

AUGUST BIBLE READING PLAN
PRAYER & FASTING DEVOTIONAL

Eagerly
I
SEEK
YOU

Jeremiah Buys a Field

32

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace. The king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians, and he will capture you." Jeremiah said, "The LORD has said to me, 'Do not escape the hands of the Babylonians.'"

HORIZON
CHURCH

*“You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you, in a dry and
parched land where there is no water.”*

PSALM 69:10

Over the next 14 days, we invite you to join us in a season of prayer and fasting as we earnestly seek the Lord. As we spend time in prayer, fasting and God’s Word, may our hunger for Him grow, our faith be strengthened and our hearts be renewed by His presence.

DAY ONE

What is Fasting?

Devotional thought by Luke & Amber Harris

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 6:5-18, Isaiah 58:6-7 + Joel 2:12-13

Fasting is a simple yet powerful way of drawing closer to God. It is the intentional choice to go without food for a period of time so that we can focus more fully on prayer, worship, and spending time in His presence.

While fasting involves giving something up physically, its true purpose is spiritual. It is not about proving our devotion or earning God’s favour, but about creating space in our lives to seek Him more intentionally.

Each time we would normally eat, we are reminded to pause, turn our attention to God, pray, read His Word, and listen for His voice.

Hunger reminds us how much we depend on physical food, but it also helps us recognise our deeper need for spiritual nourishment. Jesus said that we do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God. In fasting, we discover that His presence can satisfy us in ways nothing else can.

Fasting also helps us slow down and become more aware of what is happening in our hearts. It can reveal areas where we have become distracted, self-reliant, or overly focused on ourselves. As we seek God, He gently shapes our thoughts, desires, and priorities to become more like His.

Fasting creates an opportunity to set aside normal comforts and make room for a deeper relationship with Jesus. As we do, we become more sensitive to His leading, more dependent on His strength, and more aware of His love and presence.

There are a few ways you can approach fasting. While it often involves abstaining from food, it can also include stepping back from other distractions, such as social media, television, or anything that competes for your attention.

The goal of fasting is not simply going without food; it is growing closer to Jesus. It is a sacred invitation to move from self-centredness to Christ-centredness, from being led by our natural man to being more Spirit-Led, and from relying on our own understanding to trusting in the Word-based wisdom of God’s revelation confirmed through scripture.

When practised with a heart of worship and surrender, fasting becomes a powerful expression of love for God - one that positions us to receive fresh revelation, deeper intimacy, and spiritual breakthrough.

DAY TWO

Why Do We Fast?

Devotional thought by Tony & Michelle Peak

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 6:16-18, Isaiah 58:3-5 + Psalm 69:10

Our city has an annual long-distance triathlon event called “Iron Man”, which attracts hundreds of competitors from around the world. Consisting of a 3.8 km ocean swim, a 180 km bike ride, and a 42.2 km marathon run, this event is not for the faint-hearted. Competitors commit to countless hours of rigorous training, often unseen, in the hope of finishing ahead of the others, and securing a prize - a prize that comes with recognition and prestige.

God invites each of us to go deeper in our relationship with Him, and to know Him intimately, personally and powerfully. Jesus tells us in Mat 6:17-18, “But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Jesus redirects fasting from a public display to a private, faith-filled encounter with the unseen Father.

By keeping the practice hidden, we protect pure motives, honour God’s presence, and position ourselves to receive the only reward that matters - His gracious response, blessing and His presence. When David was unsure about what to do, he confessed: “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” Ps 16:11

Seeking the Lord through prayer and fasting is an intentional shift of focus from certain things and onto the presence of God. As you seek the Lord over the next few days, prepare your heart before abstaining (Joel 2:12-13). Maintain a normal appearance - avoid verbal or non-verbal hints. Pair fasting with prayer, Scripture, and humility (Acts 13:2-3). And expect God’s gracious, yet unseen reward - deeper intimacy, clarity of guidance (Isaiah 58:3-9), and spiritual strength to resist temptation (Matthew 4:2–11).

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank You for always desiring a close relationship with me. Thank you for inviting me to draw closer to You. Jesus, you are my reward - everything I need is found in you. Help me seek Your presence more than my daily comforts or others’ approval. As I spend time with you, speak to me, guide me, and fill me with your joy, peace and strength. In Jesus name, Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Are my motives for prayer and fasting pure and sincere?
- What am I sensing God might want to do in me through this time?

DAY THREE

Seeking God First

Devotional thought by Craig & Kaylynn Lang

SCRIPTURES | Jeremiah 29:12-13, 2 Chronicles 20:1-4 + Matthew 6:33

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:12–13 (NIV)

There is a deep gentleness woven through this promise of God. He does not turn away from our prayers, nor does He overlook even the quietest cry of our hearts. He listens - carefully, patiently, and fully - to every word we bring before Him.

Even the prayers that feel weak. Even the ones that are unfinished. Even the moments when all you can offer is a sigh. Nothing is missed by Him.

And yet, how easily life can pull us in many directions. The demands of work, the rhythm of daily responsibilities, the noise of constant activity - these things can quietly, almost unnoticed, shift our attention away from the One who holds us together. Not because we intend to drift, but simply because life can feel full.

Still, in the middle of all of it, God says:

“When you call on Me...”

“If you reach out to Me...”

Earnestly seeking God is a return to our first love.

The word call can be understood through the Greek word kaleo, meaning to invite or call forth.

May we call upon the name of the Lord, reach out to Him and seek Him above all else, trusting that He is our refuge, our strength, our anchor, and our strong tower - our ever-present help in times of need, our peace in every storm, and our guide in every step we take.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to seek You with all our hearts today. Draw us closer and teach us to pursue Your presence, Your glory, and Your face above all else. Amen

DAY FOUR

A Thirst For God

Devotional thought by Keren Batson

SCRIPTURES | Psalm 63, John 4:13-14 + Psalm 42:1-2

If there's something we can all relate to, it's being thirsty. It's a universal need, yet we often try to satisfy our thirst not with what we truly need, but with what we prefer.

In Psalm 63, David is in the wilderness of Judah and confronts a thirst, not of the body, but of the soul. He describes an earnest seeking after God and a deep longing for His presence. David understood both his thirst and the source that would satisfy it.

Do we understand our thirst? We feel it, wrestle with it and try to satisfy it. But why do we thirst, and what can truly fill it?

Jeremiah 2:13 speaks of two evils: forsaking God, the fountain of living water, and hewing out broken cisterns that can hold no water. Daily, we are offered access to living water, yet we often find ourselves in deserted places of the soul, building our own reservoirs and hoping they will be enough.

Why is it so hard to remain at the source that satisfies? Perhaps because broken cisterns feel tangible, controllable and even familiar. The fountain of living water requires trust and dependence. It asks us to receive rather than achieve.

We turn to success, relationships, comfort, recognition, and self-sufficiency, asking them to do what only God can do. The issue is not that we are thirsty, but that we often settle for muddy water when a fountain is freely available.

David understood that his soul did not merely thirst for relief, it thirsted for God Himself. "My soul thirsts for You" became "my soul shall be satisfied," and eventually, "my soul follows hard after You." Satisfaction in God doesn't end the pursuit of God; rather, true satisfaction creates deeper devotion. The soul that drinks most deeply from the fountain is the soul that desires to remain closest to it.

DAY FIVE

Breakthrough Prayer

Devotional thought by Tam Henry

SCRIPTURES | Daniel 10:2-3, 12-13, 2 Chronicles 7:14 + Luke 11:9-10

When we talk about breakthrough prayer, we usually think about the answer. But Daniel 10 shows us that it starts before the answer comes. It starts with consecration. It starts with a heart that is set before God.

Daniel didn't just pray. He humbled himself. He stayed steady and set his heart to understand. And that tells us something important - breakthrough prayer is not first about intensity, it is about surrender.

Consecration and surrender are not just ideas we talk about, they are the posture God keeps bringing us back to. Daniel 10 reminds us why this is so important.

Sometimes we think breakthrough is the moment everything changes around us. But maybe the real breakthrough starts when something changes in us. Maybe it starts when we choose to stay before God with humility, even when the answer feels delayed.

Daniel's words were heard from the first day. Heaven was listening before he saw anything shift. The delay wasn't because God was absent. It was because there was more happening than Daniel could see.

And that matters for us too.

Because not every delay is denial. Sometimes there is resistance. Sometimes there is a battle going on in the spiritual realm that we can't see, and what feels like silence is actually God doing something deeper in the unseen.

That's why prayer is never wasted. Not the waiting or the fasting and not the moments where it feels like nothing is moving. God is still at work and He is using prayer to shape us, strengthen us, and keep our hearts aligned with Him.

What if breakthrough prayer isn't just about getting an answer? What if it's about becoming the kind of person who stays set before God, no matter how long it takes. As we continue through this fast, let's keep our hearts open, humble and remain steady before Him. Let Daniel remind us that the posture matters just as much as the prayer.

DAY SIX

Hearing God’s Voice

Devotional thought by Tim Biassetto

SCRIPTURES | 1 Samuel 3:4-10, John 10:1-16 + Isaiah 30:21

“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

John 10:3b

Do you believe that God desires to speak to you?

A revelation that God is both interested in and committed to speaking to you is a powerful step in hearing his voice.

Throughout history, God has spoken to individuals and to humanity as a whole. He has spoken through prophets, through creation, and ultimately through his son, Jesus.

As we read Scripture, we discover the character and nature of God through his interactions with people across the generations. In the Gospels, we hear the words of Jesus and observe the way he lovingly engages with his creation. In Acts and the Epistles, we see the dynamic relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Church as he guides, empowers, and speaks to his people.

In 1 Samuel 3, we see God calling to a young man by name. Samuel heard his name, but didn’t realise it was God. God continued to call him by name until he was instructed by Eli to respond with “Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.” Once he became aware that God was speaking to him, he entered into a conversation with God that would shape the rest of his life.

In John 10, Jesus makes it clear that “He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” Let this devotional be your instruction to listen for your name and when you hear it, respond by saying, “Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.” What you hear next may change everything for you.

DAY SEVEN

Read & Memorise Psalm 63:1

Devotional thought by Thalia Colys

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

***“You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.”***

Psalm 63:1

The wilderness is more than a location we traverse, it’s a posture we choose. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, and led by the Spirit into and in the wilderness. In Luke 5, it says Jesus frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray. He chose a posture, a posture of complete dependence. When we pray and when we fast, we take a posture of dependence. We let the excess get stripped away and we’re reminded that we need him just like we need breath inside our lungs. He’s our everything and we can’t move and live without him.

You see, a beautiful thing starts to happen in the wilderness, what starts as I Need, becomes I Want, which becomes I Choose. Our intimacy with God deepens with every step we take in desert wasteland. You’ll soon discover that what seems like a hopeless, desolate wasteland is actually ready ground for God to move powerfully. The wilderness is paving a way for a move of God. John the Baptist spent his life in the wilderness, “He was a voice shouting in the wilderness, prepare the way for Him.” Isaiah 44 says, “For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.”

In this season of prayer and fasting, we ask God, pour water on the thirsty land - the land cultivated with hunger. We ask, pour out your Spirit on our people. Today we declare our need for you, our desire for you, and we choose you.

DAY EIGHT

Renewed Strength

Devotional thought by Andrew & Mona Hanna

SCRIPTURES | Isaiah 40:28-31, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 + Matthew 11:28-30

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

Isaiah 40:31

There are seasons when life feels like a heavy, uphill climb. Our spiritual reserves run low, and our natural grit simply isn't enough. In our exhaustion, we often try harder—frantically flapping our wings to force our way over life's mountains, only to burn out.

But God specialises in giving power to the faint. True spiritual renewal happens when we stop struggling in our own effort and learn to soar.

In the natural world, an eagle is too heavy to fly long distances by muscle power alone. Instead, eagles are masters of soaring. They wait for a thermal updraft - a column of rising warm air - and lock their wings into a fixed position, allowing the wind to lift them effortlessly.

When Isaiah writes about “those who wait upon the Lord,” he uses the Hebrew word qavah, which means to expectantly entwine oneself to something. Waiting isn't passive laziness; it is the active posture of an eagle on a cliffside, watching the horizon for the wind.

A practical way to practice this expectant waiting is through fasting. Fasting is a voluntary denial of our physical appetites to make room for spiritual fullness. By turning down the volume of our bodily cravings, we stop trying to force our own way. We open our wings, anchor our gaze on God's promises, and trade our fragile energy for His infinite capacity.

This shift changes how we view our trials. When a storm approaches, small birds hide in the bushes. Eagles do the exact opposite. They dive into the edge of the storm, using the turbulent winds to lift them rapidly above the clouds into the calm, sunlit air.

Your current trial does not have to ground you. As **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** reminds us, “Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” In the hands of the Holy Spirit, temporary troubles are achieving an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Stop straining in your own strength. Hear Christ's invitation in **Matthew 11:28-30**: “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Step into His yoke, open your wings in faith, and let His Spirit carry you above the chaos.

PRAYER

Lord, I surrender my weariness to You. I am tired of striving in my own strength. As I fast and seek Your face, empty me of self. Teach me to take up Your easy yoke and wait expectantly on You, trusting Your Spirit to lift me above the storm. Amen.

DAY NINE

Resting in God's Presence

Devotional thought by Alison Bonhomme

SCRIPTURES | Exodus 33:7-11, Psalm 84:1-4 + Psalm 91:1-2

“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 84:2

Humans tend to mispredict what will make them happy, and often spend their lives chasing things they believe will make them satisfied - success, financial security, the perfect relationship or next promotion, only to discover these things do not satisfy in the way they expected.

Miswanting is the psychological phenomenon of mistakenly predicting what will make you happy, or overestimating how much joy (or despair) an outcome will bring. Research indicates that miswanting directly leads to mistakes in choosing what we think will give us pleasure.

Miswanting may look like telling ourselves we need a holiday, a quieter schedule or a little retail therapy to feel better. Or perhaps we imagine a new job, a break from the kids and a change of scenery will finally leave us feeling refreshed. While restoration may be found in these things, they cannot satisfy the deepest longing of the soul.

Note the Psalmist doesn't say “I long for my circumstances to change” or “I long for my problems to disappear”. He says: “ My soul longs/yearns, even faints...my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God”. There's a confidence in the heart of the Psalmist as to what he wants and needs.

Have you been miswanting in your life - seeking rest, solace and pleasure from things that only God can satisfy?

My encouragement today is to thoughtfully consider the longing in your own heart. You may discover that beneath the stress, fatigue and busyness of life, and beyond the things that you may think will satisfy, is a deep longing for the presence of God - the only place where your soul can truly find rest.

DAY TEN

Hannah's Prayer

Devotional thought by Hannah Long

SCRIPTURES | 1 Samuel 1:10-18, 1 Samuel 2:1-2 + Philippians 4:6-7

“Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

1 Samuel 1:17

Sometimes we think one prayer isn't enough. We wonder if we've said the right words, if we've prayed with enough faith, or if we need to keep striving for God to hear us. Yet Hannah reminds us that prayer isn't about finding the perfect words; it's about bringing an open and surrendered heart before the Lord.

Hannah came before God with complete honesty. She didn't hide her grief or pretend she was okay. She poured out every burden, every hurt and every desire before Him. Hannah wasn't concerned with those around her or what they thought. She sought the Lord earnestly and fervently. When Eli approached and spoke to Hannah, Hannah didn't dismiss his words as just another encouragement. She received them with faith. She believed that God had heard her prayer, and from that moment her outward expression changed. Nothing around her had changed, but something within her had. She left with peace because she had encountered the presence of God and trusted that He had heard her.

Sometimes we can be quick to overlook the ways God encourages us. A scripture, a conversation, a sermon, or a simple word from someone can be exactly what God uses to strengthen our faith. Don't take those moments lightly. Hold onto them. Treasure them in your heart, and allow them to build your faith while you wait.

As we pray and fast, may we come before God with open and honest hearts. May we believe that He hears every prayer, receive what He is speaking to us through His Word and His people, and leave His presence with peace, knowing that He is faithful even before we see the answer.

DAY ELEVEN

Remembering His Faithfulness

Devotional thought by Deb Lenzo

SCRIPTURES | Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 15-16, Lamentations 3:22-23 + 1 Samuel 7:5-6, 12

“Remember how the Lord your God led you...”

Deuteronomy 8:2

What do you remember of how God made himself known to you? How has He led you? Reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness helps us continue to steadfastly trust and rely on Him.

The writer of Deuteronomy 8 revisits the exodus when God's people were in the wilderness - a time of freedom from the slavery of Egypt, but also a season when the normal comforts of home were unavailable - even regular food and water were lacking - a situation so desperate some people actually wanted to go back to slavery. The people were driven by these circumstances to daily depend on God for life's necessities - manna for food and, when needed, miraculous sources of water - for years! It was humbling, but it taught them to trust in God. They discovered that their relationship with their heavenly Father is more important than anything else.

1 Samuel 7 records a time when Israel's hearts had wandered, serving other gods and worshipping man-made idols. Their nation was also beset by invaders. The people of Israel recognised that they were off track and sought to restore worship of God alone. Samuel leads them in this process and calls them to fast (1 Samuel 7:5-6). They fast & pray, confessing their independence. The evidence of God's provision is seen in the way He intervenes and how the invaders are forced out of Israel's territory. Samuel sets up a remembrance stone as a reminder of God's provision and the importance of dependence on Him (1 Samuel 7:12).

When we fast, we have an opportunity to **remember** God's faithfulness, to **rediscover** our need for full dependence on God and **rest** in His provision. Lamentations 3:22-23 sums it up so well, “Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning”. The passage ends with the exhortation “Great is your faithfulness.”

Today, as you fast and pray, take time to remember God's faithfulness to you, rediscover your need for Him and rest in His provision. Honour Him for His unfailing faithfulness in your past, now in your present and even how His faithfulness will continue to flow in your future.

DAY TWELVE

Faith for the Impossible

Devotional thought by John & Deb Herbert

SCRIPTURES | Mark 9:14-29, 1 Kings 17:12-16 + Matthew 19:26

Today, we want to acknowledge the **moments** within our walk with God when only **FAITH** can carry us. These **moments**... when the situation seems impossible to fix, yet - it's in that very place, God is inviting us to stretch, reach & ask for MORE of Him - not out of fear, but out of our faith.

As we fast & pray today, we are reminded that **we are not without hope** because **we are not without God**.

Let's look at some scriptures, **Mark 9:14-29**. We see a desperate father, his son, bound by demonic spirits, the disciples unable to help. Jesus steps in and reveals a deep truth: "This kind can only come out by prayer and fasting." Some breakthroughs will not respond to effort, emotion, or intellect, but only through prayer & fasting. We need to have a posture of complete surrender, where we lay down our strength and depend wholly on the power of God.

Next, we see in **1 Kings 17:12-16**, another desperate situation, a widow preparing her last meal before dying. Yet in her moment of deep anguish, God sends Elijah, she responds by choosing obedience over fear. As she gives from her lack, God's miraculous power hits and sustains her every need, providing flowing oil, an unending supply of flour for an entire famine season. WOW!

Lastly, as we have looked at a father, a widow, and now in **Matthew 19:26**, a man searching for the answers to life all have **moments** going on. Jesus brings these impossibilities all into focus with this one scripture:

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

So today, I encourage you, align yourself with our Heavenly Father, because it's through his Kingdom principles, the **"impossible"** you are facing, is no barrier for our God; it is an opportunity for you & me to grow, stretch, and deepen our dependency on him.

So whatever **"moment"** is sitting before you today, whether it's provision, healing, restoration, or direction—we know this truth:

What is impossible for man is already possible with God.

I pray right now that your faith may be stretched, so you get to see the place where **heaven's power** touches our impossible situations, and our **"moment"** transforms into **God's Glory** being released on earth. AMEN!

DAY THIRTEEN

Prayer & Worship

Devotional thought by Shane Martin

SCRIPTURES | Acts 16:25-26, Psalm 100:1-3 + Hebrews 13:15

There is something so powerful and sacred when we offer up to God, with all we have, songs of praise and prayers of purpose - even when our immediate surroundings are bleak.

Recently, I was sick and felt absolutely terrible. My stomach was in knots, my blood pressure was through the roof, and my shoulders had been in pain for two long weeks. Right then, I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray.

I did not want to pray. I did not feel like praying. My immediate circumstances could easily have justified a decision not to pray. But I did it anyway. I shut myself in my study and began to storm heaven. Worship music filled the air, and I began to overlay my circumstances with prayer, worship, and the declaration of God's Word.

And do you know what? About 30 minutes in, suddenly, the shoulder pain I had been carrying for two long weeks completely left. It was so distinct because I had been dealing with it every single day! My stomach pain slowly began to subside as well, and it cleared up entirely over the next 48 hours.

Midnight is the best time to pray. When all is at its bleakest, God's supernatural breakthrough works best. Midnight positions us in a place of humility, reliance on Heaven, and focus on Jesus. Truly, midnight is the best place for a sacrifice of praise.

Wherever you find yourself in this prayer and fasting season, your miracle is on the way. Right now is the perfect opportunity to pray, to seek His face, and to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

He wants to shake open every prison door in your life and loosen every chain attempting to hold you back. Your prayer and your worship are the keys to supernatural breakthrough today!

DAY FOURTEEN

Read & Memorise Psalm 63:1

Devotional thought by Jessica Pedlow

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

***“You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.”***

Psalm 63:1

David wrote these words while in the Desert of Judah, a place of dryness and difficulty. Yet his greatest desire was not for relief from his circumstances, but for God Himself. He declares, ***“My whole being longs for you.”***

This is the language of deep desperation. David’s longing for God was not dependent on his surroundings. Even in a barren season, his heart remained fixed on the Lord. In fact, the wilderness seemed to deepen his hunger for God’s presence.

We all experience desert seasons, times of waiting, uncertainty, or disappointment. Yet Psalm 63 reminds us that a genuine hunger for God can sustain us through them. When our desire for Him is greater than our desire for comfort, we discover a strength that withstands even the driest places.

David goes on to declare, ***“Because your love is better than life”*** - Psalm 63:3. He had discovered that God’s presence was more valuable than anything this world could offer. As a result, his thirst turns to satisfaction: “I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods” - Psalm 63:5.

As you conclude this season of fasting, may you carry forward a deeper hunger for God. Those who long for Him above all else will find that He alone can truly satisfy.