



SEEK

2024 DEVOTIONAL

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(In no particular order)

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* All scriptures referenced are the NIV translation unless otherwise noted.

Scan below for this year's Family Devotional



Introduction

SEEK 2024 is here! Our annual SEEK series is a time for us to prioritize our relationship with God while we declutter our hearts from the busyness of the past season. SEEK is a way for our community to recalibrate their hearts and fix their eyes on things unseen (See 2 Corinthians 4:18).

There seems to be a sense of urgency this year that I do not recall feeling in previous years. Everything that can be shaken is now being shaken and as for those of us who follow Jesus, our commitment remains the same. We are to stand firm in our faith and shine His light into the darkness; no matter how much the nations rage against God. We can rest assured that light has indeed broken into the darkness and the darkness will not prevail.

We've created this guide as a way for you to navigate your 21-days of prayer and fasting. These devotionals were written with you in mind as a way to help guide your daily time with God.

On the next page, you will find some practical ways for you to engage in SEEK.

Introduction

Here are four ways you can engage with our SEEK series this year:

1. **Choose a Fast**: Fasting is an invitation from the Lord for us to engage with Him in a heightened way. There is no right or wrong way to fast and there are many different kinds of fasts to choose from. Here are several ways you can participate:
 - a. 1-day fast each week for the entire day
 - b. 3-day liquid fast
 - c. 10-day Daniel fast or liquid fast
 - d. 21-day Daniel fast, liquid fast, or 1 meal per day
2. **Remove a Comfort**: We encourage you to set aside some of the comforts that consume your time and spend extra time seeking God's face. Here are a few comforts that you can abstain from:
 - a. Social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok)
 - b. Entertainment (movies, TV, YouTube)
 - c. Buying material items (instead, donate and give to the poor)
3. **Attend a SEEK Night of Worship**: This year, we'll have three nights of prayer and worship as a part of our SEEK series. Wednesdays, Jan. 10th, 17th, and 24th. Each night of prayer and worship will begin at 6:30pm at Radiant Church.
4. **Read the Bible**: During these 21 days, carve out significant time to spend reading the Bible. Here are a few reading challenges:
 - a. Start 1-Year YouVersion Full Bible Reading Plan
 - b. Read the entire New Testament in 21 days
 - c. Read the entire Bible in 21 days

We pray that this year's SEEK series will be life-changing and that you will begin to cultivate the habits your soul is in need of the most. We can't wait to see how God will draw near to you as we corporately begin SEEK 2024!

Pastor Marco Salazar

Psalm 27:8

“My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Psalm 27 has always been one of my favorite psalms. In verse 8, David acknowledges that his heart desires to see the face of God. The language here is important. David **doesn't** say that his heart wants to seek the **hand** of God. The hand of God represents the things God does or even how He provides for His people. David is rather obsessed with knowing God intimately. Talking to a person face to face speaks of friendship and intimacy. We should also note that there's a difference between desiring to be with someone for what they can give you and desiring to be with someone for who they are. David wants more than what God can give him. He wants God Himself. Let that be said for each of us as well!

Reflection Questions

1. Why is it important to prioritize friendship with God over what we can get from God?
2. If we only seek God for what He can do for us, what does that say about our own heart?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray today's verse, seek God's face. Before asking Him for anything, sit in His presence and simply enjoy Him. Give space for Him to speak His promises over you.

Contributed by Pastor Marco Salazar

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

7 *“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.*

8 *Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.”*

Did you know that God has called you to reject living as the world does? It is not easy to live a holy life because the world, the flesh, and the enemy seek to lead you astray. However, the life of holiness that God has called you to will bring about the true love, joy, and peace that your heart longs for. Let the Spirit lead you so you are not controlled by your desire for worldly pleasures. In doing so, your heart will be filled with the joy of knowing that you are carrying out the call of your Father in heaven.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you allowing in any sin or impurity that you know is not fulfilling the Lord's call to lead a holy life?
2. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to help you in any areas that you are struggling with?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray today's verses, thank God for calling you to a life of holiness and praise Him for the Holy Spirit who helps you live in holiness.

Jeremiah 29:13

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

When Jesus rose from the grave, the first person He appeared to was Mary Magdalene. This, of course, was not by accident. Mary was one of the few followers that stayed present during Jesus' death on the cross when others fled and hid. She was also the first to arrive at the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Mary's devotion to Jesus demonstrates what it looks like for us to seek God with all of our heart. May we too seek the Lord whole-heartedly as Mary did.

Reflection Questions

1. Am I pursuing God with all of my heart in my current state?
2. Do I really believe God will reveal Himself to me if I seek Him?

Prayer Prompt

As you begin to pray, ask God to prepare and strengthen your heart for the day so that you will not grow weary or tired in the pursuit of Him.

Psalm 63:1-4

1 "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. **2** I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. **3** Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. **4** I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name, I will lift up my hands."

Imagine a thirst so profound that every part of your being craves a drink. In a world full of distractions and superficial fulfillment, our souls cry out for the living water that only God can provide. Intimacy with God isn't confined to a physical space; it's a heart posture, a surrendered openness to encounter His Presence. Just as the psalmist encountered God's power and glory in the sanctuary, so too can we find Him in the simple moments of our lives. This intimate relationship draws out praise from the depths of our souls; a continuous melody of worship echoing throughout our lives.

Reflection Questions

1. What practices or habits nurture your intimacy with God?
2. In what ways do you recognize God's presence in your everyday life?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God to ignite within you a thirst that only the presence of God can quench.

Contributed by Carter Goss

Psalm 145:18

“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”

David, the author of Psalm 145, knew the character of God so well because of the intimate time he spent with the Lord. Even in his darkest hours, David chose to look towards the Lord because he had a deep relationship with Him. God is gracious, compassionate, trustworthy, faithful, and righteous. The Lord's righteousness is of holiness, but also of grace. When you seek Him in prayer, He promises He will be near; He will lift you up and bear your burdens.

Reflection Questions

1. How can focusing on the character of God help you grow in intimacy with Him?
2. What are some of the unique characteristics God gave you? Psalm 105 was written as an acrostic poem. If you have children, write acrostic poems as a family, using the letters of your names as the beginning of each line.

Prayer Prompt

Read the entirety of Psalm 145. Notice and highlight the descriptive attributes throughout this poem and meditate on the character of God in your quiet time with Him today.

Contributed by Pastor Sarah Schafer

Colossians 1:9-10

9 *“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, **10** so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,”*

Paul's prayer for the Colossians is my favorite prayer in all of Scripture. It shows his pastoral love for this community of believers and his desire to see them grow ever increasingly in their godly behavior, knowledge of His will for their lives, and the ability to live it out. His desire is to see them grow in holiness! This is my desire for you today; that you'd grow deeper in your relationship with God, know His will for you, and that the Spirit's wisdom would help you to do this!

Reflection Questions

1. What is your favorite prayer or Psalm in the Bible?
2. Who would you pray this for? Make a list of those names.

Prayer Prompt

Today, pray Paul's entire prayer in Colossians 1:9-14 over the list of people you wrote down. Commit to praying your favorite prayer or Psalm over that list for the rest of SEEK.

Contributed by Pastor Marcus Morgan

Psalm 4:4

“Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.”

Sometimes at the end of the day, we can be tempted to recount all the ways people have hurt us while we plot our revenge. David in Psalm 4 is tempted to do the same thing in the presence of those who mock his trust in God. Instead, David urges the godly to not sin in their anger. Rather, they should search their own hearts in silence and meditate on all the ways God has shown Himself trustworthy. When we take time to ponder all the ways God has been faithful, despite opposition, we can rest in His provision rather than seek revenge and sin in our hearts. We discover that prayer is not only the place to ask for God's forgiveness, but prayer is also the place where we can prevent future sin from happening.

Reflection Questions

1. How have past hurts consumed your heart this last year?
2. What shift do you think would take place in your heart if you were to meditate on God's faithfulness instead of all the ways people have hurt you?

Prayer Prompt

Today, bring all of your hurts to God in prayer. Instead of simply venting to God or seeking revenge, meditate on the faithfulness of God while He quietly restores your heart.

Contributed by Pastor Marco Salazar

Luke 2:36-37

36 *“There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.”*

Not much is written about Anna. However, what is said about her is profound. She, after losing her husband several decades ago, committed herself completely to fasting, praying, and worshiping in the temple; even though she was possibly over 100 years old. Through this dedication, she ended up having a face to face encounter with Jesus Himself (verse 38)! When we lead a lifestyle dedicated to fasting, prayer, and worship, we encounter Jesus like we never have before. It will draw us closer to the heart of God and He is able to reveal things to us out of our humble obedience.

Reflection Questions

1. How has being in the presence of God transformed your life?
2. What lifestyle changes could you make that would help you set a regular rhythm of fasting, prayer, & worship?

Prayer Prompt

Take the time to dig deep in your fasting, prayer, & worship today. Humbly ask God what things you can strip away from your life that are distracting from a lifestyle that is wholly committed to Him.

Contributed by Victoria Ross

Colossians 3:12-14

12“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Paul tells us here that we are to clothe ourselves in Christ-like attributes. In doing this, we join with the Holy Spirit in a lifelong process called sanctification or becoming more like Jesus. Every believer is on this journey, which means we are all in process and in need of a lot of grace as we work out our salvation together. That's why the second half of this passage is so important! In order to maintain unity within the Body of Christ, we must extend to others the same forgiveness Jesus extends to us. Why? Because we are all bound to mess up along the way. Without Christ's love and forgiveness working through us, the church would be without peace and unity, and void of its power.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think forgiving someone can sometimes be difficult?
2. How do you think the Christ-like attributes Paul lists in these verses can help you extend forgiveness?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray, ask the Lord if there is a brother or sister in Christ that you need to forgive and for the strength to do it.

Contributed by Pastor Marcus Morgan

James 4:6-8

6 *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”* **7** *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* **8** *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

C.S. Lewis writes, “True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less”. The verse above begins with a reminder that God provides an abundance of grace. It's a gift freely given, undeserved, and unearned. Yet, there's a condition—God's grace flows abundantly to the humble. When we exalt ourselves, asserting our independence from God, we inadvertently place ourselves in prideful opposition to Him. Humility, however, opens the floodgates of God's grace in our lives. It's the recognition of our need for God, acknowledging His sovereignty and wisdom above our own. It's not about self-deprecation, but a posture of surrender and reliance on the Almighty.

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you struggle the most to surrender to God, and how does pride play a role in this resistance?
2. What intentional changes will you make this week to think of yourself less?

Prayer Prompt

Surrender your pride to God and ask Him to help you walk in humility.

Contributed by Carter Goss

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God— this is your true and proper worship.”

I sometimes find it difficult to be honest with Jesus about the state of my heart. However, I remember that He already knows, and He's gently calling me to respond in gratitude for His compassion and mercy by turning away from the sin of the flesh and living renewed by the power of His Spirit. Jesus died on the cross as the final physical sacrifice and He wants to renew and cleanse us from the inside out. This “living sacrifice” happens when we surrender and lay our whole selves down, allowing Him to do the transforming work. When we respond to Christ's sacrifice and love for us by making the daily choice to live according to His word, we are giving Him our “true and proper worship.”

Reflection Questions

1. In this current season of your life, how are you living in response to God's compassion and mercy?
2. The Greek word for worship in this verse also translates to “service.” In what ways are you living out the plans and purposes God has for your life through the way you serve Him?

Prayer Prompt

In your quiet time, be honest with Jesus about the state of your heart. Ask Him to reveal any areas of your life that you haven't surrendered to Him.

Contributed by Pastor Sarah Schafer

Romans 8:18

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. "

Suffering is tough; especially when you don't have any hope that the suffering will get better. A cancer diagnosis. A failed marriage. The death of a child or spouse. You name it. Suffering hurts. We deal with realities that are a byproduct of living in a broken world. We live in the tension between Christ's first coming and longing for His second coming. However, Romans 8 tells us that all suffering here on earth pales in comparison to what is waiting for us. As Christians, we have the hope that every sickness, disease, and all sadness will be wiped away when Jesus comes back. Oh, what a day! As we keep that in mind, we can be encouraged as we eagerly wait, with all of creation, for our King to return.

Reflection Questions

1. How does the promise of future glory impact your perspective on present suffering?
2. How can examples of Jesus' suffering give you strength and comfort in your own suffering?

Prayer Prompt

Read through Romans 8:18-25. Ask the Lord to help you see your suffering and trials through the lens of a future coming glory.

Contributed by Victoria Ross

Psalm 73:28 (NASB)

“But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me; I have made the Lord God my refuge, so that I may tell of all Your works.”

When life gets difficult, it is quite easy to slip into a negative cycle of thinking; viewing ourselves as victims and our life as a series of bad events. We all face trials and seasons in our lives that challenge our futures and we can lose sight of the good in our lives. The psalmist understood that through his struggles, he found comfort in nearness to God. He was able to shift his perspective from self to God. The Lord's presence is something that cannot be taken from you. When we pursue closeness with God and accept that He alone is our provider, like the psalmist, we too can testify to all of His works.

Reflection Questions

1. How does nearness to God enable you to navigate through trials and change a negative cycle of thinking?
2. How can you begin to tell others about God's protection through your trials?

Prayer Prompt

Pray through the verse for today. Ask God to keep you from the cycle of negativity, give you a heart of gratitude, and open opportunities for you to share all that He has done for you with others.

Contributed by Troy Naeyaert

John 14:27

“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.”

The English definition of the word “peace” is, “the absence of disturbance.” However, the Greek word for “peace” that is used here is “eirēnē,” which translates to “unity and blessing.” You see, this peace Jesus speaks of is the promise of the Holy Spirit. This kind of peace is an indwelling of harmony and accord, and the source is God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We know that in this world we will have trouble, but when we have a relationship with the One who created us, we can count on the filling of His perfect peace.

Reflection Questions

1. What is the difference between Jesus' peace and the world's peace?
2. Discontentment is often a source of disorder. Are you living with comparison and envy, or are you resting in the rhythm of God's peace and the blessings He has for you?

Prayer Prompt

Today, thank God for all of the blessings He has uniquely chosen for you. Spend time giving Him gratitude and praise before lifting up your daily needs.

Contributed by Pastor Sarah Schafer

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

The greatest blessing that comes from seeking God is not what He can give to you, but rather it is found in God Himself. The experience of joy and pleasure, to which this Psalm testifies, comes from Him and the blessing of His presence. We need to be more like Mary whom Jesus said had chosen the one thing that matters most; being satisfied with His presence. As we seek to live in that reality, the graces which He provides through His presence becomes the icing on the cake!

Reflection Questions

1. Are you seeking God or are you seeking something from God?
2. What are some of the blessings that you have experienced from living satisfied in the presence of God in your life?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray, ask God to make you incredibly aware of the joy of His presence so you don't desire anything else except Him!

Psalm 145:18

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

I'm often asked by students "How can I get close to God?". Every time, I show them Psalm 145:18 and share with them that God draws near to us when we draw near to Him. This isn't just true for students; it's for everyone! Intimacy with God begins with acknowledging His closeness. He promises to draw near to those who seek Him earnestly. Recognize His presence today by inviting Him into your moments, conversations, and decisions.

Reflection Questions

1. What specific practices or habits in your daily life help you actively draw nearer to God?
2. How can you invite God more intentionally into various aspects of your life—conversations, decisions, and ordinary moments?

Prayer Prompt

Call on the Lord and thank Him for what He's done in your life. Call on Him; He desires to hear your prayers.

Luke 5:16

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus frequently retreated in solitude to spend time in prayer. In the above verse, Luke tells us that this is something Jesus did “often”. Luke doesn't tell us that Jesus withdrew to lonely places once in a while, or whenever He felt like it. Luke doesn't say that Jesus only did so when times were tough or when things were going really great for His ministry. Instead, Luke says that it was a habit for Jesus to spend time alone and pray. Jesus needed to be alone with the Father and away from all of the noise of the world. If Jesus needed to spend time alone with the Father, how much more do we need to follow His example?

Reflection Questions

1. Do you find it hard to make prayer a daily habit? If so, what is distracting you?
2. In what ways would you like your prayer life to grow?

Prayer Prompt

As you begin to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to stir up your heart's affections for the Lord and to crave spending time in prayer.

Contributed by Andy Schafer

Psalm 18:6

“In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came before Him, into his ears.”

When I first became a Christian, I had a skewed view of our Heavenly Father. When I prayed and didn't get an answer right away, I got discouraged. Along the way, God showed me that He's listening and His timing is perfect. At times, it's hard to remind ourselves of that truth. However, time and time again throughout Scripture, we find a threadline of God desiring to be close to His people and hearing them. When the Israelites cried out during Egyptian slavery, God heard them, delivered them, and made a way to draw near to them. When Paul and Silas were praying and worshiping in prison, God flung open the doors and they were delivered! We can rest in the assurance that, when we pray and draw close to Him, He hears us and answers.

Reflection Questions

1. In what ways has your view of God held you back from crying out to Him or praying specific prayers?
2. What are some ways that God has shown you that He's heard your prayers or cries to Him?

Prayer Prompt

Get specific in your prayer time today. Come to the Lord with the confidence in knowing that He hears your prayers and will answer in His perfect timing.

Contributed by Victoria Ross

Isaiah 26:8-9

8 *“Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. **9** My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.”*

The days can feel so long as we yearn to see a special someone who lives far away. However, if we keep the focus of our longing on knowing that he/she will soon arrive, then our hearts and minds can be filled with an ever-growing sense of excitement and anticipation. In the complicated and stress-filled days in which we live, real joy comes when we keep our focus on Jesus' promise that He will soon return to make all things right. In this season of anticipation, may the Lord fill your longing with hope and joy, knowing that His timing is always perfect.

Reflection Questions

1. Is your longing for the peace and joy of Jesus' return a part of your daily prayer life?
2. How can you share your excitement and anticipation for our Lord's return with those you love?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray about today's devotion, ask God to take away any fear or anxiety you might be feeling, and instead fill you with anticipation and joy as you eagerly wait for His return.

Contributed by Barry Sommerfield

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NASB)

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

Have you ever gotten to a crossroads and not known which way to go from there? Our verse today holds the answer when we face uncertainty for the direction of our lives. When we are faced with situations that require wisdom on how to move forward, we can approach God. In seeking God through prayer, fasting, and spending time in His Word, we will find Him and the direction we need for our lives.

Reflection Questions

1. Do you believe that God's direction can be found for your life when you seek Him?
2. How has God moved in your life when you have spent time with Him in prayer and in His Word?

Prayer Prompt

Spend time today in prayer thanking the Lord for His guidance in your life. Ask God to help you lay down things that are a distraction from you passionately pursuing Him.

Psalm 105:4 (ESV)

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”

Each year, SEEK is a reminder that I need the Lord's strength. Having a season of pursuing the Lord through prayer and fasting is a good thing, but the truth is that seeking the Lord is something we must do continually and not just annually. Psalm 105 reminds us that the Lord is our strength, and His strength is received through continual, intimate pursuit of His presence. Let us then seek His face with faith and diligence this season, but let it spur us on to continue seeking Him well beyond these 21 days!

Reflection Questions

1. What would you have to change in your daily rhythm to give the Lord the first 10-15 minutes of your morning every day?
2. How do you think daily time spent in God's presence like this would affect your life?

Prayer Prompt

As you pray today, take 5 minutes to simply sit in the Lord's presence. Do this by praying a short prayer like “show me your Glory” or “here I am Lord.” Then breathe deeply and listen for His voice.

Contributed by Pastor Marcus Morgan



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