

14 Days of  
*Prayer + Fasting*

# Bible Plan + Devotional



MACKAY CHRISTIAN  
FAMILY CHURCH

# Welcome

To our Reading Plan & Devotional. This plan is to accompany you along our 14 days of prayer & fasting and can be completed again whenever you like!

Our prayer is that during this time of consecrated communion before the Lord, you will find fresh revelation in His Word and deepened intimacy in prayer. We believe that the Lord will usher in new understanding about Himself as you read through each day's devotional and your response as you see a new facet of Jesus would be like the angels; "Holy!"

Each day comprises of a selection of bible verses to read through, a devotional piece expanded from Scripture/s, and a prayer to finish off.

We encourage you to find a rhythm that works best for you to go through this devotional, whether it be morning, noon or night - and keep consistent at it where you can.

There is space at the end of this booklet to jot down any thoughts or notes as you read along.

Don't forget, this is just one element to your time of prayer & fasting. Continue to carve out as much time as you can throughout your day to seek God in prayer, Word and worship. We believe this will instil a new foundation for your life of intimacy with Jesus, and further increase your hunger for Him.

We have a prayer resource and worship playlists to help fuel your times spent with the Lord each day on our website ([mcf.org.au/fast](http://mcf.org.au/fast)).

We bless you as you dive into this devotional and Bible plan!

## *Reading Plan*

James 4:5-8, Hebrews 13:1-6, Psalm 91:1-2

## *Devotional*

### **CLOSENESS WITH GOD**

James 4:8

We read in Hebrews 13:5 that God will never leave or forsake us. The Passion Translation puts it "I will never leave you, never! And I will not loosen my grip on your life! We can take great comfort in the fact that He will never leave us and that we are safe with Him. Whatever we go through in life we can be assured that we are not alone, our God, El Roi "God who sees"; El Shaddai "God Almighty", promises to be with us. Having established this, then what is our part to having the closeness, intimacy with God we all desire? James 4 gives us the part of the answer and today we'll focus on the first part of verse 8, "Come near to God and He will come near to you". In this time of prayer and fasting, we are prioritising our time and focusing on Him in prayer, worship, reading His Word and spending time in His Presence and I'm sure we're all feeling closer to Him more now than before. Doing life from this position is our most effective and fruitful because we are hearing first what's on His heart and responding to that and Psalm 91 tells us from this position we will also find rest (bonus!).

### **PRAYER:**

Father, thank You that You will never leave me. As I go through every situation, I take comfort in knowing You are here. Help me to keep this passion and desire for You burning as I open my heart to you and draw near to You each day. Thank You that as I live under the shelter of You, the Most High, I will find rest, refuge, protection and safety. Thank you that Your desire as is mine, is for intimacy.

Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Matthew 6, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

## *Devotional*

### **FIX YOUR EYES ABOVE**

Matthew 6:31-32

When you read this chapter of Matthew, one message rings clear: Get your eyes off this earth and its fleeting delights. Fix your eyes on eternity. Don't pray that this life might be easier. Stop chasing after all this world has to offer.

The message sounds simple, but we know it's not.

We spend most of our time in hurried pursuit of everything the non-believers desire. We want better houses, nicer cars, exotic holidays, richer schools and more prestigious jobs. Dining at expensive restaurants, count us in, and don't forget to post all about it on Instagram. These things are how we measure success. Sometimes they're how we measure 'the blessing.' But all of them will fade. All of them are meaningless.

Is it possible that the richest among us don't live in nice houses? Is it true that significance is found only through suffering and self-denial?

I don't know about you, but I hunger for real treasure, treasure that satiates my soul. I want the Holy Spirit to help me forego this world's delights, that His will be done, His kingdom come.

Fasting is a good start. It's a denial of the now in favour of the future. God sees it. Trust that He rewards it.

### **PRAYER:**

Holy Spirit, thank you that you're working in me to make me more like Christ, to desire what He desires, to pursue what He pursues. As I sit with You, You are changing me, whether I feel it or not. By faith, I receive Your rewards, refuge, protection and safety. Thank You that Your desire as is mine, is for intimacy.

Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Proverbs 21:1-10 [PHBT], Ecclesiastes 3:6 [BSB]

## *Devotional*

### **THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE**

Proverbs 25:2, Ecclesiastes 3:6

Jesus often spoke intentionally in cryptic ways as He was always working to challenge people's hearts & perceptions, knowing that many would not handle the truth of an issue He was speaking into, while eagerly looking to see who might seek for the hidden treasure revealing Holy Spirit at work (**Prov 25:2**).

As most of us have unrealized hopes, promises, dreams wrapped up in scriptures & prophetic words, the call to fast & pray is our opportunity to lay those things hidden in our hearts before the Lord.

In God - timing is everything. As NT believers we are led by His Spirit & His Word. What seems as delay or closed doors could be divine protection to keep us from something we weren't ready for, while giving us time for growth or even a redirection. Maybe we totally missed the opportunity that we're trying to hold onto but that season has gone.

By specifically seeking His face to behold Him, He wants you to know what your faith filled response should be for this unfolding season. So it's in the waiting he draws us to Himself that we would have the confidence, in the knowing what to let go of or leave behind or reach for & go after with renewed passion (**Ecc 3:6**).

God is looking for those who are seeking Him so that He can show Himself strong on their behalf. Seeking God is a personal endeavour that we will all be individually held responsible for.

Intentionally take time throughout today to wait in His Presence & behold Him.

## *Reading Plan*

Mark 11, James 5

## *Devotional*

### **FAITH OR FEAR**

Mark 11:24, James 5:15

One of the reoccurring themes for us as believers will always be our options to choose faith or fear. We see it all the way back to the Bible how humans are confronted with circumstances that seem overwhelming. Sometimes you can't even see them with the eyes because these things play out in our minds. Whether it be physical or mental challenges, God is so clear in His word – He wants us to simply pray in faith and come against sickness and diseases – and lead people to the forgiveness of their sins.

When I look at my children, I see them through the lens of love. This is just a tiny glimpse for me to understand how much our Father in heaven loves the world and His children.

Let us come boldly before the throne of grace believing that we have received the answers to our prayer requests.

### **PRAYER:**

This year we are walking in the fulfillment of His promises! This year, as we humbly lay down our lives, we are believing that our Loving Father in heaving will grant us the desires of our hearts!

This year, we are choosing to speak out the prayers of faith!

Father, this year, as I write down my prayer requests and goals, I am believing they will turn into beautiful testimonies of faith and grace. Teach me humble confidence in all things, in Jesus name I pray, amen!

## *Reading Plan*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Luke 6:32-36, Colossians 3:12, 14, 1 John 4:7-11

## *Devotional*

### **GO INTO ALL THE WORLD**

Jesus lived in a time of political and social unrest, persecution of God's people and a world with a mix of the spiritually hungry, those with a cultural religion only and many who had no faith at all. Sound familiar? Yet engaging with 'the system' was not high on His priority list.

We are repeatedly told that Jesus was 'moved with compassion' and went to people to love, heal, deliver, and bring hope. Love and compassion for broken, hurting and hungry people is not something we can manufacture ourselves. If we try we tend to end up bitter or burnt out. But true love and concern develops as we know more of Father's love for us. It is a revelation of how our Father feels when He sees people lost, lonely or hopeless and is key to seeing lives changed in our world.

As we hunger for His presence, His guidance, His input into our lives, let's also seek to be filled with His love for those around us. Ask God to allow us to see people as He does, to be moved with His heart for them. So that we can be genuine in caring for and reaching out to those in our paths every day.

Seek God for His heart for people to equip us for our everyday mission, to "go into all the world..."

### **PRAYER:**

Father, as You reveal yourself to us more everyday, would You teach our hearts to love like You do? Grow in us a love for those around us, to see them with as much love and compassion as You do.

When we are surrounded by so much physical and spiritual need, give us wisdom to focus the investment of our time, physical and financial resources in the way You lead.

Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

1 Peter 2:6-9, Psalm 37

## *Devotional*

### **TRUSTING GOD**

1 Peter 2:6[AMP]

We always have questions for God, and there are answers to them, and this does help, but we don't always get these answers, in our timing or at all.

I had a teacher who always said, "Love is not an act of the heart, it is an act of the will," Love is a choice. God reminded me of that teacher's quote, however while reading a book about trusting God. Love was changed to; 'Trust is not an act of the heart; it is an act of the will.

We choose to trust God and do it continuously. In doing this, we refuse to partner with disappointment coming into you our lives, "any time disappointment is allowed in we take our eyes off God and stumble".

We need to continuously choose to trust in God's character, and live by faith, not by sight. We can't feel trust, it's an action. Choose to trust God, in who and how He is.

### **PRAYER:**

(Psalm 37:1-7)

Father, thank you for being a God of Your Word and of love for me. I delight in You today and Your Presence. I surrender all my dreams, promises & desires to you. Forgive me for where I have been disappointed or impatient in Your timing. Today I chose to surrender these to You and I choose to put all my trust in You.

As I am still in Your Presence, show me Your will for me, guide me in my thoughts. I have confidence that You will act on my behalf and provide me with all the things that I need. You will fulfill Your Word and promises as I continue to walk with you.

Amen



## *Reading Plan*

Exodus 14, Exodus 16:1-11, Deuteronomy 8

## *Devotional*

### **BEAUTY IN THE WILDERNESS**

Deut 8:2-3, 16-18 [NLT]

Have you ever journeyed through a wilderness season? A season of challenges, lack of purpose, feeling empty in your walk with God, waiting on a promise, the 'in-between'. What could have been a 10-day journey for the Israelites turned out to be 40 years in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. God rescued them out of slavery to the desert where He provided daily manna from heaven, led them by a cloud by day, and fire by night, yet they complained, "it's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness".

How often can we during a wilderness season be like the Israelites? We have salvation in God, He rescued us, and we are on the way to the Promised Land, yet we look back at our old life and think, "maybe I should go back". "I'm not seeing the Promised Land yet; I'm not seeing the answer to prayer", "I'm empty and have no purpose here". If we allow it to, a wilderness season can be a beautiful season. Where we continually seek God and realise, He is always close and provides daily bread, His Word, to sustain and strengthen us.

We can start to understand He can take us through a wilderness season for our own good, where we learn to rely on only Him and trust where He is leading us. He becomes our strength, our provider and our first love again. How beautiful.

### **PRAYER:**

Father, thank you that in a wilderness season You are my strength, my provider and You are always close even when I don't 'feel' it. Help me to remember Your Word is my daily bread. I trust Your guidance in my life and where You are leading me as I surrender to You. Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Matthew 25, Psalm 23

## *Devotional*

### **OIL OVERFLOWING**

Matthew 25:4, Psalm 23:5

Matthew 25 is a sobering and yet essential chapter for us to remember that we need oil for our lamps. Not just a little oil or just enough, but an abundance. To be ever ready, not just for Jesus' return, but to be a beautiful, fervent, zealous and burning bride. And who knows that oil is one of the best substances to re-kindling a flame and keep a fire burning. The Lord is looking for a bride who doesn't just stagnantly wait for Him, but actively waits upon Him. Looking, seeking, hungering and cultivating intimacy with Him. The kind of intimacy that begets deep wells of revelation of who the Lord is, creates space to encounter Him and thus oil to draw from no matter the season.

'You anoint my head with Oil, my cup overflows.' We know that this verse from Psalms now under the new covenant, represents the oil we receive through the Holy Spirit as He comes and fills us. I believe this isn't just a once off impartation. It says my cup overflows, indicating that when the Lord pours out upon us, when we have encounters with Him, that the evidence is us being 'filled to overflowing'. Not just with the bare minimum top up, but with an abundance.

Bill Johnson shares in His book *The Resting Place*, that being filled with the Spirit is not simply measured by what we contain, but by what flows from us. Let it be, that as we create space by carving time for Him that we would be drenched in the oil of heaven, ready, stirred, zealous to partner and release His Kingdom in the here and now.

### **PRAYER:**

Holy Spirit, we wait upon You and ask for fresh oil to fill our cup to overflow in these latter days. We prepare our hearts to receive the revelation that would ignite a deep, lasting zeal for You and Your House. Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

2 Kings 4:1-7, Philippians 4:8-20, Psalm 63

## *Devotional*

### **FILL ME, LORD**

2 Kings 4:1-7

I'm amazed at the miracles that Elijah and Elisha saw as they placed their faith in God. One miracle that stood out to me recently was when the widow cried out to Elisha in 2 Kings 4. She was in great need – she had a significant amount of debt and the creditor was about to take her sons into slavery. Elisha told her to gather empty vessels and pour into them the small amount of oil she had in her home (likely a jar of anointing oil). As she poured the oil out, the vessels were filled. One vessel. Two vessels. Three vessels. Four. Five. And many, many more. Every vessel she and her sons managed to collect was filled to the brim. The oil never fell short. It was in such great supply that she was able to sell some oil to pay off her debt and then live on the rest with her sons.

There are many lessons we can take from this Scripture, but one thing's for certain - God can take a little and turn it into a lot. The widow had a small amount of oil, but in her obedience and faith, she saw God's miraculous provision that turned a little into a lot. Just like the oil that was poured into those empty vessels, the Holy Spirit is willing to pour Himself into you today.

Do you need a fresh infilling of His Presence? Ask Him to fill you again today. God delights in being our Provider – the Bible speaks of this time and time again. His Spirit isn't in short supply, and just like the empty vessels, He will fill what we bring to Him.

### **PRAYER:**

God, I thank you that you supply all I need according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Would you fill me again today? I depend on Your Spirit to go about my daily life. I thank You for Your miraculous provision in my circumstances. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Psalm 11, Psalm 119:97-112

## *Devotional*

### **THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 11:3, Psalm 119:105 [NIV]

Our response to a book is usually reflected by who wrote it and in the case of the Bible we know that God was the author through the Holy Spirit as men were inspired to write down God's intent.

The foundation for our Christianity is of course the Lord, but in our every day living and interaction the scripture must be our strength otherwise as Ps 11:3 says "what can the righteous do".

The Bible is our basis of faith, our confidence in God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and our future hope by the many prophetic word contained in it. We must read, read and read again the Word as the threads contained from Genesis to Revelation begin to become a strong cord of strength within us for our life to be lived in obedience and God's honour. The power of the Bible can never be overstated. It is inspired, it is truth, it is hope and it is the gift God gave us to live our life in His blessing and direction. Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan by quoting scripture, how are we going to overcome if we don't know the word and the authority it gives us. By imbibing of the scripture we renew our mind and allow the Holy Spirit to cause that word to become alive in us and release the faith and inspiration He imparts. Jesus said in the last days many would be deceived saying "I am the Christ". People will be fooled because they do not know the Word of God and the truth.

### **PRAYER:**

Father, draw me to Your Word today by Your Spirit, that I might not have my foundations destroyed by the enemy but live in truth and the authority You have given me to overcome the ways of the enemy. I thank you for the Bible and the awesome power conveyed to us by that divine instrument. Thank You for Your love and I declare that I love You. Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Exodus 3:1-10, Exodus 24:9-15, Exodus 33:12-22, Exodus 34:29-35,  
2 Corinthians 3:12-18

## *Devotional*

### **GLORY TO GLORY**

Exodus 24:18, Exodus 33:15

I love the progression of Moses' journey with the glory of the Lord. It fills me with awe and wonder at the vastness of God, and excites me at what is available for us as believers.

Moses' first encounter with God's Presence was the burning bush - visible, tangible and audible. If I had an encounter like this, I would think 'Wow! God speaking to me clearly through a fire coming from a bush, that is as good as it gets!'. This was only the beginning for Moses.

It says in 24:17 that "the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain" - this is significantly bigger than just a bush! Moses then spends 40 days in God's presence.

Moses went from seeing and hearing God's Presence to being completely surrounded by it for over a month! He even had an encounter that led to his face shining from the glory!

Moses had a lifestyle of surrender, obedience and closeness to God and this was unto greater encounters. Millions of Israelites were beneficiaries from these encounters as they were led into the Promised Land and established as a nation.

This is not just for Moses! There are endless realms to the glory of God and as we continue to hunger for more of His Presence and respond in obedience - the Lord entrusts us with more of His glory.

### **PRAYER:**

Lord - we desire more of Your glory. Holy Spirit, help me to walk in obedience to you. I ask for a greater level of encounter than I have ever experienced before. May the cry of my heart be just like Moses' "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here". Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Genesis 1, Ephesians 2

## *Devotional*

### **CREATED TO BE CREATIVE**

Ephesians 2:10, Genesis 1:1, 27

You were created to be creative! It's true for everyone, the same God who created the heavens and the earth, who paints a new picture every morning and every night, lives in you. You were made in the Creator's image; it's not a matter of IF you are creative, it is HOW are you creative?

I never cease to be amazed at His magnificent paintings in the sky every day, which reminds me how we serve and were created by the Creator Himself, yet so many believe they are not creative in any way. Too often, we think of being creative as an artistic gift, but it is so much more; it's about finding ways to reflect God's beauty, wisdom, and truth in everything we do. The Webster dictionary describes creative as: Marked by the ability of power to create (to bring into existence.) Each of us are marked by God to bring creative ideas and solutions into our world, not through our own strength but through His.

Ephesians 2:10 says: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. What if 2025 is the year you embrace your God-given creativity? How will you use it to bring good works to life and further God's kingdom this year?

### **PRAYER:**

Lord, I thank You for creating me in Your image and letting me know that because You live in me, Your creativity flows through me. Help me to step into the fullness of my identity in You and understand not if, but how You have made me creative. Help me to use that creativity to draw near to You and serve Your kingdom. In Jesus name. Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Genesis 12:1-9, Genesis 15:1-6, Isaiah 43:1-6

## *Devotional*

### **LIVING THE DREAM**

Isaiah 43:2

Over our time together of fixing our focus on the One Above - what has He been revealing about your life, purpose, and future as we step into 2025?

Scripture reveals He doesn't keep us from the hard things or the painful things but reinforces the fact that He is always there by our side, for this is the how He builds trust & faithfulness in us. We all experience fears—about the future, relationships, work, finances, health. When we don't know how to fight them, fear can linger. Yet Isaiah 43:2 assures us of God's presence in every trial.

Abraham's life reveals how God fulfills His purposes despite obstacles. He received great promises and blessings, yet often stumbled in fear and doubt. Still, God remained with him. Abraham fought against the odds, interceded for his wayward nephew, and, after waiting 30 years for his promised son, was asked to surrender him. What a moment! But through life's highs and lows, faith was forged in his heart, enabling him to trust God completely.

We don't know what lies ahead but one thing is clear, God is calling for the church to rise as a beacon of truth & life amidst growing cultural and spiritual challenges. There's no escaping the Lord is shaking the nations to get their attention, and the church must awaken to her purpose.

### **PRAYER:**

Lord, let me rise in '25 to Holy Spirit's clarion call for all Christians to deepen our faith, seek the Spirit's leading and boldly shine as lights in the darkness. Amen.

## *Reading Plan*

Psalm 10:12-18, Psalm 34, Song of Solomon 4:7-11 [NLT], James 4:7-8

## *Devotional*

### **KEEP DRAWING NEAR**

James 4:8

James 4:8 is such a beautiful invitation from God that comes with a powerful promise! As we come to the end of this time of Prayer & Fasting, I encourage you to keeping DRAWING NEAR to God like never before.

Here are two keys that will help us to “Draw Near” –

1. Remember our God is more passionate about drawing near to ME, than I am to Him, but He longs for me to initiate those special times. God longs for His People and is waiting for us with bated breath. Song of Solomon 4:9-10 demonstrates this so powerfully. Oh, how He longs for us to Draw Near to Him.
2. In James 4:7 we're commanded to HUMBLE ourselves before the Lord and to resist the devil. As we know the devil is filled with pride and he wants us to fall into his trap, but as we make time with God and humble our hearts through prayer and fasting, then it becomes a JOY to surrender our desires to God and to be obedient to His Voice.

There are many promises about the blessings that comes from humbling our hearts before Him. He hears our desires and prepares our hearts (Ps 10:17). As we look to Him, He makes our faces RADIANT! (Ps 34:5)

### **PRAYER:**

Lord, as we come to an end of this special time of prayer & fasting I thank You for sacred time with You. May we continue to take every opportunity to “Draw Near” to YOU, to meet with you and treasure time in your Presence every day. Amen.











*One thing* HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD,  
THAT WILL I seek after; THAT I MAY *dwell*  
IN THE *house of the Lord* ALL THE DAYS OF  
MY LIFE, TO *behold the beauty of the Lord,*  
AND TO ENQUIRE IN *His temple.*

PSALM 27:4

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