



WEEKLY STUDY

AN INVITATION TO 10 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING WITH PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Jesus spent a season in the wilderness fasting and praying to God. During that time, he was tempted to provide for himself, but instead he chose to depend solely on God's Word for his life. You may feel tempted to provide for yourself or lean on something other than God's Word. God's Word for us is "Jesus". For 10 days you are invited to fast from something and focus on Jesus instead. Read God's Word each day through this study guide, and know that you'll be fasting and praying alongside other Providence people. Let's see what God will do when hundreds or thousands of people are lifting the name of Jesus above everything else!

Ideas for Fasting

- Fast from one meal a day.
- Refrain from your favorite drink.
- Give up complaining.

WEEK TWO

Pastor Jacob continued the series All Things New. We returned to the reality that we are made from dust but given life through the Spirit of God. And the longing that we feel in troubling times like these is for the restoration of all things---that we would be made new according to the promises of God through Christ Jesus. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

O God we confess that we have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience and make us new through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: GENESIS 2.4-7

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

- Our life began with the breath of God breathed into a form God created out of the dust that God Himself created. We owe our lives to this self-giving act of the Creator. And because we had no part in our creation, we are able to trace our story to dust. “From dust we’ve come, to dust we shall return.” But our life outlives dust because God’s Spirit does not decay. What does it look like when we live simply as dust? What is different about those who live out of the Spirit?
- *In prayer and fasting, pray with gratitude to God, noticing the breath given to you by the Creator.*

TUESDAY: ISAIAH 26.19

*But your dead will live, Lord;
their bodies will rise—
let those who dwell in the dust
wake up and shout for joy—
your dew is like the dew of the morning;
the earth will give birth to her dead.*

- The Biblical story repeats the forgetfulness of God’s people. We forget that it was the Spirit that gave us life in the first place. The prophet Isaiah recorded these words of remembrance. Those who have forgotten the life of the Spirit will wake up and shout for joy...the dead will live again. Do you identify more with those who continue to dwell in dust or those who have awoken with joy to life?
- *As you pray and fast, ask God to bring you to life like never before.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 19.28-29

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

- The disciples of Jesus had been noticing how much they had given up to follow Jesus and were wondering what was in it for them. He told them that every destroyed and distorted thing will be renewed and that his followers will be able to oversee it. If our own hearts are not renewed, we will not enjoy the renewal of all things. There will be a disconnect.

- *As you pray and fast for the renewal of our country and of our world, ask that your heart would be made new too.*

THURSDAY: HEBREWS 6.19

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

- Our hope is in the promises of God. And the promises of God are about making all things new--bringing the dead to life. The Youngman home has a painting of a large anchor on the wall. Our kids walk past it many times a day. Most times without notice. But it serves as a large reminder that they are secure even in choppy waters of a pandemic, national distress, and life in general. Are there times when your soul feels less than anchored? What holds you to Jesus when you are adrift?
- *Pray and fast remembering the hope you have in Christ that anchors your soul, firm and secure.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 6.31-34

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- Jesus is attempting so set the sights of his followers higher than the immediate situation. If you are picturing that God will take care of you tomorrow, then you will begin to see how God is taking care of you today. If we look to God's Kingdom (which is in the future but also right here) then we will find that God cares for us today. What picture of the future dominates your thinking?
- *In prayer and fasting, ask God to reveal more of His Kingdom to you.*

SATURDAY: REVELATION 21.5

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- There is a reason that these words of Jesus are amongst the last in the Bible. They are *last words* that point us to the hope that keeps us going. Jesus is in the process of making all things new. If you look around you, it's clear that the process is ongoing. But as his followers we are a part of the "new" that is already here! What is one action or word you can share today that reveals the "new"?
- *As you fast and pray, ask God to make the "everything new" shine especially bright all around you today.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob shared two quotes from well known authors. Read the quotes below and consider how they speak to your current view of the world. Have you seen God give you strength to continue on in His work even as you work through hard things? (Frankl) Have you noticed how a positive, hope filled view of the future can bring you peace in the present? (Eldredge)
 - *“A man who becomes conscious of the responsibility he bears toward a human being, or to an unfinished work, will never be able to throw away his life. He knows the 'why' for his existence, and will be able to bear almost any 'how.'”*
- Viktor Frankl
 - *“How we feel about our future has enormous consequences for our hearts now.”*
- John Eldredge
- Jacob said, “Something is happening to our hearts. and it's not good. We were created good, very good by God. But, we lost the garden. We forgot our beginning. And the reason our beginning is so important is because Jesus has promised to renew it. At a later date, yes, and in our hearts now.” Do you believe that renewal is taking place in your heart right now? If not, what practices or behaviors might make it more difficult to notice if He were?