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#### Prayer is for the whole family

Visit thevictory.church/21days to find prayer points and activities for the entire family. Download the Family Moments PDF to follow 21 Days of Prayer + Fasting with your kids.

#### Welcome to Breakthrough: 21 Days of Prayer + Fasting

#### In uncertain or unclear times. The Word of God is clear about this:

God promises His guidance, protection, healing, and peace when we focus our minds on Him. Pastor Wes and the leadership of Victory Church invite you to join them in 21 days of prayer and fasting as we seek God. Our purpose is to seek the Lord — individually and corporately - with all of our hearts, believing Him to provide a breakthrough for us individually, in our homes, and in our church.

Join us from August 10 - 30.

Over the next 21 days we are believing God to speak into your life and our church body in powerful and life-changing ways.

#### 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' - Jeremiah 33:3

We recommend setting aside a specific time and place each day for prayer, using this daily prayer guide email as a starting point for your time alone in prayer. We also recommend keeping a personal journal for reflection during these days of prayer and fasting. Write down anything you think God may be saying to you, confess any sins, record your petitions, and of course, the answers you receive.

#### We're praying specifically for God to move in four areas:



UNITY within the body of Christ in Victory Church



CLARITY & DIRECTION for current and future ministries



SUPPORT within the body of Christ in God's vision



A HEALING work in the hearts and minds Victory Church for of individuals and the collective body





## Jesus is God

Jesus, "the One and Only," is worthy of our worship and exaltation today.

Jesus is the Creator of the universe. And if He can hold all of *the universe* together, He can hold your personal "world" together as well. Jesus is over all things, and in Him is everything that we need for life and godliness. He is the object of our worship and the source of our life.

#### Today's Scripture

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." —John 1:1

"Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God." —Isaiah 44:6

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." —Deut 6:4

#### Additional Scripture

Ephesians 4:6 Psalms 86:10 Colossians 2:9 John 10:30

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Let's magnify Jesus today as part of our prayer, exalting Him for His acts of creation, His allsurpassing power, and His unrivaled beauty and greatness.

2. Pray together for the creative work of God that reveals Jesus in our cities (New Castle, Richmond, Muncie, Knightstown, and surrounding cities within a 30-mile radius), neighborhoods, schools, places of business, halls of government and marketplaces.

3. Boldly ask Jesus to be present among the body of Victory Church in glory and power, that we would find everything we need in Him. He alone can author newness, bring hope and healing, and hold all things together.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Create a family prayer! Take turns writing down words of worship, thanksgiving, confession and requests that are special and unique to your family. Invite kids to add words or draw prayer pictures. This could become a prayer you frame and hang in your home to pray together regularly. Join hands and have each family member pray a part of the prayer aloud that is special to them.



#### DAY TWO

## Jesus is Lord

Ask, seek, and knock today as you approach the Lord for the desires of your heart.

Salvation begins with our confession of His lordship and rejection of our sinful nature when we surrender to the rightful claim of Jesus on our lives as Creator and Redeemer. New life begins with joyful willingness to trust that Jesus knows and wants what is ultimately best for us. To obey Jesus is a sign of His lordship in our lives; it is an expression of our love for Him and our desire to fully place our trust in Him.

#### Today's Scripture

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." —Philippians 2:9-11

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" —Luke 6:46

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." —1 Corinthians 8:6

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Let's pray today in a posture of humility, a willing submission to Jesus as the Lord of our lives and the head of Victory Church. Offer prayers of worship that express His worthiness to be trusted with the whole of our lives — past, present and future.

2. Ask that the distinctiveness of who Jesus is would be revealed in His church, and that we would be the evidence of what it looks like when Jesus is truly leading and empowering His people by His Spirit.

3. Jesus said if He would be "lifted up," He would draw all people to Himself (John 12:32). As we lift up Jesus today, let's pray for the power of the Holy Ghost to draw people to the beauty, truth, and life that is found only in Him.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Gather as a family and share your prayer requests. Take turns answering the question, "What would you like to tell Jesus today?" Maybe these are requests for things you want, healing for people you know or His guidance for difficult situations. Talk to your kids about all the different types of prayer requests people might have. Commit to keeping those things in prayer as you continue asking, seeking and knocking. You may even want to start a family prayer journal!

#### DAY THREE

## Jesus is the Creator

Allow God to speak through you today, and remember you bear His image to the world.

We are God's creation, the *Imago Dei*, reflecting and bearing witness to our Creator, though we are broken vessels. We bear witness to the very ordinary and yet utterly miraculous part of creation. May your life shine brightly, illuminating God's presence all your days.

#### Today's Scripture

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" —Hebrews 1:1-2

#### Additional Scripture

Psalm 119:73 Psalm 139:13 Jeremiah 1:5 Job 31:15 Ephesians 2:10

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. "Jesus, help me see Your image in every person I encounter. Awaken my spirit to this all around me. Allow me to see and love as You see and love."

2. "Jesus, teach us to be united in doctrine and lifestyle, learning to practice love in our church so we can transform our community."

3. "Jesus, help us to reflect Your image to our community, collectively and individually being marked by the way we love, serve, sow, and give with radical generosity."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

You are made in the image of God! As followers of Jesus, one of the most important things we learn is who we are in Him. The Bible tells us we are chosen, forgiven, loved, and a new creation. Hand each family member a piece of paper and some markers. Sit quietly and individually ask Jesus to reveal to you who He says you are. Write or color your responses on the paper and take time to share your words or pictures as a family.



#### DAY FOUR

## Jesus is Our Savior

When we accept and live as disciples for Christ, our lives should bear fruit.

Do you remember your life before you knew Jesus? Can you recall the unfolding of revelation that He is Savior, Healer, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and Soon-Coming King? Do you recall the love that washed over you, the passion that compelled you and the revelation that guided you then? Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

#### Today's Scripture

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." —John 1:29

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." —Romans 5:6-8

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." —John 20:31

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray on your own: "Jesus, use my story to reach somebody in my life personally and tangibly. I want to expand the gospel every day of my life."

2. Pray as a church: "Jesus, guide Victory Church to tell our story — a story that leads others to You."

3. Pray with your family: "Jesus, help and teach us to become witnesses to our community, neighbors, friends, and family, revealing Your love and sacrifice for all."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Read Galatians 5:22-23. When our lives display the fruit of the Spirit, others see the love and truth of Jesus. Write down each of the nine fruits of the Spirit on pieces of paper and place them in a jar. As a family, take turns pulling out a piece of paper and sharing examples of what that characteristic practically looks like at work, school or home. End with a prayer of blessing for each family member: "May God continue to transform you. May His Spirit empower you to boldly display the fruit of the Spirit to the world."



#### DAY FIVE

## **Made Alive in Jesus**

It is by God's grace and that we live and breathe and have our being; thank Him for His protection and provision.

Alive in Christ! The foundation of this truth is found in the other phrases today's text emphasizes. Phrases like, "His great love," "who is rich in mercy" and "expressed in His kindness" transform our lives. And how amazing is it to realize these are gifts we receive by grace?

#### Today's Scripture

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." —Ephesians 2:4-9

#### Additional Scripture

Colossians 2:13-14 2 Corinthians 5:17

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray that you would help your community, neighbors, friends, and family experience God's mercy.

2. Pray that God would use you so your neighbors and our city can experience His goodness and plan for them.

3. Pray for the body of Christ at Victory Church to be an expression of God's love and light in the darkness.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave made the way for people to be a part of God's family. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. When we choose to follow Jesus, our old selves are gone, and He transforms our hearts. It's Jesus living in us that makes us a new creation! Celebrate that truth by taking turns sharing how you see Jesus on display in each family member.





## **Forgiven by Jesus**

It is by God's grace and that we live and breathe and have our being; thank Him for His protection and provision.

To realize the gift we have in Christ brings great gratitude. To hear our sins are forgiven, our debt of sin is canceled, and we stand with no condemnation, brings great joy. As brothers and sisters, it's also a gift to be invited into a conversation of ongoing purification through confession, which causes ongoing daily transformation in our lives.

#### Today's Scripture

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." —Romans 8:1-2

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." —1 John 1:9

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Pray a BIG prayer — for our world to experience true repentance and God's radical forgiveness.

2. Pray for Victory Church's impact on our community as we live out and share the gospel.

3. Confess anything keeping you from Jesus today, and accept His forgiveness.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Look up the word "freedom" together in the dictionary or online and talk about what freedom means. Now read Romans 8:1-2 and discuss what the Bible says about the freedom that Jesus gives us. How has God shown you forgiveness? How can you show forgiveness to others? End by speaking the following blessing over one another: "May you know God's forgiveness this week. May you forgive others as He has forgiven you."



#### DAY SEVEN

## **Unity in Jesus**

How can we unite in divided or uncertain times? Only through the love and bond of Christ.

In an era where culture is inundated with divisive ideas that polarize and separate us, Jesus calls us to love one another, defining that love as how the world would know we are His followers. We must focus on what we have in common and model what it looks like when we respect differences — speaking the Truth in love rather than letting them divide us.

#### Today's Scripture

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." —Psalm 133:1-3

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." — Ephesians 4:3

#### Additional Scripture

John 17:20-23

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray that our love would be an effective witness to the watching world.

2. Pray for creative ways to tangibly show the love of Christ to our neighbors and communities in partnership with other churches in our cities.

3. Pray for wisdom to lead toward greater unity within our churches.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Sometimes loving others can be hard! The good news is that Jesus doesn't expect us to be able to love others on our own. Followers of Jesus are filled with the Holy Spirit, and He gives us the power to love. The Holy Spirit brings us together and unifies us as one community. Read John 17:20-23. When you hear the word "one," encourage family members to shout, "Go unity!" Take time to share what stood out to you in the verses. How can you show God's love to others this week?





#### DAY EIGHT

## Jesus is the Healer

Healing was central to Jesus' ministry; let's make it central to our ministry, too.

Healing of the body, soul, and spirit is one of the greatest needs for gospel expression today. As we focus on Jesus as the Healer, may we be the hands and feet of His body to administer wholeness, believing He is as present through us and in us today as He was when He walked the earth.

#### Today's Scripture

"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." —Matthew 8:16-17

"And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils. And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him\*, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed." —Mark 1:39-42

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;" —Psalm 103:2-3

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. We read in the Bible that entire villages believed on Jesus because of miraculous healing. Let's pray for the same to happen in New Castle and the surrounding communities.

2. Pray for the mental-health crisis that is taking place all around us. Pray especially for children, youth/students, and young adults to experience soundness of mind in a time when they are under constant assault and attack.

3. Pray that Victory Church would become a place of refuge, healing and hope for all.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Lights, camera, action! Read Mark 1:39-42, and take a few minutes to gather props and costumes. Select a family member to re-read the passage slowly as narrator, and encourage the rest of the family members to act out the passage. What stood out to you in the story? What did you learn about Jesus? Take time to respond and then pray for people you know who need physical or spiritual healing.



#### DAY NINE

## Jesus is a Miracle Worker

God is at work all around us, and miracles are everywhere, if we just open our eyes.

Jesus' earthly ministry was marked by the miraculous: blind eyes opened, dead people raised to life, storms stilled by a word. Today, we are invited to live in expectation of signs and wonders, modeling our lives after our miracle-working Messiah. We must be confident that nothing is too hard for our God.

#### Today's Scripture

"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus." —Acts 4:29-30

"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" —Matthew 8:26-27

"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:" —Jeremiah 32:17

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray for those facing tumultuous storms in their lives and needing a miraculous breakthrough, whether physically, spiritually, emotionally, financially, or relationally.

2. Pray for local and global communities disrupted by war, famine, and lack to receive miraculous provisions of clean water, food, medical supplies, and aid that cannot be stopped by bureaucracy, corruption or physical barriers.

3. Pray for a bold faith to rise up in the hearts of the believers at Victory Church, that we would become a people who prayerfully contend for the miraculous in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

What are miracles? When we see God at work in little ways or big ways, we're witnessing miracles! Take turns sharing little miracles (God sightings) you encountered this week. Next, celebrate the "big" miracles you've witnessed in your life. Maybe the healing of a disease, provision to pay a debt that seemed insurmountable, or someone coming to know the Lord personally. Grab a pen and paper and write a letter to God. Ask Him for a specific big miracle or thank Him for the little miracles we see every day.





## Jesus is Our Deliverer

Praise the Lord — He breaks the chains that bind us to sin and the world.

Since the beginning, God has been breaking the chains of unhealthy patterns, unjust practices, and unholy powers that have kept His people from experiencing abundant kingdom life. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offer deliverance from that which keeps us bound to sin and destruction, opening the door to life everlasting.

#### Today's Scripture

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." —1 John 4:2-4

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." —Colossians 2:15

#### Additional Scripture

Ephesians 2:1-7

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray for those who need deliverance from sin that is keeping them from experiencing the fullness of God's love and the power of the Holy Ghost.

2. Pray for people to be delivered, specifically, from addictions, unhealthy mindsets, and relationships that may be detrimental to their development as Christians and followers of Jesus.

3. Pray that God would replace those sins, addictions, attitudes, and actions with healthy and pleasing alternatives — trading destructive addictions for holy habits.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

In advance, prepare a small paper chain. Gather with your family and ask, "What comes to mind when you hear the word 'deliver'?" To deliver someone means to save or to set free. Read Ephesians 2:1-7. Jesus is our Deliverer. Jesus wants to break our chains to sin and bring us into a life of freedom. Take a moment to quietly talk with God. Remember that Jesus is the Deliverer, not only of sins, but also of all kinds of pains, sorrows, fears and worries. Gather back together and invite every family member to break off a chain link as a reminder that Jesus is our Deliverer.



#### DAY ELEVEN

## The Infilling of the Holy Ghost

Today we pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Ghost in us, our church, and our community.

The believers were all assembled and waiting, when "suddenly …" (Acts 2:1-2). The baptism of the Holy Ghost is not just something we can witness; it is also a manifestation of God that we live and experience. It is a gift for every believer. Regardless of your age, gender, background, or perceived social status... God wants you to live full of his Spirit.

#### Today's Scripture

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." —Acts 2:38

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." —John 1:32-33

#### Additional Scripture

Acts 2 (read the whole thing!)

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Let's pray: "Jesus, fill me with the Holy Ghost today. By Your Spirit, help me to understand You better and allow Your love to be made manifest in me so I can show others Your goodness."

2. Ask Jesus for a release of spiritual gifts in your life — for healing and prophecy to light up our neighborhoods with His power and goodness.

3. Let's pray: "Jesus, by the power of the Holy Ghost would You build up Victory Church and strengthen us to be a powerful beacon of the gospel, Your mission, and our purpose in You."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Make a campfire in the house! Gather some candles and light them in a safe place or build a fire in the fireplace. For some added fun and coziness, add some comfy pillows and blankets. Turn off the lights and read Acts 2 around the fire. Let conversation about the Holy Ghost flow freely around the "campfire." What was your favorite part of the story? What did you learn about the Holy Ghost from what you read?



#### DAY TWELVE

## **Abiding in Jesus**

How can we ensure that our lives will bear fruit?

If we remain in Jesus, He is able to produce good fruit in our lives good works, blessings, and godly relationships. His divine vine of goodness and salvation unites us as a people to become one in Him and in our mission.

#### Today's Scripture

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." —John 15:1-4

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." — Ephesians 2:19-22

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Let's pray: "Jesus, lead me to someone who is hungry for you — someone who is desperately seeking a refuge and place of redemption. Open their eyes to Your goodness. Open my mouth and fill it with Your Word."

2. "Jesus, help Victory Church carry Your goodness, to collectively be a "city on a hill" that shines brightly in New Castle and the surrounding area."

3. "Jesus, help Victory Church continue to be built with the spirit of unity, so that You can live and operate within us by Your Spirit."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Take a field trip! It could be to the front yard, backyard, local park (wherever there are trees/ bushes). Gather around a tree or bush and point out the branches. Invite your kids to discover what the branches are connected to. Share: "If I pulled off this branch, could it still produce the flower or fruit? No! That's how we are connected to God." Read John 15:1-8. We are the branch connected to Jesus. What does it mean to bear fruit? How do we "remain in" Jesus?



#### DAY THIRTEEN

## Jesus is the Soon-Coming King

As we look forward to His coming, let's prepare for Jesus' return with love and celebration.

Jesus is coming back again. He is returning in victory as Lord and King. How do we prepare for this? By loving others, treating them with hospitality, and using the gifts God has entrusted to us. In return, Jesus — our King — will strengthen our hearts for that great day.

#### Today's Scripture

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

-Revelation 19:11-16

#### Additional Scripture

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 1 Peter 4:7-11

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. In expectation of Jesus' coming, may we love people and treat them so well that it shines the bright light of God's love to them.

2. May our community experience the hope of the coming King that we as followers of Jesus carry and radiate.

3. Let's pray: "Lord, help us as Your people to be prayerful and to really and genuinely love others as You've commanded as a way to prepare for Your coming."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

For dinner tonight, prepare a royal feast (aka some family favorites). Have kids create homemade table decorations, use your finest dishes and wear your best clothing for the feast. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 and talk about what you love about each person at the table. Ask your family what comes to mind when they hear Jesus is our Soon-Coming King. Celebrate the truth that Jesus promises to return. How do we prepare for this? We are called to love each other, including our neighbors and people in our community.



#### DAY FOURTEEN

## Jesus is Our Hope

We put our hope in our Soon-Coming King and His promise of forever.

Imagine a new Heaven and a new earth, a holy city where Jesus is our King and every tear is wiped away. This promised inheritance is ours as believers. Our hope is not in a city, of course, rather it's in Jesus, our Soon-Coming King.

#### Today's Scripture

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saving, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." — Revelation 21:1-5

#### Additional Scripture

1 Peter 1:3-5 Romans 15:4 Hebrews 10:23-24 Psalm 42:5-6

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

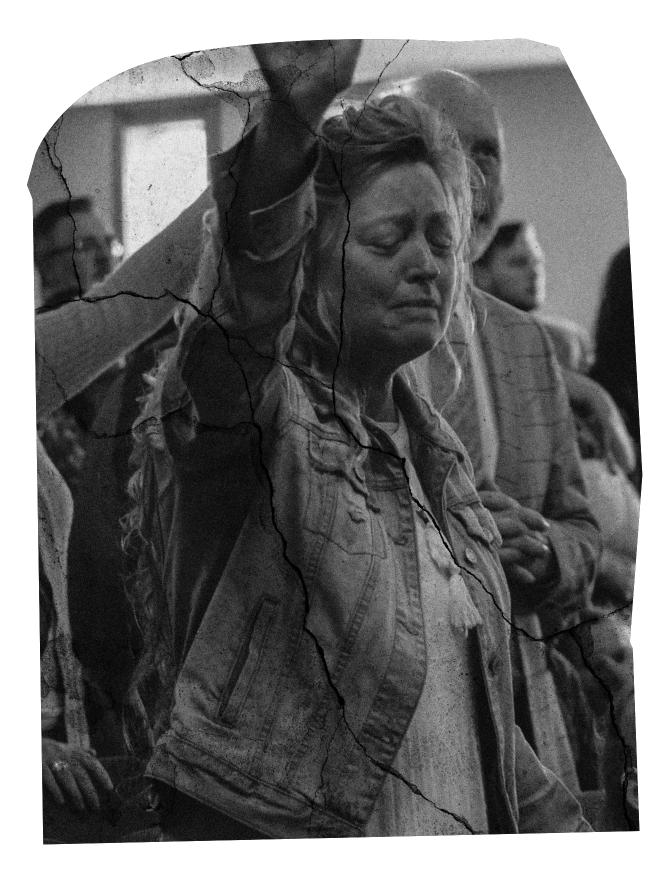
1. Amid so much sorrow, brokenness, and the fallen state of this world, may those around us encounter hope now and in the future through Jesus living inside of us (and His promise for them).

2. Pray for New Castle and surrounding areas to experience a revival of hope through Jesus Christ as we lift our eyes toward a future day when Jesus returns and makes all things new.

3. Let's pray: "Lord, help those who do not have this hope encounter You, the God of hope, through Your Word, Your love expressed by Your followers, the Holy Ghost, and any way You choose to reveal Yourself. Let there be hope!"

#### **Optional Family Moment**

The word "hope" means waiting and expecting for something good to happen. What are some things you hope for? It's easy to view hope more like a wish list. I wish I had more money; I wish I had a new toy; the list goes on. As we respond to the truth that Jesus is both our present and future hope, let's take some time to build a family "hope list" that focuses on the promises of God. What do you hope for (have confidence in) when you think about the promises of God? Invite family members to write or draw responses on paper.



#### DAY FIFTEEN

## Jesus is Our Refuge

Jesus' sacrifice reminds us that we can have joy despite our trials.

Of all the benefits that are ours in Christ, among the most precious He offers is sanctuary in the midst of our suffering. He ministers to us, strengthens us even as our faith is tested, and reminds us that we are not alone when He is at work. Jesus, who suffered on the cross, opens our eyes to joy amid suffering and, with it, a renewed capacity to endure.

#### Today's Scripture

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified... Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." -1 Peter 4:12-19

## Additional Scripture

Psalm 62:1-2

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Pray for family and friends who are far from God and suffering, that they will experience the caring love, protection, and comfort that only Jesus gives without measure.

2. Pray with great faith, asking Jesus to minister health, healing, peace, and His presence to the wounds that cause suffering in our community. That He would create hungry hearts that we can speak life to.

3. Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, that wherever there is suffering, despair and struggle, that Jesus will give understanding, faith, hope and bring deliverance.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

What comes to mind when you think of suffering? Talk about how God helps us when we are suffering or how you have personally experienced God's presence in suffering. Think of someone you know who is suffering and pray for them as a family. Discuss how you could share the love of Jesus with them—maybe writing a card or preparing a meal to remind them God is with them. To conclude, speak Psalm 62:1-2 as a prayer over your family.



#### DAY SIXTEEN

## Jesus is Our Peace

Let's remember and pursue the peace "which surpasses all understanding."

Pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a prayer while imprisoned in a concentration camp during World War II and facing a death sentence: "I am lonely, but You do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help; I am restless, but with You there is peace." Even when it seems like there is no hope and you may be tempted to feel He doesn't care, Jesus is our Peace.

#### Today's Scripture

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." —Hebrews 13:20-21

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." —John 16:33

#### Additional Scripture

Philippians 4:6-7

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Pray for those who feel far from Jesus, that He would fill them with His peace that transcends all understanding, and that you would have an opportunity to explain what He has done for them.

2. Pray and declare peace over New Castle and the surrounding area, that it, and you, would prosper (Jeremiah 29:7).

3. Pray against the spirit of division at Victory Church and within the body of Christ, and that the confession will arise that "He Himself is our peace," uniting us and tearing down any wall that divides (Eph. 2:14, NKJV).

#### **Optional Family Moment**

What do you think of when you hear the word "peace"? Can you think of a time you've experienced God's peace? The Bible says God's peace doesn't make sense to most people. It can be with us even when sad or bad things are happening. It fills up our hearts, reminding us of God's presence and love. It is something only God can give. Let's think about different times throughout the day when we feel God with us and thank Him for being with us during those times—even when we don't feel Him. End by speaking Philippians 4:6-7 as a blessing over each family member.



#### DAY SEVENTEEN

### The Priority of Knowing & Loving Jesus

What should we do before anything else?

The world is so noisy. It constantly calls out to us with urgent invitations to put our trust in anything and everything but Jesus. "This expert can help you!" "Look, this problem is too big." Yet, Jesus remains our hope. Let us continue fix our attention on Him first and foremost.

#### Today's Scripture

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"

-Ephesians 1:17-18

#### Additional Scripture

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Psalm 9:10 Matthew 6:33-34 Revelation 2:4-5

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Consider the ways you are distracted, and return your attention to Jesus.

2. Consider situations in our community that seem hopeless, and ask Jesus to intervene.

3. Consider the ways that we — individually and as a church — trust in things other than Jesus, and ask for the Lord's forgiveness.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Build a family obstacle course! Take turns making your way through the course before regrouping as a family. Similar to the obstacle course, life will bring challenges and hurdles that can distract us from living for Jesus. Can you think of ways we might be distracted? There's good news! God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Read Matthew 6:33-34. What does it look like for us to seek God first?



#### DAY EIGHTEEN

## Praise the Name of Jesus

Spend special time today in worship and praise.

No matter our current employment status or life circumstance, as children of God we are blessed spiritually! This remarkable truth sets us free to worship, give thanks, and to praise the name of Jesus during every season. Jesus is worthy to be praised wherever you're at today.

#### **Today's Scripture**

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. " —Psalm 100

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:" — Psalm 92:1

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" —Ephesians 1:3

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Consider the lost, and thank the Lord for how He is pursuing them with His love (and reflect on how He pursued you).

2. Consider your neighborhood, and give thanks for ways you see God's goodness in it.

3. Consider Victory Church, and thank God for specific ways Jesus is being exalted in our church and in our community.

#### **Optional Family Moment**

What are different ways we can worship and praise Jesus? Read Psalm 100. Today we get to create a psalm of praise! Select a family member to record the psalm. Start with a greeting to God. Next lines: "God we praise You because You are..." "God, we are thanking You for..." "God You are bigger than..." "God, You are more wonderful than..." Close by telling God what you love about Him. You wrote a psalm! Read the psalm aloud. Feeling extra creative? Turn it into a song!



## Praying in Jesus' Name

When we pray, we must have the faith to ask for what we need in Jesus' name.

The name of Jesus grounds us in what is ultimate and true. His name secures us against the ever-shifting temporary world around us — including our own incomplete perspective. Praying in His name is not a superstition, like knocking on wood or avoiding cracks in the sidewalk, but an expression of trust in His character. Trust that we receive when we pray. Believe when we pray that His response, even when it is not what we expect, is trustworthy.

#### Today's Scripture

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." —John 14:12-13

"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." —John 16:24 (NIV)

#### Additional Scripture

John 15:15-16

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Let's pray: "Jesus, we pray Your name over our family and friends. May Your plan and purpose and loving intent for them become evident and palpable."

2. "Jesus, we pray Your name over our community and neighborhoods. We will serve our neighbors, listen, and connect with them until they feel Your love for them. Empower our efforts, in Jesus' name."

3. "Jesus, we pray Your name would be the grounding anchor among Your people and throughout Victory Church."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Write the name "Jesus" on the center of a paper plate (or cut a large circle out of a piece of paper). Draw lines outward and write or draw prayer requests you have. Read John 16:24 and then take turns praying for each of the requests.



#### DAY TWENTY

## The Light of Jesus to a Dark World

Because God blesses us with His vision, we can share His light in our community.

It's not so much that we "see the light" as much as we see everything *in the* light. His light is what allows us to see in a spiritual sense. Today, we ask God to open our spiritual eyes and illuminate the path forward, as well as asking that we would be light — by His Spirit inside of us — to the world around us.

#### Today's Scripture

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

#### —1 Peter 2:11-12

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." —Matthew 5:14-16

#### Prayer + Reflection

1. Let's pray: "Lord, open my eyes. Shine the light of your Word into the darkness of my own heart. And then, ignite Your light in me so I can be a light to the darkened world around me."

2. "Jesus, align our spiritual vision. Focus the 'light' at Victory Church to shine brightly into the darkness in New Castle and the surrounding area. Use us to provide direction to those in darkness."

3. "Lord, illuminate Your Word to me. My understanding is dimmed by my own opinions. Help me to view the Word not as I want to see it, but as You intended me to see it."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Turn off all the lights. Using a flashlight or candle, add light into the dark room. What happens to the darkness? Light always wins! Read Matthew 5:14-16 with the flashlight or candle illuminated. What stands out to you in these verses? We are called to shine the light of Jesus to a dark world. Share examples of when you've shared the light of Jesus. What did that look like?



#### DAY TWENTY-ONE

## **Obeying the Commission of Jesus**

To the ends of the earth and to the end of the age — we're meant to take the gospel everywhere.

Jesus' final words to His disciples hold out the promise for continued grace for uncertain days ahead, power when we're feeling weak, and life beyond what we know in this world. They are a reminder for us, individually as believers and collectively as a church, but also a reminder that it's not just about us. This is an explosive command — "Go!" There's an urgency. "What are you waiting for? Tell as many as you can!"

#### Today's Scripture

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway\*, even unto the end of the world. Amen."—Matthew 28:16-20

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." —Acts 1:8

#### **Prayer + Reflection**

1. Let's pray: "Lord, may my words and actions carry Your message well. Let my life be shaped and formed by the Holy Ghost, active on the inside of me, and make it visible to the world around me."

2. "Lord, I hear Your call to me. I am a missionary to this area. Use me as your messenger to reach New Castle and the surrounding areas with the Apostolic message so they may be joined to the Kingdom."

3. "Lord, empower us to care for our friends who don't know You. May You renew our motivation and facility for growing disciples all around us."

#### **Optional Family Moment**

Read Matthew 28:16-20. Jesus is the Good News! Someone shared that Good News with us, and now we get to share it with others! Telling your story is a powerful way of sharing the gospel. Practice as a family sharing about how you first heard the Good News and how He changed your life. Or, share what He's taught you during these 21 Days of Prayer + Fasting. After practicing as a family, invite extended family members or friends over for a meal and share your story around the table.



# Thank you for praying with us!

Thank you for joining us for 21 Days of Prayer + Fasting! Whether you prayed through each day personally, with your family, or participated in corporate prayer, you've helped propel the work of God at Victory Church forward at a critical time.

We hope it has been a blessing to you and your home (and that you'll continue in prayer)! If you've received specific answers to prayer or a word from God you would like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Visit thevictory.church and send us your testimony or message. God bless you!

