

21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND LEARNING TO BE CLOSE TO GOD



WELCOME, KIDS AND FAMILIES!

A new year is a great time to ask big questions like:

What kind of person am I becoming?

Am I growing closer to Jesus?

How can I follow Him better this year?

For the next 21 days, our whole church is spending extra time praying and choosing something special to give up so we can focus on God. This is called a fast.

When we fast, we are saying:

***“God, You are more important
to me than anything else.”***

In the Bible, many people prayed and fasted when they needed God's help or wanted to hear Him clearly.

But remember—fasting doesn't make God love us more. He already loves us completely!

Fasting simply helps our hearts listen better.

During these 21 days, we're asking God to:

- Help us feel close to Him
- Help us love His Word and His presence
- Heal our hearts and homes
- Help us love Jesus more
- Show us His plans for the new year

This guide will help you learn, read the Bible, and pray in simple ways each day. We are excited to grow with you!

Preston Prent
Kids Pastor

WHAT IS FASTING FOR KIDS?

Fasting means giving up something you like for a little while so you can spend more time with God.

For kids, fasting can look like:

- Skipping desserts for a week
- Giving up video games on school nights
- Taking a break from YouTube or TV
- Choosing water instead of soda
- Giving up extra snacks between meals
- Putting away your tablet during certain hours

Kids should not skip regular meals. Your body needs food to grow strong!

Fasting is NOT:

- A diet
- A way to impress God
- A way to earn forgiveness
- A punishment

Fasting IS a way to say, “Jesus, I want to hear You. I want to know You.”

HOW DO I START?

- 1. Pray:** “God, what do You want me to give up for a little while?”
- 2. Pick your fast:** Choose one small thing to give up during these 21 days.
- 3. Pick a time to meet with God:** Maybe before school, after school, or before bed.
- 4. Use this guide:** Each day has a simple Bible verse, a short thought, and a prayer.
- 5. Be patient with yourself:** If you forget one day, just start again tomorrow!

WAYS GOD ENCOURAGES US

- God doesn’t love us more when we fast—fasting helps us hear Him better.
- When you want the thing you’re fasting from, turn that moment into a prayer.
- Keep a tiny notebook or draw pictures of what you feel God is teaching you.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

EACH DAY HAS:



READ

a Bible
verse



THINK

about
an idea



PRAY

a simple
prayer

THE JOURNEY

- Days 1-7: Wanting God
- Days 8-14: Walking with Jesus
- Days 15-21: Sharing Jesus with others

21 Days of Kid-Friendly Devotions

DAY
1

WANTING GOD MOST

READ

Psalm 63:1

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 where there is no water.

THINK

When we feel hungry for snacks or miss a toy or screen we gave up, we can remember: "I want God even more!"

PRAY

God, help me want You most of all. Amen!

DAY
2

READ

Matthew 6:33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

THINK

Jesus wants us to put His kingdom first — not toys, friends, or worries.

PRAY

Jesus, help me put You first every day. Amen!

KNOWING JESUS

DAY
3

READ

Philippians 3:8

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ...

THINK

Knowing Jesus is better than anything else.

PRAY

Jesus, help me know You better this year. Amen!

DAY
4

STAY CLOSE TO JESUS

READ

John 15:5

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

THINK

We grow when we stay connected to Jesus, like a branch stays connected to the vine.

PRAY

Jesus, help me stay close to You. Amen!

GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH

DAY
5

READ

Ephesians 3:17-19

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

THINK

God's love is HUGE—bigger than you can imagine.

PRAY

God, help me feel how much You love me. Amen!

COME TO JESUS ANYTIME

DAY
6

READ

Hebrews 4:16

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

THINK

Jesus understands us and wants us to come to Him when we're sad, scared, or confused.

PRAY

Jesus, I come to You. Help me today. Amen!

DAY
7

A FAST THAT HELPS OTHERS

READ

Isaiah 58:6-7

"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help."

THINK

Fasting helps us think about others, not just ourselves. Ask yourself "Who can I help today?"

PRAY

Lord, help me show Your kindness. Amen!

JESUS TOOK TIME TO PRAY

DAY
8

READ

Mark 1:35

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

THINK

Even Jesus needed quiet time with God. We do too!

PRAY

God, help me enjoy time with You. Amen!

DAY
9

THINK ABOUT GOD

READ

Colossians 3:2

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

THINK

When your mind wanders, gently bring your thoughts back to God.

PRAY

God, help me think about You. Amen!

GIVE YOUR LIFE TO GOD

DAY
10

READ

Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

THINK

We belong to God. We can say, "God, use my life!"

PRAY

God, help me live Your way. Amen!

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS YOU

DAY
11

READ

Galatians 5:22–23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

THINK

The Holy Spirit grows fruit in us—like love, joy, and kindness.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, help me grow good fruit. Amen!

DAY
12

JOY IN HARD TIMES

READ

James 1:2–3

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

THINK

Hard things can help us grow stronger in our faith.

PRAY

Lord, help me trust You when things are hard. Amen!

BE HONEST WITH GOD

DAY
13

READ

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

THINK

When we tell God our mistakes, He forgives us right away.

PRAY

God, forgive me and help me do what's right. Amen!

DAY
14

SEARCH MY HEART

READ

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

THINK

Ask God to show you any wrong attitudes or actions.

PRAY

God, show me how to grow. Amen!

DAY
15

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

READ

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."

THINK

You can shine for Jesus by being kind, helpful, and honest.

PRAY

Jesus, help me shine Your light today. Amen!

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION

DAY
16

READ

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

THINK

When you follow Jesus, He makes your heart new.

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for making me new. Amen!

DAY
17

TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

READ

Matthew 28:19–20

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

THINK

You can share Jesus by loving people and telling your story.

PRAY

Help me tell others about You. Amen!

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

DAY
18

READ

Hebrews 10:24–25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

THINK

God wants us to help each other follow Him.

PRAY

God, help me encourage someone today. Amen!

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

DAY
19

READ

Colossians 4:2-3

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.

THINK

Ask God for chances to be kind and share about Him.

PRAY

Lord, open doors for me to help others. Amen!

DAY
20

STAY IN GOD'S LOVE

READ

Jude 21

...and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

THINK

God holds us close and helps us keep following Him.

PRAY

God, keep my heart close to Yours. Amen!

GOD CAN DO AMAZING THINGS

DAY
21

READ

Ephesians 3:20

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

THINK

God can do more than we could ever imagine!

PRAY

God, do amazing things in my life and in my family. Amen!



GREAT JOB—YOU FINISHED!

You spent 21 days learning to talk with God, read His Word, and give up something to focus on Him. But this isn't the end, it's a new beginning!

KEEP Praying.

KEEP reading.

KEEP walking with Jesus.



CHERRY HILLS
KiDS



CHERRY HILLS
COMMUNITY CHURCH