



30 DAYS OF PROMISES



Justice. Grace. Mercy.

There are few promises in scripture that are familiar to us. Yet, there are many that we pass by without even noticing.

Over the next thirty days, our prayer is that you experience God's presence in a new way – that you would know that he is with you and he is for you. For each new day, you'll have an opportunity to listen, worship, and respond.

We serve a God who keeps his promises – take a moment to rest in that truth as you begin this journey.

DAY 1

God's Promise of Salvation

by Brian Steele, Small Groups Pastor

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the garden at creation, humanity was created for everything. Our union with God was full, and in his love he gave us a whole world of delight. But in taking and eating the fruit of the tree we traded everything for something.

Now, in our fallen condition we are constantly empty. No matter how much we take, we still only have something – and something will never fill us because we were created for everything.

But Jesus, who had everything with God, gave himself on the tree of the cross. Jesus became nothing. Now, we are restored to everything, not by receiving *something*, but by receiving *someone*. In Jesus we return to the fullness of God's love, purpose, and delight.

Someone became nothing to restore us to everything. This is the gift of communion. When you receive the symbols of bread and juice, you are not receiving something. You are receiving *someone* — Jesus.

And he is everything.

Worship | "Remembrance" by Hillsong Worship

Respond | Take communion today. When you take the elements, picture your closed fist letting go of something that is getting in the way of loving God. Then, picture your open hand receiving everything that God offers you through his son.

DAY 2

God's Promise to Care For You

by Ryan Ervin, Small Groups Pastor

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 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 29:11-13

God disciplines those he loves. In the Bible, discipline isn't an expression of rejection. Rather, it's an expression of love. Fourteen generations before the prophet Jeremiah relayed this promise of God, King David wrote, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." A shepherd himself, David felt the nearness and love of God through his correction, provision, and protection.

This is the context for Jeremiah 29. Israel had rejected God's correction and pursuit, and God's response and discipline was getting more severe in order to reach them. God encourages Israel to accept his discipline because he loves them and has a plan (even though it will be hard).

For me, Jeremiah 29 is permission to accept what is hard and challenging and move forward in acceptance, because God is always with me. Sometimes there's no going around what's before us - only through it.

Worship | "There is No Striving" by Rita Springer

Respond | Name something you've had a hard time accepting. Spend some time praying and talking to God about it today.

DAY 3

God's Promise of a Way Out

by Derek Archer, Network Pastor

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." – 1 Corinthians 10:13

Did you read *Choose Your Own Adventure* books when you were younger? Every temptation offers two doors of adventure. One door opens to the thrill of doing what you want, the other door is responding to God's leading.

Being tempted is not a sin; even Jesus was tempted. Temptation is an opportunity to draw closer to God, and often comes before a great opportunity to be used by God. We can give in to temptation or allow temptation to show us God's provision. Spiritual maturity comes when we exchange immediate and temporal pleasure for the unknown adventure of trusting God daily.

God provides through the truth of his word, his presence in prayer, his encouragement to flee (to get away from temptation), and the assistance of friends. The next time you are tempted, ask, "Father God, how do you want to provide for me in this temptation?"

The greatest adventure is responding to his way out.

Worship | "Forever Reign" by Hillsong Worship

Respond | How have you seen God provide a way out of temptation for you?

DAY 4

God's Promise to Never Leave You

by Julie Burleson, Small Groups Pastor

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." – Hebrews 13:5

I find myself often surprised with how much I have. But no matter how much I have, it never brings me feelings of peace or security. I can fall into the trap of thinking that if I accumulate more – more money or more things, I will feel secure and safe.

But God is where my contentment can actually be found. Knowing that He has promised to be with me always, to never leave or forsake me, provides contentment that more “stuff” could never bring. Anytime I am longing for more, I reach out to him instead, knowing that his promise to always be with me will bring more peace than money could ever buy.

Worship | “Clear the Stage” by Jimmy Needham

Respond | Write this promise on a card and put it somewhere that you will see it often, so that when you are struggling to be content, you will be reminded that you have everything you need because you have God – and he will never leave you or forsake you.

DAY 5

God's Promise to be Faithful

by Wendy Powell, Outreach Pastor

"I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps." – Psalms 85:8-13

Learning to hear God's voice is an invitation we see throughout Scripture. Our God is not distant and he is not silent. Conversation is a basic building block of any relationship, including the one we have with Jesus. Learning to have conversations with God is a foundational way we grow in faith and get to know God better.

This passage describes the posture of a listener: attentive, obedient, respectful of God. And then it describes just some of what our God longs to speak into our lives and hearts: peace, salvation, righteousness, faithfulness, love.

As we listen and obey, God promises to give us what is good! Picture that last sentence—God is walking ahead of us down the right paths that make a way through whatever circumstance, feeling or season we find ourselves in.

Worship | "Let Me Hear" by Great Awakening

Respond | Which of these things—peace, salvation, righteousness, love—are you longing to hear from God? Ask God to speak that over you. Spend at least 5 minutes listening for his still, small voice. Pay attention to the things that cross your mind and write them below.

DAY 6

God's Promise of the Holy Spirit

by Kevin Brearley, Small Groups Pastor

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." - Joel 2:28-29

Jesus promised to send a helper, the Holy Spirit, so that you would be clothed with power from on high. This promise, made long before Jesus' coming, was fulfilled in Acts 2:4 when all of the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The Holy Spirit lives in those who by faith have submitted their lives to his Lordship, repented of their sins and accepted his death and resurrection as proof that he is our salvation.

The beauty of this promise is that it means we receive the full power of God to live and love as Jesus does as we are his witnesses to our world.

Worship | "Holy Spirit Come" by Vertical Worship

Respond | Have you ever felt like you're not good enough, wise enough, or strong enough to live for Jesus? Ephesians 5:18 tells us to "keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit". When you don't feel "enough," ask God to fill you with his Spirit.

DAY 7

God's Promise of Relationship

by Derek Archer, Network Pastor

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
– John 15:4-5

Often our difficulty is not that we stray far from God, it's that we try to accomplish or take credit for work done on our own. We are wired by God to be co-creators of goodness in the world, and our attempts at goodness can often get lost in service that's more about us than others.

We know we have to stay close to God to accomplish his purposes, but can we ask God to change our hearts and motives in the good that we do as well?

"God, will you help me to stay close to you, and can you help me to work with you and be close to you in all I do?"

Worship | "Come to Me" by Jenn Johnson

Respond | What's something you've tried to accomplish or take credit for on your own recently? How can you invite God into that?

DAY 8

God's Promise to Hear You

by Julie Burleson, Small Groups Pastor

For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. - 2 Corinthians 6:2

I can have a hard time with prayer. It can feel like I'm just saying words into a void, and that nothing is happening. But this verse promises that God is listening to me, right now, and that he has already helped me by offering salvation!

The word "now" here is such a special promise. Now is the time he offers favor. Now is the time he offers salvation. God is listening when I am alone; God is listening when I am in need; he is even listening when I'm not in need! Whatever I say to him, God is listening to it.

And He has given me salvation! I sometimes get distracted by whatever need is most immediate, but God has met my ultimate need and has given me salvation. That means that I can hold onto him, and trust that right now he is listening.

Worship | "You Know Me" by Steffany Gretzinger

Respond | What do you want to say to God at this moment?
Pray, and trust that he hears you right now.

DAY 9

God's Promise of Eternal Life

by Ryan Ervin, Small Groups Pastor

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. – Hebrews 9:15

The standards and requirements to have a right relationship with God are heavy and difficult to live up to on our own. So challenging, in fact, that only one person has ever done it. Not me, Moses, King David, Paul or Peter.

Only Jesus.

Jesus' right standing and righteousness has been gifted to you – that's what grace is. There is nothing to be earned; only to be humbly received.

Have you ever wondered why we pray "in Jesus' name?" It's because we're living out grace and walking in the free gift of right-standing with God. It's as if we're saying...

"God, thank you for today. Help me be more like you. Please bless me and those around me.

Signed,
Jesus Christ"

Worship | "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong

Respond | Pray in Jesus' name as you thank God for the right standing and gift of eternal life that he's given you.

DAY 10

God's Promise to Strengthen You

by Wendy Powell, Small Groups Pastor

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” – Isaiah 41:10

When I was a kid, I was afraid of the dark. My mom taught me to repeat this verse to remind myself that I am never alone. I would imagine God standing guard at my door with his awesome flaming sword! Jesus sitting on the end of my bed, my words creating a force field around me that glowed and sparkled!

Sometimes I wish I could recapture that simpler faith of childhood that has no problem believing that what God promises is true. He will strengthen me so I can go to sleep. No matter what, he will help me.

I need those promises as much today as I did back then. When my strength fails, he will hold me up. When the uncertainty starts to get to me, Jesus says, “Fear not...come what may, I am with you.” When I let my mind wander to the what-ifs, he is my God – so I need not be dismayed.

Worship | “You Never Let Go” by Matt Redman

Respond | Which of the promises in this verse gives you the greatest hope today? When fear or dismay come, how could you use your imagination to refocus your heart and mind on God?

DAY 11

God's Promise to Fight For You

by Angel Finsrud, Marriage & Family Pastor

*What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?
- Deuteronomy 4:7*

Everyone loves a good underdog story — except maybe the underdog. It's discouraging to have the odds stacked against you and onlookers who are confident you'll fail. Sure, being the come-from-behind winner is the pinnacle of elation in sports because you proved your doubters wrong; you conquered! But in the middle, when there is no guarantee you're going to win, it's scary. Your confidence shakes and doubts creep in.

The Israelites were constantly the underdogs, except for one thing... their God was near whenever they called. And that very same God is near to his people today. So, whatever has you feeling outmatched right now, whether it's financial stresses, hurting relationships, broken dreams, sickness, whatever it is, call on God. The promise isn't that he will bring you victory in every circumstance — it is that he will fight for you when you call on him. He promises his presence, right in the middle of it all.

Worship | “Here Again” by Elevation Worship

Respond | Make a list of the ways you feel outmatched by life right now, then take some time to pray, asking God to be near to you in those circumstances.

DAY 12

God's Promise of a Purpose

by Melonie Kemp, Executive Pastor

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

– Romans 8:28

The greater context of this verse is Paul talking about the role of suffering in all of creation. However, the role of suffering in the life of believers is different from the rest of humanity; both Paul and Peter spoke of sharing in the sufferings of Christ that they might also share in his glory. This promise was given specifically to believers.

What is the promise of verse 28? That I can trust that God is actively working in every circumstance in my life, good and hard, to accomplish his good purposes. He is not passive. He is the one who causes all things to work together for good, even in a very fallen and broken world. Even when our circumstances do not change, we can take comfort that the pain will not be wasted.

“Lord, help me to trust that nothing in this life is outside of your reach. Despite pain, suffering, sin, and real evil, you are working all circumstances for the good of those who love you, and are called according to your purposes. Even when I don’t understand, help me to pray ‘not my will but yours be done.’ Amen.”

Worship | “Called Me Higher” by All Sons & Daughters

Respond | We often want to blame God for our pain and suffering. Is there a time in your past where you experienced pain or loss and at the time struggled to see God in it? Ask God to show you how he worked even this for good.

DAY 13

God's Promise of Adoption

by Charles Molenkamp, Children's Pastor

"Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." – 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

It was the summer after my freshman year in high school that I found myself on the "other" side.

Freedom for my closest friends meant alcohol and exploring their sexuality. I was invited along, but chose not to go down that road. I didn't shout condemnation or lecture them, I just chose to not join them. They made it clear I was no longer welcome in their midst.

I had given my life to Jesus and knew my identity required something else. The separation was brutal! The next two years were some of the darkest of my life while, simultaneously, I enjoyed some of the most intimate times with God where I learned to call him Dad.

God's promises are not free and definitely not always easy. Often we see, as Paul is pointing out in 2 Corinthians 6, that the promise comes as a result of our obedience.

Worship | "Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong

Respond | Where is God calling you to be obedient? If you are living differently, are you spending time with God & taking advantage of being his child?

DAY 14

God's Promise to Be There For You

by Derek Archer, Network Pastor

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

- Deuteronomy 4:29

The Bible is full of passages that speak to our value and speak to God's pursuit of us. But here we see an invitation to go completely after him. "Search after him with all of your heart and all your soul" is not a part-time attempt. It takes complete focus and dedication. Jesus is the treasure of the field, and our heart's posture should be a willingness to sell everything to buy the field where he can be found.

If you grew up knowing and believing the story of God, you may have missed the opportunity to really seek it – but we can all choose not to take it for granted from now on. Is God worth pursuing? Will an attempt to see more of him be more beneficial than pursuing other things?

"Father God, will you declutter my distracted heart and soul to help me pursue you, and see you the way you intended?"

Worship | "Eyes On You" by Ekklesia Worship

Respond | What is God asking you to release to him that is causing a distraction and preventing you from seeking him with all your heart?

DAY 15

God's Promise of Abundant Life

by Julie Burleson, Small Groups Pastor

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." – John 10:10

This is one of my favorite promises! It's in the middle of a passage where Jesus is explaining that he is our Good Shepherd. I don't know much about sheep, but I do know that shepherds want their flocks to live — to eat good food, get strong, and grow. And like any shepherd, Jesus' desire for us is the same — that we would have amazing lives, even if it means he has to intervene to make that happen.

So, when we encounter pain, hurt, and brokenness we can know that it is not sent to us from God. But, as our Good Shepherd he has intervened on our behalf before, through his death and resurrection. He gave us salvation, and an abundant life — beyond anything we could dream! God is not the source of pain, and he doesn't leave us in our brokenness. Instead, he makes a way through it, in his power. He always brings life!

Worship | "Glorious Day" by Passion

Respond | Pray and talk to God about the hard parts of your life. Ask him to meet you there and help you get through it.

DAY 16

God's Promise of Generosity

by Ryan Ervin, Small Groups Pastor

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." – 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Confession: very rarely do I spontaneously give. For me and our home, generosity is a discipline. There are certainly examples in Scripture where giving is sudden and spontaneous, but I find more examples of it being an intentional, thoughtful, faithful and regular act.

In the parable of the two sons, a father makes a request of his boys. One son says "I will" but he doesn't follow through, while the other son says "I won't" but ends up doing what his father asks. This parable rings in my soul when I'm presented a new opportunity to be generous. Better to underpromise and overdeliver than the other way around.

When Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," his invitation is to move our treasure first in order to move our hearts. The leverage is the treasure, not the heart!

When I have an opportunity to talk with someone about their dissatisfaction with their faith, I quickly ask about their giving. Intentionally move the treasure, and our hearts will follow.

Worship | "Have It All" by Brian Johnson

Respond | Decide what you're going to give, write it below, and do it!
Pay attention to how your heart begins to shift.

DAY 17

God's Promise to be Near

by Charles Molenkamp, Children's Pastor

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:5-7

“The Lord is near” – often we rush by this statement and similar ones in scripture, but stop here for a moment and ponder how foundational this statement of truth is.

It's a promise, too. God is here. He is present. If we know God is here, it gives us the assurance to let our gentleness be known to everyone. God's presence here, in this moment, right now, also drives us to go to him in prayer. He's standing right there. Ask him to help, invite him to enter into the issue at hand. That's part of how God works through us; we have to ask him into it.

Living in the reality of his presence allows us to enjoy his peace – because who is going to mess with me when he is right there?

Worship | “You Already Know” by JJ Heller

Respond | First, is your gentleness obvious to everyone? Second, what will be different today because “the Lord is at hand?”

DAY 18

God's Promise to Grow You

by Kevin Brearley, Small Groups Pastor

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."
– John 15:16-17*

This promise of answered prayer comes with a precondition that we bear fruit. What does it look like to bear fruit as a Christian? Galatians 5:23 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

So, we need to be fruit inspectors of sorts, by taking a look at our lives to see if we are bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This promise also comes with a command that we love one another.

Maybe then, what we ask in the Father's name is not primarily for ourselves but for others.

Worship | "Amazing Grace" by Andrea Bocelli

Respond | Take a look at the fruit of your life in light of Galatians 5. If you are like me at all, you'll probably see that you are doing well in some areas and need a little work in others. Ask God to grow healthy fruit in your life so that you can fulfill his command to love one another.

DAY 19

God's Promise of Life With Him

by Derek Archer, Network Pastor

"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe." – 1 Timothy 4:7-10

Throughout human history there have been myths encouraging self-effort, religious activity, and spiritual restrictions. What's ultimately promoted in these myths is anything but the reality of God's presence.

If God is with us, we do not need to posture or fake parts of our lives in an effort to impress him or others. Instead of trying harder, restricting certain practices to look spiritual, arguing, or seeking after secret spiritual clues, we should ask ourselves if we believe God is truly with us.

If the Holy Spirit came the way that Jesus described, God is with you now. Not because of your effort or understanding, but because of his goodness.

Godliness and training comes through seeing and learning the ways God teaches us to lead our everyday lives — through doing life with him. "Father, will you help teach me to live life with you in the ways you designed and desire?"

Worship | "Light" by Bethel Music

Respond | How have you witnessed God's presence in your life?

DAY 20

God's Promise of His Presence

by Angel Finsrud, Marriage & Family Pastor

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
- Matthew 18:20*

A couple months ago, a co-worker asked me if I wanted to take some cookies home to my kids. I quickly agreed. Moments later, a box of 24 gourmet chocolate-chunk-salted-pretzel-deliciousness arrived in my office. I got so much more than what I thought I was getting. And that's the case in the promise in Matthew 18:20.

Knowing that Jesus is with us is so good. But the promise is actually even better than most of us realize. In this context Jesus is promising that even in conflict, if we come to the table "in his name" (submitting to his leadership and trusting his plan), he will be right there with us. Can you imagine how the conflict with your spouse, children, boss, or employees might be different if you were to gather in Jesus name and remember his promise that he is present, even in those tough moments?

Worship | "God With Us" by All Sons & Daughters

Respond | Think back to your last conflict. Did you show up in Jesus' name? (allowing him to lead, following his ways)? Next time you have to walk into a difficult situation, how can you prepare to gather in Jesus name so that you can experience his promise to be present?

DAY 21

God's Promise to Do the Impossible

by Brian Behrends, Creative Pastor

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." – Mark 10:27

Rather than choosing someone noteworthy to carry the Messiah, God chose an unknown virgin. Rather than giving Abraham and Sarah a baby in their prime, he waited until they were impossibly old to fulfill his promise. Rather than pulling Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the furnace before turning up the heat, he waited until the heat had increased seven times over, making it abundantly clear that this was not a simple work of man. This was a bold move of God.

You see, when it's possible with man, man gets the glory, not God.

When it comes to our salvation, Jesus is pointing to the reality that it's impossible to save ourselves. We'll never be good enough, nice enough, or smart enough to earn God's love. It's impossible, even on our best days.

But it's not impossible with God.

Worship | "Nothing Is Impossible" by Planet Shakers

Respond | How has God fulfilled this promise in your life?

DAY 22

God's Promise of Reconciliation

by Brian Steele, Small Groups Pastor

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. - 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the world-changing Emancipation Proclamation declaring that “all persons held as slaves...are, and henceforth shall be free.” But it took a long time for the fullness of that new freedom to unfold. In fact, it's still unfulfilled in many ways. There was an old world that overlapped and interfered with the new world.

2 Corinthians 5:17 is an even grander declaration. All of humanity is now officially set free from the oppression of the old way that ruled the old creation. The resurrection of Jesus was the beginning of new creation — a new way of living that is driven by the goodness, mercy, and love of Jesus.

Yet, this doesn't happen immediately. The “new creation” slowly unfolds in your life as you learn to live in the freedom Jesus offers. Yes, old creation remnants often challenge the newly created life in Christ, but new creation is here and available right now.

Worship | “Graves Into Gardens” by Elevation Worship

Respond | Where have you experienced Jesus' set you free from your old life?

DAY 23

God's Promise to Answer Your Prayers

by Ron Walton, Adult Community Pastor

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." - Mark 11:24

Prayer, in and of itself, is such a beautiful gift given to us — a way for us to open our hearts to God. Yet, our prayers are often motivated by our own interests and desires. We love hearing that we can have anything, but even Jesus prayed with his father's interests in mind.

When we pray, we should express our desires, but seek God's will above ours. When we are praying rightly, without selfish motives and of clean hearts trusting that God hears us, we will see prayers answered. The answer might not always be quite what we expect, but it will be answered.

The more we draw near to God in prayer, coming just as we are, the more we will understand God's will and have confidence in our prayers. Not because of our own efforts, but because of God's grace alive in us.

Worship | “Build Your Kingdom Here” by Rend Collective

Respond | Reflect on a prayer that God has answered for you in the past.

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DAY 24

God's Promise to Provide For You

by Brian Steele, Small Groups Pastor

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” – Matthew 6:31-33

One time when I was playing indoor soccer I looked up from the field and couldn't see my toddler son, Kai. I immediately jumped out of the game. He wasn't in the stands or sidelines. He wasn't at the other field. I enlisted a few others and went on an urgent search. After 10 terrible minutes of frantic seeking, I finally found him in the bathroom. In that moment, nothing else mattered—finding Kai was first.

When Jesus tells us to seek God's kingdom first, he really means it. “First” doesn't mean before other things in a long list. First means as your highest priority, your greatest urgency, your most focused effort. Nothing is more important than God's kingdom coming through God's rule of love, mercy, and grace in your life. When you seek first God's kingdom, everything else is naturally found.

Worship | “Sparrows and Lillies” by Pat Barrett

Respond | How have you experienced God's provision in your life?

DAY 25

God's Promise to Love You

by Derek Archer, Network Pastor

"This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." – Hebrews 8:10-12

The writer of Hebrews is quoting God speaking to Jeremiah the prophet telling what will happen when Jesus comes. God makes a new agreement with all people based on his presence, where love is central.

God specifically does this through Jesus, who is the High Priest of the New Covenant (an agreement between God and his people), a title he holds forever because he is eternal. Jesus is constantly praying for us and on our behalf. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us and reminds us how to live.

Know that you have access to the Father, you are being prayed for by the Son, and you can be directed by the Holy Spirit.

"Holy Spirit, will you fill me and lead me to live in ways that honor you and your new covenant of love? Amen."

Worship | "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham

Respond | Do you struggle wondering what to do or how to live? Pray for guidance and direction today.

DAY 26

God's Promise to Teach You

by Brian Steele, Small Groups Pastor

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." - John 14:26

Growing up in church, there were a lot of memory verses but at the time I didn't understand how important it was to "hide God's word in my heart." Now I recognize the work of our Helper when, seemingly out of nowhere, a Scripture or worship song will come to mind, pointing me in a new direction or reminding me of a truth I need in that moment. How kind of the Holy Spirit to send reminders at just the right time... if we're quiet and attentive enough to receive them.

The Holy Spirit plays many roles in our lives — Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Guide, Guarantor, Intercessor. This promise in John 14:26 centers on his role as Teacher. The Spirit who lives in us helps us apply all that we know (but may have forgotten) to our daily lives. Check out John 16:12-15 for another promise about the Holy Spirit teaching us the things we don't know yet!

Worship | "Spirit of the Living God" by Vertical Worship

Respond | How have you witnessed the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?

God's Promise of Deliverance

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

This psalm, written from God's perspective, is a beautiful reminder of his heart toward his children. God's reminders are sure, strong and true, assuring us that in all that we walk through in this life, his call is always to rise above. He reminds us we are not alone, that he loves us, and that he will protect us. He doesn't promise that everything will be easy, but he does say he will be with us, and help us through the hard times.

Worship | “Came To My Rescue” by Hillsong UNITED

How has God rescued you in time of trouble?

[illegible]

DAY 28

God's Promise to Establish You

by Melonie Kemp, Executive Pastor

The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. – Deuteronomy 28:9

This promise was given to Israel at the time when they were preparing to pass through the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Moses was about to hand over the leadership of Israel to Joshua and was making sure that this new generation, who would go in to take possession of the Promised Land, knew what the Lord expected of them.

This verse establishes a direct relationship between obedience and holiness. Obedience is much more than good behavior, it's a condition of the heart. And much like Moses' exhortation to the generation that had not experienced the Exodus from Egypt and wandering through the desert for 40 years, each new generation of believers must choose for themselves obedience that leads to holiness. They must experience their own hardships, their own exodus and choose for themselves to obey God.

Worship | "Rest" by Bethel

Respond | We all struggle to obey God at times. Ask him to show you where you are double minded. Where are you trying to obey him *and* have your own way? "Lord, your will be done, not mine. Amen."

DAY 29

God's Promise to Protect You

by Kevin Brearley, Small Groups Pastor

"No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."
– Joshua 1:5-6

Joshua was about to set out on one of the greatest military campaigns in human history with an army of soldiers that had not been trained for war, to fight battle-tested kings and nations who had the advantage of fighting in their homelands. In all, Joshua and his army would defeat 31 kings to inherit the lands God had promised. Joshua faced a great challenge armed with God's promise to be with him, to not leave him or forsake him. God asked Joshua to be strong and courageous to meet the challenges ahead of him.

We all face big challenges in life. Maybe not warfare like Joshua, but challenges beyond our ability or resources. We can find the strength and courage needed to face our challenges because God is with us, Jesus has already saved us, and the Holy Spirit lives in us.

For God did not give us the spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).

Worship | "Because He Lives" by Passion City Church

Respond | When in your life have you needed strength and courage? What has God called you to do that seemed beyond your ability or resources? Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and give you strength and courage.

DAY 30

God's Promise to Give You Peace

by Melonie Kemp, Executive Pastor

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
– John 14:27

Have you ever had something left to you in a will or had someone pass down a family heirloom? In this verse, Jesus literally names part of what he is giving us – passing on to us as his followers. "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."

This peace that Jesus gives offers is a hope and reassurance that the world cannot offer. This peace is not dependent on personal or earthly circumstances. Much like an ironclad will, this peace is irrevocable and permanent. But we have to receive it.

"Thank you Jesus for the divine inheritance of Your peace. Thank you that whatever I am going through, no matter how difficult it may be at times, I can have peace because You are in me and I am in You. Amen."

Worship | "Peace" by We The Kingdom

Respond | What earthly systems, people, or practices are you looking to for peace? Ask Jesus for his peace for today.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make
his face shine on you and be gracious to you the
Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

– **Numbers 6:24-26**

