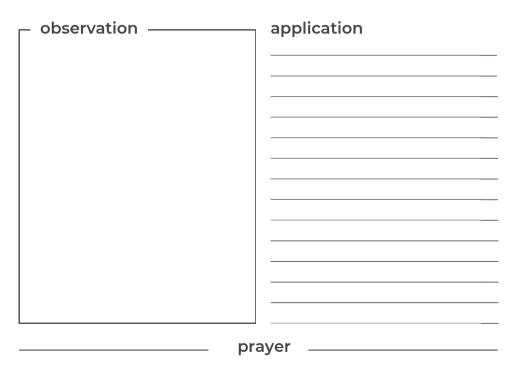
Romans 12:1-2 | Colossians 3:9-10

January 15

Day 10

Spiritually Transformed | The process of spiritual transformation is supernatural in that it is something only God can accomplish in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. We cannot control it or make it happen ourselves, but we can create the conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place. Prayer, reading God's Word, and living in close community with a healthy church are among the best catalysts for spiritual transformation.

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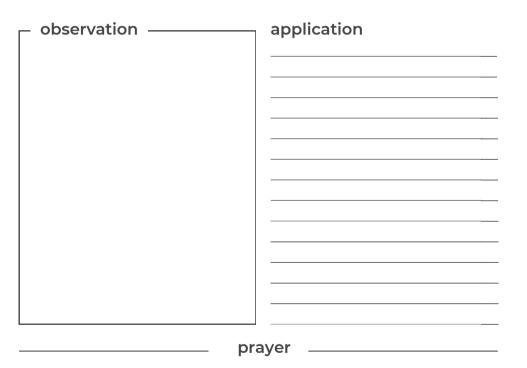


Ephesians 4:21-24 | 2 Cor. 4:16-18

Day 11

Renewed Faith | Just like a marriage, our faith is meant to experience renewal over and over—even daily. The more we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit, the closer we will draw to Him, and the better we can recognize His voice. Through forgiveness and grace, God provides a new beginning for each believer as often as that believer needs renewal. Jesus never holds a grudge, keeping our relationship with Him as fresh as the morning.





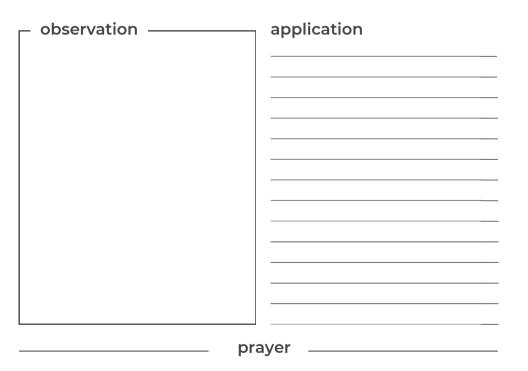
Luke 10:21-24 | Mark 10:13-16

January 17

Day 12

Childlike Faith | Becoming like a child means we maintain the wonderful and beautiful qualities of children that life in this sinful world can beat out of us: tenderness of conscience, openness about emotions, creativity and imagination, wonder and awe, joy and hope, forgiveness and trust, undying love, boundless energy, and eagerness to learn and grow. These qualities tend to define children but often get stripped away as they encounter the brokenness of this world. They are qualities that can be renewed in us.

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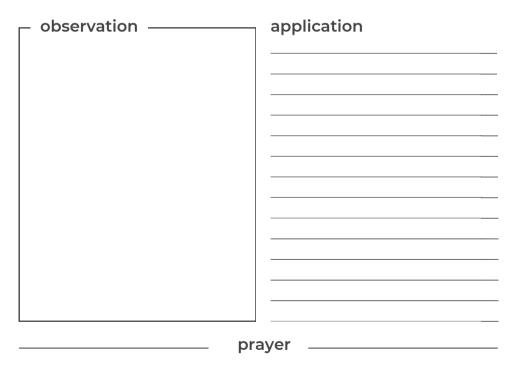
Hebrews 11:4-11 | 2 Corinthians 5:7

January 18

Day 13

Faith vs. Sight | There is an ongoing tension between faith and sight. Our OLD nature is at home in the world of the senses, and it demands to see. But as Christians, we need to cultivate the NEW nature, which can trust God and His Word without demanding other evidence. Faith lifts us above the realm of our own abilities and makes God's possibilities available to us.





Romans 4:13-24 | Galatians 3:7-9

January 19

Day 14

Faith Journey | Faith is a walk, a journey—the outcome of an ongoing, personal relationship between God and each believer. Just like Abraham, every step in that journey is an act of obedience. It takes time, but as we walk in a right relationship with God, evidenced by our actions, our faith is refined and can be finally brought to maturity.

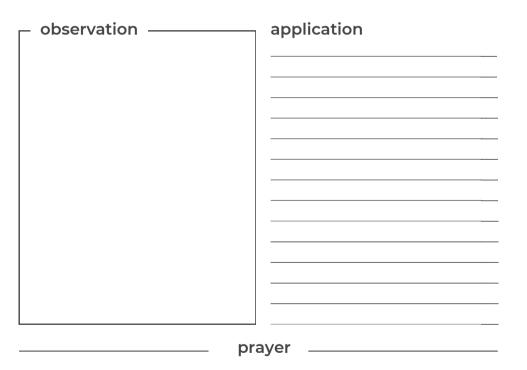
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Day 15

Truth Journey | Part of our journey with Christ is a "truth journey." When David committed multiple sins against God in his affair with Bathsheba, he found himself broken and ruined. But more than anything he didn't want to lose his relationship with God. So, he admitted the truth and repented of his sin. His truth journey led him to forgiveness and restoration with God. Our truth journey can do the same.





Luke 7:36-50

January 21

Day 16

Loving Much | Forgiveness is a work of God that can be freely received by anyone but must in turn be freely given as well. In both cases, the result is an overwhelming flood of love. The more we are forgiven, the more we love. And the more we forgive others, the more of God's love is revealed in us. Imitate the Father in heaven—be an aggressive forgiver.



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John 5:16-30

Day 17

Pleasing the Father | Jesus is not only the Son of God, and the Messiah; He is also our model of how life should be lived. He only did what His Father wanted Him to do. Our goal should be the same. As we seek to please the Father in all we do, we open a wide path to live a life of purpose, of power, and of love.



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Matthew 8:5-13

Day 18

Noticing Genuine Faith | Jesus recognized and applauded genuine faith in other people, even a Roman soldier. We often see what God's doing by watching faith at work in others. When we see God at work in others, we can be encouraged to stretch our faith to be used by God similarly. It's a blessing that comes from surrounding yourself with people who are full of faith.

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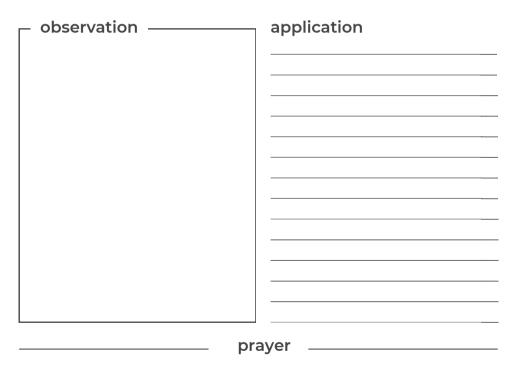
Rom. 8:26-27 | Jude 20 | Eph. 6:18

January 24

Day 19

Praying with God | Praying is the ultimate expression of partnership with God. It is discovering the heartbeat of God and learning to pray it. This kind of partnership, with its answers and breakthroughs, becomes a source of our joy and purpose. Finding the heart of God is a sure way to lock into His Presence.





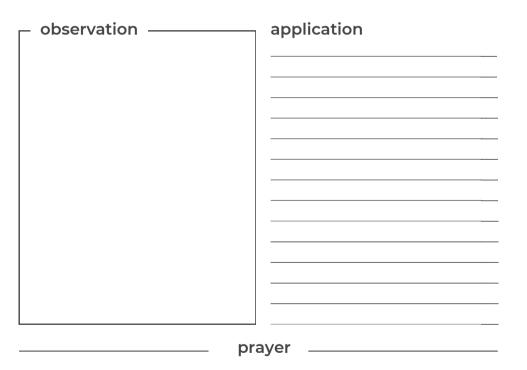
Psalm 107:1-9

January 25

Day 20

God is Good, All the Time | God delights in satisfying a thirsty soul. He has promised to fill the hungry with what is good. We cannot put limits or boundaries on what is available to us through what He calls "our inheritance" as sons and daughters of God. The Psalmist David also wrote, "The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all His works." (Psalm 145:9)

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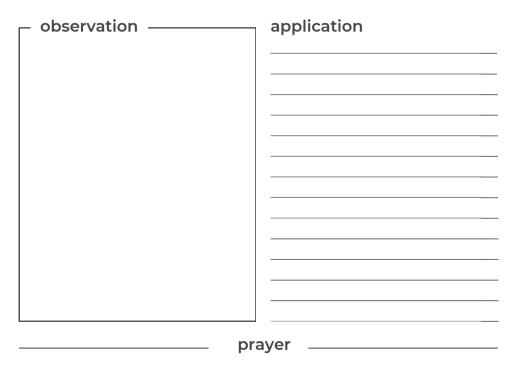


Luke 24:13-35

Day 21

Burning Hearts | There is something that only happens when we make time to spend with Jesus—our hearts begin to burn with a desire to know Him more. The more we desire to be with Him, the more of Christ is revealed to us in the deepest parts of our soul. Earnestly pray that the year 2025 will be marked in your life with a burning heart for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.





Suggested Fast for Kids + Teens

Day 1 TV, movies, and video games	Day 2 TV, movies, and video games	Day 3 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 4 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 5 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 6 TV, movies, and video games	Day 7 sugars, dessert, & candy
Day 8 TV, movies, and video games	Day 9 TV, movies, and video games	Day 10 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 11 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 12 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 13 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 14 sugars, dessert, & candy
Day 15 cell phones	Day 16 cell phones	Day 17 cell phones	Day 18 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 19 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 20 sugars, dessert, & candy	Day 21 sugars, dessert, & candy